

ISSUE 3 • MARCH 2010

# ECONOMICS & CHRISTIAN VALUES

## STRANGE BEDFELLOWS ?

The economic crisis of 2009 has been a wakeup call to the world. Never before have we seen at international forums full-fledged debates on the need for principles and values in the manner in which we do business. Globalization and free market mantras are now being replaced by a call to 'Principled Leadership'. The recently concluded global summit of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos postulated that the financial crisis of 2008–2009 is really a crisis of values. At the heart of the meeting was a rethinking of the values in the context of the changing business world. "We are not out of the woods yet," said Michael Oreskes, Senior Managing Editor of the Associated Press. "The recovery is still very fragile in many developed economies. Principled leadership is key to stabilization."

Today, more than ever, as Christian Leaders we need to respond to this global call to 'Principled Leadership' with a sense of urgency, commitment, and courage. Can we rediscover the relevance of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount? Can we lead those within our own circle of influence by upholding Christian values to build around us a world of justice and peace? Can we make the kingdom of God on earth a reality?

Leadership requires guts. More so Christian Leadership. Guts to make tough decisions. Guts to uphold the values of the gospel. Guts to stand alone for what is right rather than what is popular. Guts to leave behind the old for the promise of the new. Leaders with guts make good decisions and press forward with their eyes fixed on the future—a future of hope.

This is what the Power to Lead journey is all about—empowering young Christians to become leaven in the dough, the salt of the earth, and the light of the world! Leaders who will catalyze change in the world around them by demonstrating 'Principled Leadership'.

**Ruth D'Souza**  
Program Director



## MESSAGE FROM DR. SMARTA

My dear Friends,



As you know, to empower each one of you with leadership skills integrated with Biblical values is the mission of Power to Lead.

The structural approach of the Power to Lead sessions, along with an emphasis on attaining a deeper understanding of the self—by searching your heart, by looking at your relationships, and by building networks of people who can influence society—will help you to achieve the desired outcome for yourself and for others. Here,

I'd like to reiterate—Action is at the core!

Do not underestimate the power that you have to bring about change. Remember, just one simple initiative taken by you in your life—in your personal life, at your workplace, in society—can have a significant ripple effect, bringing about the change that previously seemed unattainable. It is at the tip of such an initiative that the Human Tipping point is discovered. You have the courage, the commitment, and the necessary leadership skills, so now go out and act!

Proclaim that you have the certification of Power to Lead—a unique leadership experience! And then, as you discover your enormous potential, let it spur you on to take up challenges, to work for change, and to act to bring your goals to fruition.

Today, six months later, the course may have drawn to an end, but our journey has only just begun. I look at each one of you with expectation—the expectation that I will see each one of you in action!

I wish you the very best in all your leadership initiatives. May you serve as instruments of change. Remember, the initiatives taken by each individual collectively have the power to transform the world.

**Dr. R. B. Smarta**  
Chairman



**POWER  
TO LEAD**

## Vision

*To develop  
Effective Leaders  
in society by  
applying Bible  
based leadership  
and management  
principles to  
empower  
individuals to  
reach their highest  
potential so as to  
be leaven in  
society*

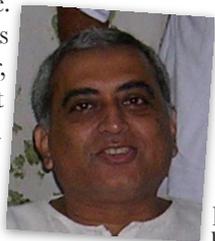
*leaven*



# AM I CALLED TO BE A LEADER ?

Fr. Harry Vaz, Rector - St. Pius Seminary, Mumbai

When little children play-act the roles of teacher, beauty queen, manager, doctor, astronaut, superhero, or mummy or daddy, they reveal a lot about their budding aspirations, ambitions, and fantasies about who or what they want to be. Watching them play these roles can be quite amusing. However, when persons displaying learnt managerial skills and acquired certificates but actually lacking in the required inspirational and relationship qualities of true leaders try to foist or impose themselves on us, it is hardly amusing. In fact, such people, either intentionally or unintentionally, can do more harm than good. This raises an all important question, "Are all who want to be leaders really suited or called to be leaders?"



instructed by the call narratives of the great exemplary leaders listed above as also of visionary prophets such as Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel.

