

# Acts Life Cluster time May 2018

During the early May bank holiday, Pathways elders Johnny, Estelle, Dave and Jenny journeyed to Sidmouth to join with other church leaders from Acts Life Cluster. Pathways is part of the family called Church of the Nations, and Acts Life is a smaller group of churches that relate as a family within that. Acts Life is headed up by Dave and Carol Cape, who were with us over the weekend. There were also leaders from South Africa, London, and other parts of the UK.

## Family time

Part of the aim of the weekend was to spend time together and build friendships. This was achieved over some leisurely meal times with plenty of time to talk, and also with free time in the afternoons where we could enjoy exploring Sidmouth in the sun. Some even went for a swim!



## Accelerating the dream

Another objective was to provide helpful input for the church leaders, and this input was based around the theme 'Accelerating the Dream', which built on the Church of the Nations theme for 2018 which is 'acceleration'. Here is a summary of some of the teaching;

### Hazel Pattison - Accelerating the dream

Hazel shared about how some dreams have to be laid down in order for God to bring something new. Some things need to die because they are not of God. But some are resurrected because they are of God, and we let God choose which are resurrected and which are not.

Sometimes our dreams need to die before we can discover our real passion.

Philippians 3:7-8 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ

How well do we know the real Jesus? What do we need to cultivate?

- Spending time with Him
  - Walking in a genuine way with Him
  - Letting God have control
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- What things do I need to lay down in my pursuit of knowing Him?
  - There is no substitute for personal encounter

Some of us have broken dreams, and we need to let them go so that God can bring something new.

## Dan Maudhub - Dreaming Kingdom

Dan talked about 'dreaming kingdom' and what that looked like in Acts chapter 2. He compared '**pipe dreams**' which are 'I' based to '**Kingdom dreams**' which are God based.

In Acts 2:14 Peter stood up and addressed the crowd. This was actually the fulfilment of a promise that God made in Joel. Do we know that WE are fulfilling the promises of God in our lives?

When God says 'I will' it is not optional, it will happen. We are actually living out the promise of the Holy Spirit being poured out.

- **God's dreams are released in the prophetic**  
The prophetic is the utterance of God's desire and God's will  
Are we just waiting for the prophecy to come or are we on our knees before God?
- **Kingdom dreams are always contained in God's promise**
- **What promise am I standing in today?**

## Mike Davies - dreaming multiple mountain effectiveness

We had a special treat on the Saturday evening when Mike Davies joined us from Okehampton. He is a church leader, politician and has been the Mayor of Okehampton several times. He was a delight to listen to, and reminded us what it's all about; walking with Jesus, being ourselves, and going out to be a light in the community.



## Claire Maudhub - Engaging your people in the dream



On the Sunday Claire shared about 'the goldilocks zone' (ie not too hot, not too cold). This was mainly on how to build the right level of engagement with people in our churches.

She concluded that the main thing is to help people to keep engaged with Jesus, because our work in church is only a pretext for the people and their journey with Christ

## Neil Pattison - Navigating the changing dream

Neil took us on a funny journey through the different stages one goes through in life. He reminded us that the most important thing is to get the VALUES in our hearts.

## Kara - Dreaming relevant multigenerational church



Kara and Christian from a church in London led us in some intimate times of worship throughout the weekend. Kara also spoke about honouring the generation that has gone before us and paid a price for what we have today.

- We have to know what TIME it is
- 1 chronicles 12:33-35 (The Sons of Issachar)
- We need to be relevant to the time we are serving

"In times of change learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully prepared for a time that no longer exists"

Eric Hoffer

The word for time = ETH - 'a fit or proper time or opportunity'  
(The new testament equivalent is KAIROS)

Some timeless principles she spoke about are;

- **The leadership of Jesus Christ**  
What kind of church is God dreaming? Let's get involved in that!
- **Divine order**  
1 Corinthians 2:28
- **Fathers and mothers**  
Programs will never trump parenting. So we must lead our lives with a legacy in mind
  - Consider what you are leaving for the next generation

We are in a relay race. The relay race is won or lost on the quality of handing over the baton on the exchange zone. The following are required for a successful handover to occur:

- Both runners have to be running
- Trust and confidence in the team members that the next team member will receive it properly
- The runner receiving cannot look back or swerve out of their lane. It's OK if the next generation leave behind the STRUCTURES of the past but copy the VALUES.

## Dave Cape - The impossible dream



Dave Cape rounded off our teaching by talking about 'the Impossible Dream', and how nothing is impossible with God.

He reminded us of the life of Joshua and Caleb in Numbers 13 and 14, which tells us that Joshua and Caleb had a DIFFERENT SPIRIT. They said "We will go up and take possession of the land for we will surely overcome it"

- If our vision does not need faith it is not a vision

### **Josh Pattison - What is our dream for this generation?**

On the final morning Josh Pattison spoke about developing a Godly ambition for His Kingdom and turning passion into purpose.

Often we have a lack of purpose. The question to ask is

- Whose success are we building?

It starts with an encounter with God, when He arrests us and speaks to us. When this happens our passion now has a purpose.

### **Blair Mundell - When your dream unravels**

Blair bravely tackled the question of whether a genuine dream of God unravel.

A dream can unravel in many ways, just to name a few:

- Loss
- Unmet expectations
- Death
- Misunderstanding
- Broken relationships

We often have a picture or expectation about what something will look like. So the dream can still be there but our current experience is different to what we thought. We can also come up with our own dreams, and it's not surprising when God unravels our own dreams.

Hebrews 11:13-16, 32-40

All these people died in faith not having received the fullness of the promise in this life

Some tips;

- Do not dwell on the past
- Look to Jesus

### **Dan Maudhub - Making the dream count**

Dan wrapped up the morning with some practical pointers.

Dream	Prophetic insight	Your WHY
Vision	The visualisation	Your WHAT
Strategy	The steps to get there	Your HOW
Implementation	'Doing the do'	Your FAITHFULNESS

Three vital principles;

1. Build on the right foundations
2. Build the house accurately (or are we papering over the cracks)
3. Be faithful to the mandate

## Some final questions

- What prophetic utterance is the Holy Spirit speaking to me?
- What values and principles has God given me to walk in?
- Who has He given me to walk with?

## Closing remarks

The overriding sense throughout this whole time was that God is doing something new among many of us, both individually and in the churches we lead. He is unravelling some things in order to give us HIS dream for us. Some things are being called to die, ready for the new. There was one song which seemed to sum up the message of the weekend, which is 'NEW WINE' by Hillsong Worship.

### [New Wine Lyric Video - Hillsong Worship](#)



The weekend finished with sharing communion together. Some people washed each other's feet. Others prayed together and spoke words of encouragement. Altogether it was a perfect way to finish an uplifting weekend

