

DREAM ON



IN the film, Chicken Run, dozens of chickens are held captive in the prisoner-of-war like camp at Tweedy Farms. But Ginger dreams of a place where the grass is green and the chickens run free, and there is nothing to fear.

In a chicken planning meeting – think PCC with feathers - Ginger shares her escape plans. They have tried going under the fence, she says, now they must find a way to fly over it. She encourages the chickens to imagine a place on the other side but some of them have a hard time seeing the place Ginger dreams of. One chicken says, ‘maybe we should not bother trying to escape’. She responds, ‘what kind of life do we have just laying eggs, until we are killed. Don’t you see – the fences are not in the yard; they are in your mind’.

The chicken answers, depressed, ‘the chances of us getting out of here are a million to one’. ‘Then, says Ginger, ‘there is a chance’.

Dreaming is hard work because it is swimming against the tide. It is often incredibly unpopular too because dreaming imagines things different to how they are and seeks to change what is. Dreaming makes space for what might be. Dreamers are often seen as deluded or dangerous – deluded because they think they can change what can’t be changed - how foolish of them, how stupid - or, worse, they are dangerous because, just maybe, things could be different and do we really want that? Martin Luther King had a dream – a dream ‘that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will be judged not by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character’. His dream was considered dangerous, he was murdered; Gandhi had a dream that India might be free of colonial rule, and then that Muslim and Hindu might live peacefully side by side; his dreaming was considered dangerous, he was murdered; Peter had a dream, a fisherman who dreamed of a new world order, and Jesus saw into his heart and satisfied those dreams; all the disciples shared those dreams and yet all of them were killed.

As Harriet Tubman said, every dream begins with a dreamer - one that maybe looks deluded because it is so impossible, we want to laugh, and yet it’s dangerous too because it might just happen – it might just happen, and if it did we would need to change - we should dream God’s dreams, a dream of peace, and justice, and love, knowing that in Jesus, himself considered sometimes delusional and ultimately killed for being dangerous, that dream is already a reality. We just need to align ourselves with that dream and dare to dream it too.

God Bless, Mandy