All the above set out on their path to leadership not with vain desires and personal ambition but with an overpowering and deep experience of God who seemed to call them to undertake a mission full of challenges, obstacles, and inevitable opposition by various people, both powerful and common. They were humbly aware of how unworthy, poorly qualified, and weak they were for the daunting mission ahead. When they expressed their limitations, they felt God reassuring, transforming, equipping, and strengthening them to accomplish the responsibility that God had entrusted them with. Their subsequent words and deeds were in keeping with the vision and mission that God had inspired in them.

If God is truly calling me to be a leader, then I would already be experiencing or be prepared to undergo in my own life a similar process of purification, transformation, visioning, equipping, strengthening, and commitment. I would strive to acquire and enhance the spiritual inspiration as well as the task and people skills that all true leaders need. As Lawrence Smith said, "A leader is an individual who has an inspiring vision and can get others to buy into it."

The Bible provides numerous stories of great exemplary leaders such as Moses, Gideon, David, and Nehemiah, who inspired, empowered and ably served their people. The Bible also contains examples of upstart leaders such as Korah (Numbers 14), Abimelech (Judges 9), and Jeroboam (1Kings 12-14) who only brought division and destruction.

While embarking on the path of training and equipping ourselves to become leaders, we would be well advised to undertake an honest and conscientious discernment process inspired and

## BEING LEAVEN IN SOCIETY

Fr. Mario Mendes, Promoter - SCCs

In the past, we understood our role of *being leaven in society* as that of giving (and encouraging others to give) in charity to the less fortunate. Due to these spiritual values, our community has often been perceived as an inspiring model of self-sacrifice in terms of time, money, and energy in our outreach to the suffering and to those in want. While it is absolutely essential that we reach out to these "victims," it is also necessary to question why the system is churning out so many victims. I believe that when dealing with issues of social concern, there is an urgent need to change our focus—it is not enough to simply respond to the symptoms and ignore the root causes.

Let me explain. Many of us may be in the practice of giving money in charity to organizations that offer medical, educational, or other services to the poor in our city. While this is good and necessary, is it not also a duty in conscience to ask what is happening to the amounts sanctioned by "official" government agencies for the same causes? Are these being utilized effectively? We seem to have given up asking these questions, and a neglect of this dimension has led to a situation where the charitable person is doubly taxed—once by the government, and again by one's conscience to contribute to another organization for the same cause!

### INTERVIEW

ADOLF D'SOUZA



**There are very few Christians in active governance...**

True. Most of the time, we tend to be quite happy where we are. It is difficult to move out of our comfort zones.

**Reason for entering active politics.**

My initial lessons in leadership were learnt when I served in Church as an altar boy. Then, as a youth, I was very active in the Church. Over time, I began to feel that as Catholics, all our efforts and services were restricted to a few people. I wanted to do something that would benefit the larger community.

**Beliefs and attributes of a leader...**

A strong civic sense and an emphasis on action along with prayer, being proactive, not allowing complacency to set in, and a genuine desire to reach out in service to everybody—irrespective of social standing—are all extremely important. Respect for the laws of the country is important as well.

**'Value-based leadership' seems at odds with politics as we know it...**

It might, but I simply focus on the desired outcome and work within the legal framework. Put your plough to the ground and keep pushing; people will join. When the intentions are right, there is nothing to worry about.

**Advice to future leaders...**

Value integrity. Search your heart, and do what you think is right. Stick to the laws of your country, and serve the people.

**Adolf created history in being elected as a citizen's candidate and represents the JVPD ward in the BMC.**



In this context, being *leaven in society* would imply, first and foremost, becoming aware of the root causes underlying the ineffectiveness of the present system, and then inspiring an organized effort to awaken others for a collective action which seeks to reform the system that is producing "victims." Bringing about such a transformation is not easy; the comfort of oblivion is far too attractive. *Being leaven* then implies asking unpleasant questions that will make people stand up and demand for what *ought to be*; obviously this is a challenging task that confronts those who have the power to lead.

# THE PTL JOURNEY ... BATCH 4 SPEAKS

## VINCENT D'SILVA



The Power to Lead six-month course has provided me a wonderful opportunity to experience a reinforcement of Christian faith. The numerous presentations, group discussions, project assignments, and the mentoring process, in particular, have empowered me to influence the environment around me.

