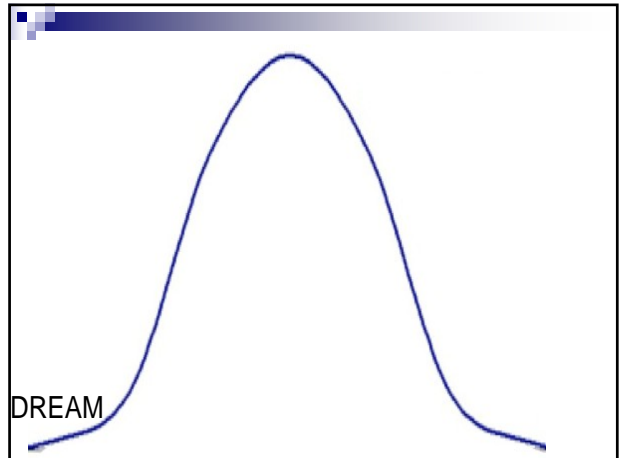


THE LIFECYCLE OF A CHURCH



Some foundational theology:

1 Cor 12:12-31 THE CHURCH
Visible, diverse, unified, interdependent.

This provides a seedbed for thought about the social organism we call 'the church'.

But what happens to a church organisationally? How does it develop?

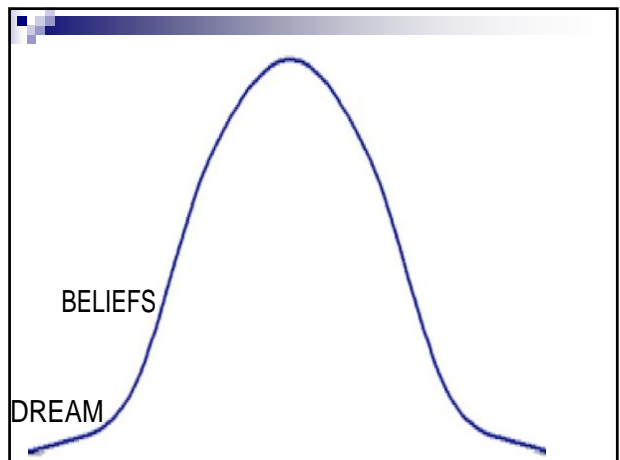
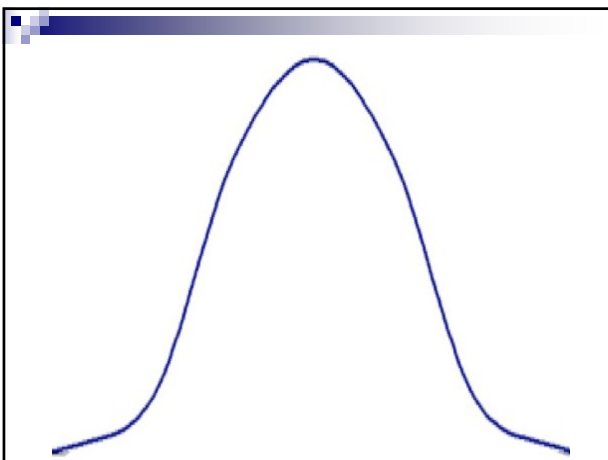
The starting point for a church family.

Founding dreams – what was it all about?

Living out the dream.

What did the church look like then?

Kingdom dreams.

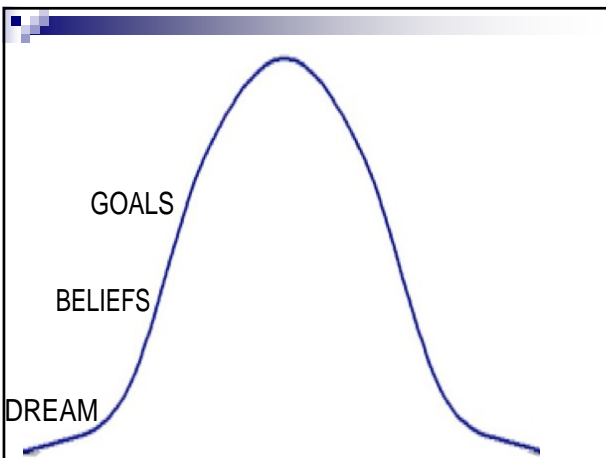
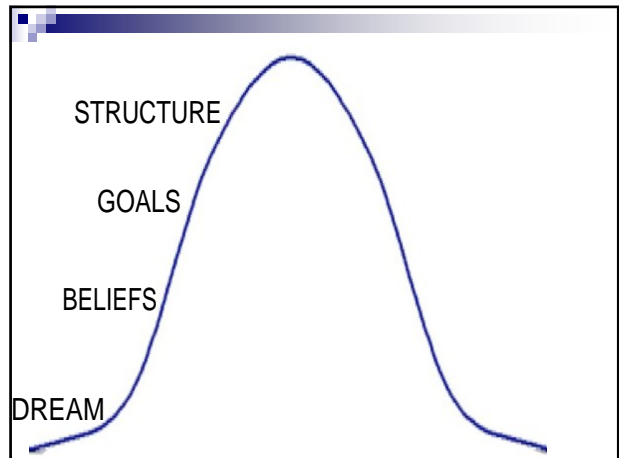


After the dreams begin to emerge, there develops a need to codify "what we believe" - "experiential theology"

its intuitive its spontaneous
 its repetitious has a corporate expression

Two sources, one theme:
 The Bible
 Worship songs.

We need to deepen our belief systems.



