

CHAPTER 18

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

I was living my dream again, however, this time it was the next level. Running my own business, where it was all down to me, was never on my agenda. I was happy to put the work in, I was much more comfortable with someone else taking the lead and having the overall responsibility of the company/business. I was used to being a part, not the whole. This was a huge step-out in faith. I remember someone saying work smarter, not harder. This was my step-up. I could not do this alone. I needed help, insight and wisdom from those who had gone before me. And when I look back, I can see God had prepared me for such a time as this. I had a taste of this during my Tupperware days of “running my own business.” I had been in sales all my life (actually, we all are). I was passionate and had believed in all the products I had sold in the past as they made people feel better and added value to their lives. It was time to be brave and courageous and step up to new levels into the unknown. I had to see the unseen and give it my best shot, because this was ticking all my boxes.

The business would work around my family and lifestyle. It would give me the flexibility to be full-on at work in the hours that the family was at work and school and full-on at home outside of that. With my first course firmly in place, I had six months to get a website done, to

get branding sorted, to be clear on who I was serving and what solution I had for their problem. All from a standing start with no idea how. I had never had so much fun. It was messy, engaging, challenging and inspiring. This was my calling, my thing, my lane, my piece of the puzzle. While there were so many things to overcome, I had complete peace in my heart, and God had blessed me with Kev, Lynette, Debbie (branding) and Unathi and Leah (website) to stand with me to get me going.

I started coaching students, friends and connections. I was introduced to Bark.com, which was a search engine for potential clients. They advertised heavily and saved me the extra work on marketing. I could get on with doing what I do best, helping people get moving when they are stuck.

I was running a national business online and in person before COVID hit. Another incredible blessing, as God, once again had gone ahead of me. The business flipped to online seamlessly. To my surprise, the results coming out from those across the screen were equally phenomenal. I knew my gift was face-to-face. However, I was skeptical that I could achieve the same connection through a computer screen. How wrong I was! The results were and continue to be just as good.

I thoroughly enjoyed “lock down” in Feb 2020. The people I loved the most were all home and I got to spend quality time with them without having to rush off to work, school or activities. Kev and I continued to work. He was an essential worker and I worked from home. We got heaps done on the property, all those “round-to-it” jobs—deck built, sorting out the garden, painting—and we got to meet the neighbours at a two-metre distance. We baked cookies each week and dropped them off to everyone’s letterboxes with an encouraging letter and offer of help for anyone who needed it. It was a real time of community and connection, of kindness and looking out for our neighbours.

Arthur was in his last year at high school, Martha was into her first year of exams at high school and Jasper was preparing for a mission trip to the Solomon Islands. I relished this time with us all together at home. I knew it would soon pass.

I grew my business from local to national that year and invested in a mentor. I joined AMP Gold with Dr Benjamin Hardy, following his thirty-day challenge in January. He's an outstanding organisational psychologist who spoke into my heart and mind. I love how he takes scientific concepts and makes sense of them with some really practical applications. He is open, honest and vulnerable, sharing his journey as he goes. He honours those who have gone before him and gives them credit for their work. He passes his wisdom and insight on. It has been an absolute joy to have been under this man's guidance for the last three years.

I also invested in Project Next, Dean Graziosi's and Tony Robbins course on helping others through courses online. This is where I met Alison Cary, a fellow English lady living in NZ. From this, I came to Chris and Lori Harder's wisdom on making money. Here I met Dayle Sheehan and Melissa Jones in break-out rooms. We were all wanting to build our businesses and make an impact.

The first time I met Dayle I burst into tears. She asked me why I didn't want to use social media, the best free marketing tool on the planet? I realised for the first time that the real reason was fear of the backlash from my ex-husband and fear of what people might say. I still had some heart healing to do. What a fabulous eye-opener that was.

It was time to take action, one step at a time. We got together and Girl Power, a Master's Mind for solopreneurs and entrepreneurs, was born. We show up every week, no one pays us, no one leads us and we journey together. Wow! What a journey of discovery and adventure that has been. We have navigated how to love and manage elderly parents well, written books, launched not-for-profit businesses, podcasts, speaking engagements and TV show contracts, to name a few of the key milestones during our time together. All testimony to the fruit that comes from being in the room, honouring and being there every week to give our best and serve each other well.

Arthur left Lindisfarne College, one of the top Boys' High Schools in NZ, at the end of 2020, having given his all. He was the highest capped first XI hockey player and had captained the team for two

years, the first year jointly with Samuel Porter-Samuels. He led Oswald House in his final year as sports prefect. He was one of twelve boys in NZ accepted into Smedley Station, NZ's top Agricultural Cadet Training farm for the coming year. On 5 January 2021, he left home.

Jasper married Aaliyah in September 2020 and also moved out. We had gone from three fabulous teenagers in our home to one in less than six months. Martha continued with her studies, horse riding and hockey. It was all go. Everyone was living their best lives, carving their own path and going from strength to strength.