The first three-day live-in at Khandala (in September 2009), the 12 whole-day sessions on alternate Sundays (between September 2009 and March 2010) at St. Pius College, Goregaon seminary, and the final three-day live-in at Khandala (March 2010) have been wonderfully and seamlessly planned.

The insights on Transformational Leadership and Strategic Planning, the fascinating contributions of World & Biblical Leaders, the debates on different religious views and contexts, and the processes of discernment and introspection have been thought-provoking, educative, and inspiring.

All the speakers for the sessions including the core faculty—Dr. Raja Smarta, Ms. Ruth D'Souza, Fr. Keith D'Souza, Fr. Harry Vaz, Fr. Roland Fialho—and the visiting faculty have demonstrated great conceptual clarity and kept us engrossed with their session content, workshop methodology, and eloquent style of presentation.

The three projects have been truly beneficial in that they have given us an opportunity to apply all our learnings. Our first project required us to craft our Vision-Mission-Values document. Without doubt, this was one of the most important things we could ever do to take charge of our life. As someone once said, "If you think of vision and mission as an organization's head and heart, the values it holds are its soul."

The mission statement has helped me focus on what I want to accomplish and has provided me a pathway to focus my

energy, decisions, and actions towards things that are vital to me. It has defined for me the positive behaviors, character traits, and values that I need to develop to achieve personal and professional success.

Projects 2 (group project) and 3 (individual project) have helped me understand and learn the importance of situational analysis and the importance of taking into consideration the impact of the environment, the context of stakeholder needs, and the utility of field research when working on a project. I have learnt to identify the steps involved in the strategic thinking process and the critical need to identify the resources required, and I have understood the vital role of the execution or implementation plan to bring a project to fruition.

The interactive format of this six-month course has helped me evaluate my leadership style, has empowered me with life skills, and has helped me connect with several new friends in the batch and the Power-to-Lead alumni network.

The Power-to-Lead course is proving to be a truly remarkable transformational instrument which will help us change minds and hearts, understand our purpose in life and our contribution to others, and inspire us to reinforce the mission, vision and values of Jesus Christ.

## STANLEY MENDES



It is by chance (read God's will) that I came across the Power to Lead team advertising the PTL program in our Parish in June 2009. A management course based on Biblical values seemed too good to be true. Some emails, phone calls, and an interview later, I was ready to embark on my PTL journey.

The course began in September with a hectic yet enjoyable three-day live-in at Khandala. The live-in set the tone for things to come; ever since, my thought processes have undergone many 'paradigm shifts'. Every session and every speaker either taught me something new or reiterated my beliefs. Interacting with

my team members during the course of Project 2 was truly an enriching experience. Furthermore, the immense knowledge I gained from all the other project presentations will always be valuable. I have already started applying my learnings from the course in my personal as well as professional life.

PTL has got me thinking: What is God preparing me for? However, I'm confident that He will let me know—in His time.

## MICHELLE PINTO

For long I have been in the habit of taking a pause at regular intervals in my life in order to see how I'm faring—at the work place, especially. And I have generally been happy with my findings.



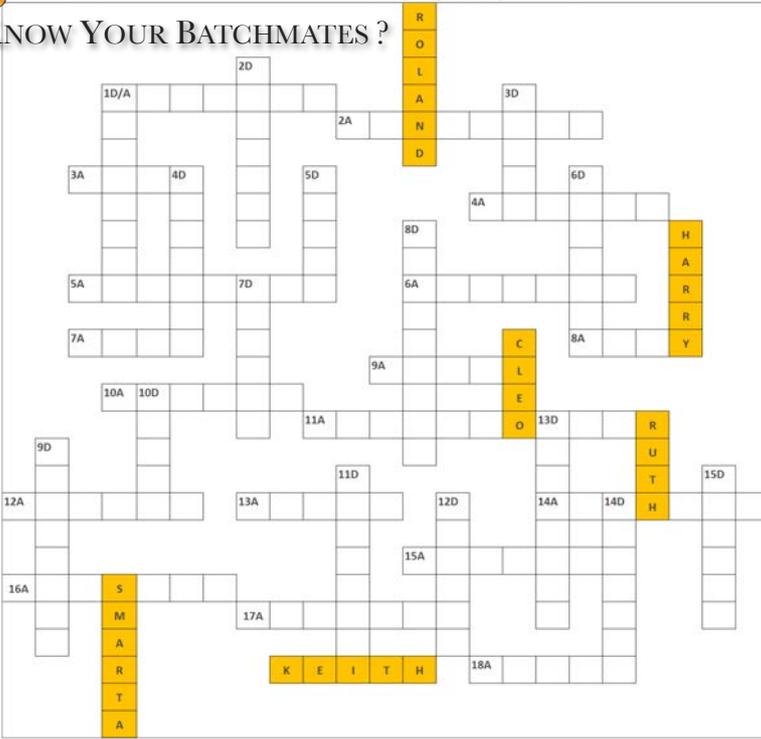
In June 2009, I checked out the PTL counter at St Michael's, Mahim, with the intention of sending my college-going daughter for the course. However, I found the course content quite interesting and decided to sign up for it myself. Until then, my life had been comfortable—I troubled no one and no one troubled me. I thought this was a good policy for a comfortable life, but then along came PTL—to knock the comfort out of my life!

