

# LEADERSHIP MATTERS

ISSUE 35

October 2009



## Make it ok!

Do you remember the last time you thought you had found the answer to wealth, happiness or the alleviation of suffering of others? Do you recall the enthusiasm you had, your inability to sleep because of the speed of thought? But do you also recall the dismay at the lack of buy in from others around you?

I am increasingly finding myself engaged in conversations with people who have arrived at a place in their life when they have a vision of the change they want to make. Be it in the charity space or the

start up of a new venture they hope will change their lives, similar occurrences are repeating themselves.

After the recent events in Somoa and Indonesia that saw the loss of many lives in further natural disasters to hit our region, I provided advice to a number of people looking to make a difference.

Their reasons for wanting to help in these particular regions is individual and it was something about each event, unlike previous ones, that jolted them into wanting to act.

Why this disaster? Well that's not important.

Sitting in these meetings I love the enthusiasm that I see in the eyes of those on the other side of the table, I love the passion, the fire that burns within. The desire to turn their ideas into action makes you want to jump on board and see where the train takes you.

I know how they feel. I know what it was like to have the idea, the desire to make a difference for many, but just not knowing the best way to get traction.

Thankfully I got the traction and I learnt a number of lessons along the way.

The quality of the advice that I provide, I leave to others to judge. But the moment that appears to resonate most is when I encourage them to make it ok for others not to share their journey or passion, well not in the beginning anyway.

When we arrive with some clarity at the point where it all makes sense be it the new cause that means so much or the new business venture, we want to share it and when we make it public it becomes real. But just because you have found what you see is the obvious solution to the latest crisis and your course of action is now very clear, doesn't mean that your friends, family or loved ones need to share the vision. And in not sharing that vision or passion doesn't mean they stop being your friends, family or loved ones.

Be prepared that when you draw the line in the sand, the day you make it clear what you stand for that others will

be on the other side of the line. Those who you hoped would join you now choose a different path to you, a different cause to support.

Unless you are prepared for this, unless you are prepared to stand alone and unless you make it ok for those close to you to choose differently this can be quite confronting. The clearer your vision, the stronger your passion the harder it can be to understand why others don't support you.

But what I understand is that this is only temporary.

When you are clear and when you make the choices because they are right and you don't deviate to accommodate others, what will happen is that you attract people who share your vision and share your passion.

By making it ok for others not to share your dream, you in fact will be surrounded by those who share your ideals. Rather than a compromise on ideals or beliefs due to loyalty, you build a base on clarity and integrity.

**"If you haven't any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble."**

**Bob Hope**

By making it ok for others not to follow and initially going alone is a clear demonstration of having the courage to commit.

Without either courage or commitment seldom will great things be achieved. So strongly do I believe in this coming from the lessons I have learnt and experiences I have shared that Courage to Commit is the title and theme of my new keynote.

## HANDS UPDATE

News out of Baan Tharn Thamchai is mixed this month. Good news is that the first orphanage that was opened in August of 2006 has had a face lift. A new coat of paint has been applied inside and out to take care of the building in the harsh environment. Part of the ground floor of the original building has also been converted into a computer laboratory for the children thanks to the support of a number of individual donors.

We currently have a number of children and staff here in Australia from the orphanage with Khun Kwang here for three months studying English as part of our Joint Venture with Victoria University.

The concerning news out of Thailand is the health of our loved Director Khun Rotjana who has returned to hospital in Bangkok due to ill health.