

*FAITH*  
BUSINESS

# SUSTAINING A BUSINESS RECOVERY



A residential conference  
**Ridley Hall, Cambridge**

Friday 26 – Sunday 28  
March 2010

## SUSTAINING A BUSINESS RECOVERY INFORMATION

When the business recovery comes, the challenge we face is how to make it sustainable. For all Gordon Brown's rhetoric about boom and bust belonging to a past era, the global financial crisis of 2007–8 showed that claim to be illusory. The preceding ten years of dynamic growth were based on shaky foundations; deep-seated weaknesses and imbalances lay at the heart of the global economy.

As the first signs of a slow recovery begin to show, we need to analyse what went wrong, not with a view to castigating scapegoats, but in order to learn constructive lessons, and – believing in the power of forgiveness and hope – to move on, convinced that business still has a crucial role to play in God's purposes for the world.

In November 2009 a residential consultation entitled *Where Now? Reassessing Values and Direction in an Economic Downturn* and jointly organised by Faith in Business and St George's House, Windsor, brought together eminent leaders from the worlds of finance, business, government, academia and the church. A variety of opinions were shared in a frank, open and friendly atmosphere; and a fair measure of agreement was reached in identifying initiatives that could contribute significantly to a healthier future.

**Sustaining a Business Recovery** provides an opportunity to share some of that thinking and take it a stage further. Faith in Business, directed by Richard Higginson at Ridley Hall, has a proven record of running enjoyable, participative and productive conferences on topical and important workplace issues. These take place in the attractive setting of the college, within the context of worship. For more information visit:

[www.faith-in-business.org/programme.html](http://www.faith-in-business.org/programme.html)

## SUSTAINING A BUSINESS RECOVERY PROGRAMME

### Friday 26 March

5.30 pm Registration  
7.00 pm Supper  
8.00 pm **The Survival of Capitalism**

4.00 pm Afternoon tea  
4.30 pm **The Changing World Order**

5.30 pm Discussion  
6.30 pm Supper  
7.45 pm **Alternative Business Models**

### Saturday 27 March

8.00 am Breakfast  
8.30 am Morning Prayer  
9.00 am **The Problem with Debt**  
10.00 am Discussion  
10.45 am Morning coffee  
11.15 am **The Role of Regulation**  
12.15 pm Discussion  
1.00 pm Lunch followed by free time and opportunity for networking

### Sunday 28 March

8.30 am Breakfast  
9.00 am **The Theology of Hope**  
10.00 am Discussion  
11.00 am Morning coffee  
11.30 am Closing Eucharist with Sermon  
1.00 pm Lunch and depart

## SUSTAINING A BUSINESS RECOVERY SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS

### The Survival of Capitalism Eve Poole

Some commentators view the financial crisis as an indictment of capitalism, alleging its moral bankruptcy and deploring the inequalities it promotes. Others see the crisis more as a temporary flip, pointing to the many benefits and growth of prosperity which have accompanied the spread of global capitalism. Should the Church support capitalism, condemn it or work towards its reform?

**Eve Poole** is Deputy Director of the Ashridge Public Leadership Centre. She has a special interest in workplace spirituality and has recently finished a PhD dissertation on capitalism and theology.

### The Problem with Debt Paul Mills

We have grown accustomed to a financial system based on debt, but the recent crisis highlights that it is actually at the root of many of our social and economic problems. A biblical model offers a thoroughgoing critique of debt and an alternative model for finance. What would be the public policy implications of following this ancient but still relevant wisdom?

**Paul Mills** is Senior Economist with the IMF, Monetary and Capital Markets Department. His doctorate was on the biblical prohibition of interest and its contemporary relevance.

### The Role of Regulation Julian Adams

Did a breakdown in ethics contribute to the origins of the crisis? What role did Government regulators play and how did they respond to the crisis? The place of regulation which is principles-based and outcomes-focussed will be explored, along with the importance of personal accountability within the regulators' framework and their expectation of senior management and boards.

**Julian Adams** is Director of the Retail Firms Division at the Financial Services Authority. He played a key role in the FSA's response to the financial crisis and recapitalisation of banking.

### The Changing World Order Peter Warburton

Western habits of spending and borrowing have been sustained by Eastern habits of saving and lending, resulting in huge debts and major capital losses. What are the business opportunities and Christian perspectives on a world moving to a multi-polar state in which trade will prosper more easily within regions, and international tensions will focus on resource scarcity and climate change?

**Peter Warburton** directs *Economic Perspectives*, an international consultancy, advises Ruffer LLP, an investment manager, and is a member of the IEA's Shadow Monetary Policy Committee.

### Alternative Business Models Philip Angier

Although capitalism's dominant corporate model is seen as the multi-national company, with a focus on maximising shareholder value, alternative business models have grown in influence. Interestingly, alternative models which combine commercial and social purposes have come through the recession quite strongly. What part are they likely to play in the business recovery? And is the trend away from a 'one-size-fits-all' version of capitalism due to continue?

**Philip Angier** runs *Angier Griffin*, an independent social economy consultancy. Formerly Chief Executive of *Traidcraft*, he is Chair of *Shared Interest* and a director of several social enterprises.

### The Theology of Hope Richard Higginson

In order to play a significant part in a sustainable recovery, the Christian Church needs to recover a well-rounded biblical theology of hope that relates effectively to the workplace, is realistic about the human condition but also awakens people to the kingdom of God alive and operative in the sphere of business. What sort of theology might this be? And what are the prospects of spreading it?

**Richard Higginson** is lecturer in Christian ethics and Director of Faith in Business at Ridley Hall. He is co-editor of the quarterly journal *Faith in Business*.

## SUSTAINING A BUSINESS RECOVERY *REGISTRATION*

The cost of attending the conference residentially is £250. Non-residential rates are £180 and £155 respectively.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary requirements:

\_\_\_\_\_

I shall attend. *Please tick appropriate accommodation requirements:*

Residential (£250)

I should like to book an en-suite room at an extra cost of £35  
(subject to availability)

Non-residential (£180)

I enclose a non-returnable £50 deposit, payable to 'Ridley Hall'.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Final date for receipt of applications: **5 March 2009**

***Please detach or photocopy form and return to:***

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