Getting organised. (muscle for ministry)

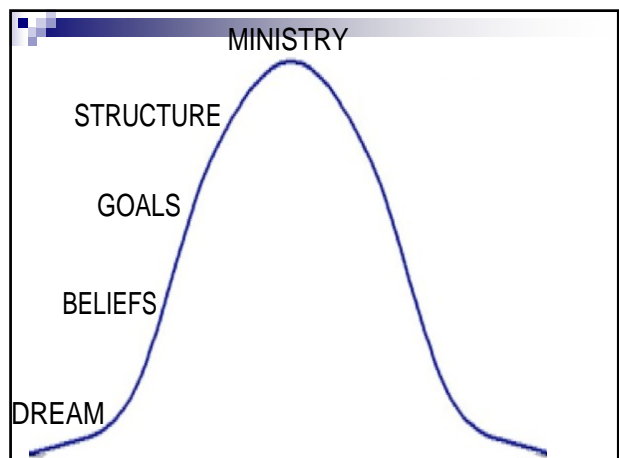
- Form follows function.
- Informal structures emerge – they get codified so everyone knows that we "hang together"

How much structure is enough? Enough to carry out dream goals.

Turning dreams into deeds
 (A church operates towards survival and mission)

The forces shaping goals:
 Goal shapers.
 Climate of the congregation.
 Stakeholders expectations.
 Goal development strategies.

The real goals of a church are its organisational values.



The Kingdom dream incarnated

The appropriate focus:
“Extending and expanding God’s Kingdom”

All sorts of things can sidetrack the dream

To keep ministry alive we must revisit the dream, and know WHY we minister.

Nostalgia: Organisational homesickness

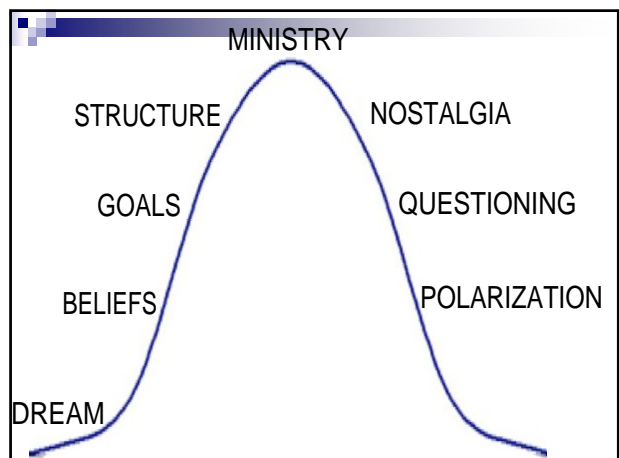
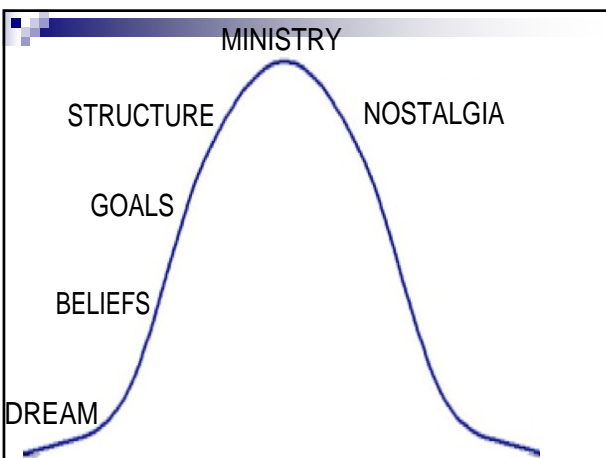
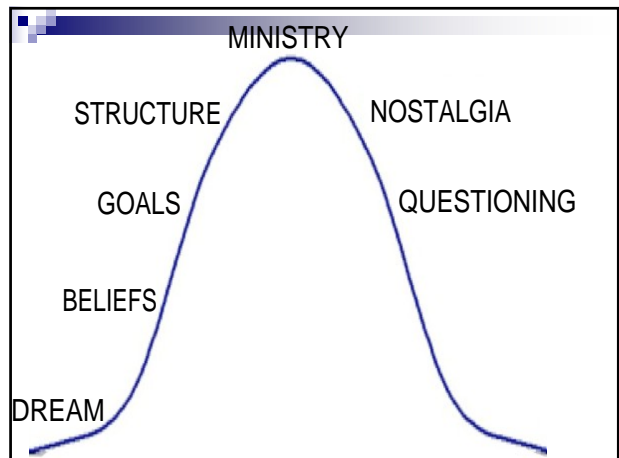
- * Longs for a return to the good old days.
- * Weakens our commitments to the present.
- * ***provides a fragile bridge to the future.***

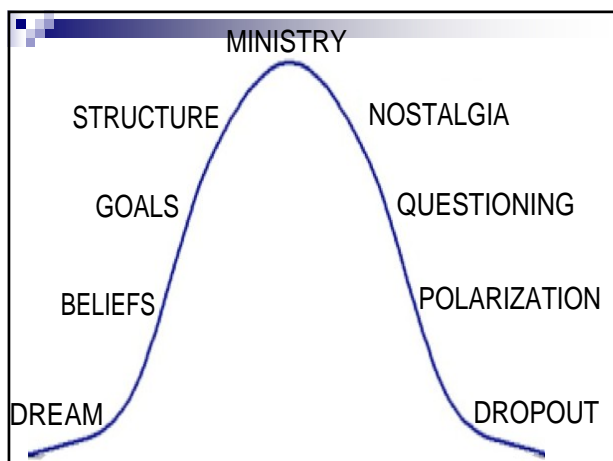
Beyond Nostalgia lies the move into unhealth.

Ministry is always about
Being & Doing

When Ministry loses its focus, a plateau sets in.

Organisations begin to die on autopilot.





The conclusion of Today is the start of Tomorrow.
(Or today is the start of the rest of your life)

Where is Croydon Hills on the graph??