In January 2021, a rather brash man came across my radar. He was a loud, over the top, American named Pedro Adao, who was all in for the Lord and business. Kev had suggested I look into his material before, as he felt Pedro was a good match as a mentor for where I was at with the business. I hadn't been ready at the time. The Wisdom Challenge, that Pedro hosted in January, blew me away. I was all in. In fact, I have been all in with Pedro ever since. Dr Benjamin Hardy and Pedro Adao have added a great amount of value to my life and business. I love their honesty, openness, their wisdom and insight, the raw truth they speak, their vulnerability and humility. Absolute gold. I have caught far more than they have taught, and their teaching is exponential.

And from here, I started to coach internationally. It is all about relationships, showing up and being in the room, week after week. This has been a journey of discovery and adventure in itself.

Reflect and Reframe

Growing up changing schools, homes, cities and locations doesn't lend itself to creating deep and meaningful relationships. Yet that is exactly where the gold is. I am super grateful to have stayed in one area for my children's school-age years and for them to have been given the opportunity to build long-term friendships and relationships during school years.

Dr Caroline Leaf was recently sharing some statistics on the importance of friendships and how deep, meaningful relationships are as important to your health and well being as being a non-smoker or of optimum weight/fitness.

The most important relationship we have are the ones with God and with ourselves. When we learn to love ourselves for who we are. When we stop looking at the problems and start seeking out the possibilities. When we give ourselves grace, we then have the capacity to truly love others and live in a world of peace, rest and love. When God looks at us, He doesn't see our faults; He sees our potential and our next steps to more awesomeness.

I have never been as happy, content, or as fulfilled as I am now. I remember when I met Kev, saying, "If this is as good as it gets, I'm done." And every day it gets better and better. I am so pleased I said "yes" to Jesus, as all of my yesses have flowed from there and have produced more and more fruit.

"We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19, NIV)

The more I travel this wonderful journey of discovery and adventure with God, the more blessed I become, the more intimate the relationship and the more opportunities I get. I am in love with this life I now have. I have God's voice in my heart, Jesus's mind in my mind and the Holy Spirit in my gut. They encourage me, lift me, help me, guide me, protect me and most importantly love me and want the best for me. I spent forty eight years looking for love, trying to feel valued, appreciated and find a place where I belonged. My relationships with myself and with others have dramatically improved as I have learnt to listen to the right voices in my head.

Dear Reader

It took more than one invitation before I said yes to Jesus. My first step was to go with a friend to church, to see what it was all about and whether it was for me. I encourage you to ask a friend if you could go with them to their church to check it out. Have an open

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mindset—go more than once. It took me six months before I started to settle.

I so desperately wanted to be loved, accepted and to feel like I belonged. And while I looked at all the “weirdos” around me on that first day, I oddly felt at home, like I belonged. I couldn’t explain it, and I didn’t need to. All I needed to do was to keep showing up. Showing up for me. I knew there was something in this that my forty eight years of searching had not found.

You don’t have to be “saved” to go. You don’t have to be clean and tidy with your life in order to go. I encourage you to go as you are and see what comes. I love the fact that the church is filled with the most diverse group of people from CEOs and business owners to those who come in as gang members, homeless or battling addictions. He will guide you in the right direction. Churches are a little bit like restaurants—you may need to taste a few to find your favourite, the place you can call home.

If you are looking for a place, I highly recommend a local church where you can gather together with other like-minded people who are keen to learn and grow. It is key to visit a few places and to go more than once, so you can find the right place for you. Kev and I are part of Redemption Point, here in Havelock North, New Zealand, under the leadership and guidance of Cliff Cherry and the Eldership team: <https://www.redemptionpointchurch.net> We are blessed with a double portion, as we also come under Graham Cooke and Dionne Van Zyl as the International Regional Facilitators for Brilliant Church, based in America and all online. Have fun finding your local church family and here’s the link for a phenomenal world wide family: <https://www.brilliant.church>

Call to Adventure:

I thought this last call to adventure could be short and sweet. Jan Billings, founder of Kingdom Adventurers for Teachers and Parents (kingdomadventurer@proton.me), shared this little exercise with me a

couple of years ago. I have since had all the year 13's play the game at Lindisfarne. Whether they believe in God or not, they can all hear His voice.

Please take a moment to check if you were to say your own name, can you hear or see your own name in your head?

Most people can hear the quiet voice in their head or see their name. This is how God speaks to me, in a quiet voice in my head.

OK, now we have that established, let's have some fun. Are you ready to play a game with God?

1. Ask God what game He wants to play with you?
2. Ask Him why He wants to play that game with you?
3. Ask Him what He wants you to learn from playing this game with Him.

Enjoy the insights He gives you and the joy that comes from this.

"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:12, NIV)