

Nurturing the 12 Qualities  
of a Servant Leader

# Risk-taking

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# Risking-taking involves

- **Why to take risks**
- **What risks to take**
- **How to take risks**
- **Jesus' example**
- **How to nurture the quality**

# Why taking risks?

- **The enemy of risk-taking is maintaining the status quo even when it mal-functions**
- **Greenleaf's three institutional maladies**
- **To tackle them is to take risks: challenge the status quo, leave the comfort zone, strive for a new direction and state -uncharted territory; full of uncertainty and anxiety**
- **Institutional & personal benefits: growth, development and excellence (self-actualization, self-transcendence, and maximum use of potential/talents to serve and to serve well)**

# What risks to take

- **Related to the school's problems and maladies: institutional before personal benefits**
- **Calculated risks Vs reckless risks - taken on a whim**
- **Bold or audacious Vs small or simple goals**

# How to take risks

- **Calculation Vs recklessness**
- **Risk-taking and change leadership & management: requires mind-set & skills-set - reflection, survey, consultation, coalition-building, visioning, planning, training & support, constructing security platforms, implementation, rewards and incentives, evaluation & consolidation, institutionalization**
- **Lots of thinking and prayers**
- **Live with the anxiety of failure or loss: what scares you most? Honest to yourself**

# Jesus' model

- **Jesus challenges the status quo and defies the traditions and rituals - hypocrisy**
- **He provides the new wine and wineskin**
- **The greatest risk He took: chose to be born into the world; went towards and finally into Jerusalem to face death on the cross and give life to many afterwards**

# How to nurture the quality

- Do something new or unfamiliar from time to time
- Often ask the 'why not' and 'what if' questions
- Try to find alternatives or the third option: another angle, perspective, practice or solution (option)
- Learn to confront and live in peace with fear/anxiety
- Remind yourself of this: no pain, no gain; no risk, no innovation or solution
- Learn from errors and mistakes: their nature (trial-and error or deliberate) and relations to success (fail towards success)
- Trying to accomplish the church's education mission in today's contexts is in itself great risk-taking and it takes lots of calculated risks