The three-day session at Khandala, the engaging sessions on a variety of topics, and the three projects all served as an eye ('brain' would be more appropriate!) opener.

Today, six months later, I think I know—no, let me rephrase this—I know the direction that I should take with my life. I have realized that there is so much to do around me and that there's so much that I can do. PTL has been very focused and clear in communicating the elements of Christian Leadership. As I see it, Jesus is the ultimate Management Guru and His Management Principles have survived the test of time. I have assimilated and will now easily put into practice the learnings from this course, and I am confident that the results will be positive—all thanks to PTL!



# KNOW YOUR BATCHMATES ?



**Across:**

1:Ever Ready, 2:Child Like, 3:Citizen's Man, 4:Class Librarian, 5:A Flintstone, 6:Family Cell, 7:Altar Boy, 8:Body Parts, 9:Bubbly Enthusiasm, 10: Telecom Engineer, 11:Christ Bearer, 12:BHAG-Bald Hairy \_\_, 13:Lamp Lighter, 14:HR Man, 15:Techno Chief, 16:Smiling Sibling, 17:Guitar Man, 18:Lean n Strong

**Down:**

1:Madam Principal, 2:Silent Archangel, 3:Peach Dessert, 4:Silent Sister, 5:Money Magician, 6:Teacher's Pet, 7:In-house Editor, 8:Simplicity Assumed, 9:Corporator's Right Hand, 10:Lovely Eyes, 11:Banker's Security, 12:Politically Connected, 13:Chemistry Student, 14:Sweet Nightingale, 15:Tough Cuban

**Solution:**

**Across:** 1:Jaypaul, 2:Innocent, 3:Anil, 4:Santia, 5:Fredrick, 6:Michael, 7:Asis, 8:Tony, 9:Gisel, 10:Glynis, 11:Christophher, 12:McEwen, 13:Vinay, 14:Richard, 15:Francis, 16:Blossom, 17:Stanley, 18:Leena  
**Down:** 1:Jennifer, 2:Barboza, 3:Melba, 4:Louder, 5:Vivek, 6:Vincent, 7:Ingrid, 8:Simplicio, 9:Michelle, 10:Lovje, 11:Vallianci, 12:Merlyn, 13:Patricia, 14:Cassiana, 15:Crasto

# THE POWER TO LEAD NETWORK

To support the fulfillment of PTL's mission through the meaningful engagement of our participants and help it transcend from being just a training program to becoming a movement for the betterment of society, we propose the formation of the **PTL Network** and invite you to join the same.

The Executive Team for 2010 (April to December) will have 12 members – six from PTL IV and two members from each of the previous three batches to take charge of organizing at least four events during the year. These would include an Annual Mass with dinner, a picnic, a seminar on Value Based Leadership, a retreat/reflection, etc.

The Consultative Committee would be responsible for the governance of this PTL Network and will include the core faculty of the PTL programme.

Come! Join the Power-to-Lead Network and experience the joy of being part of a value-based network. Do confirm your acceptance via email to [powertolead@gmail.com](mailto:powertolead@gmail.com)

## Batch V

**Power To Lead** is a unique program with a blend of Strategic thinking, Management concepts and Bible-based Christian values.

Next batch commences **August 2010**

**Admissions open.**

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**POWER TO LEAD**

# BATCH 4

