

Inauguration of Dimensions' Navi Mumbai Chapter

Report by Rudy Pinto

Dimensions, the movement of Christian entrepreneurs and professionals is forging ahead as evidenced when 65 of them met at Hotel Sagar, Vashi on 1st May 2009. Christian businessmen covering a wide spectrum of enterprises, from various denominations which included Pentecostals, Mar Thomaites, Protestants etc met under the Dimensions banner. Fr. Sunder Albuquerque, Dean of Navi Mumbai parishes, flagged off the inauguration of the Navi Mumbai Chapter with an inspiring opening prayer.

Welcoming the gathering Mr. Vivek Mendonsa, Marketing Director of Lawrence & Mayo, who was in the chair said that he was happy to see so many Christians were really interested in the concept of Dimensions to meet on a holiday. 1st May was not only International Labor Day but also Maharashtra Day so it was indeed a fitting day to hold the inaugural function. He then introduced the others on the dais which included Mr. Raymond D.D., Business Coach, Mr. Freddy Mendonca, the spirit behind Dimensions, Dolphy D'Souza President of the Bombay Catholic Sabha, Fr. Sunder, Dean of Navi Mumbai Parishes and Rudy Pinto a founder member of Dimensions.

Giving an overview of Dimensions, Mr. Rudy Pinto, mentioned that other business communities had grown wealthy, as they had nurtured businesses within their communities and helped each other grow. He said that Dimensions had been started as a forum for Christian entrepreneurs who could network among themselves and thus help in each other's growth. He briefly gave a history of Dimensions and its progress in the last three years. He described the Dimensions Vision and its power. Mr. Pinto also informed the gathering that Dimensions has a website: www.dimensionsdirect.com and that all business persons can and should register themselves on the website for networking.

Mr. Raymond DD, a business coach and member of Dimensions training team, then gave a short presentation on how networking and connectivity is the key to growth. He emphasized that networking is an important ingredient to business development. He mentioned that Dimensions would also mentor budding entrepreneurs to grow and develop their businesses.

One of the key features of a Dimensions meeting is self introduction by all those who are present. Each one is allowed 60 seconds in which to introduce himself and give brief details of his business and also mention if he has any specific business needs. This is the key to getting to know all those present and forms the basis for references. All those present introduced themselves in the suggested format. It was a great way to get acquainted with each one's core competency.

Muscle power, political power and financial power could be the three key ingredients for a community to be powerful, opined Dolphy. While Christians would naturally exclude “muscle power” which is against their ethos – they were very much wanting in political & economic power. He felt that economic power was well within the reach of the community and Dimensions could be the platform to help this growth. Political power too could be achieved if more Christians took interest and participated in the political process. Unfortunately political parties ignored our community due to small numbers but we could change perceptions with more active participation in political and civic issues. Christians were the preferred community when it comes to employment but we were also perceived as having no ambition to forge ahead. All these perceptions had to change and the change must come from within the community.

Mr Vinod Noronha, a Director of Dimensions, gave testimony to the power of referrals by mentioning that not only he but several others had been able to conclude several lucrative business deals through networking under the aegis of Dimensions. The key was not only to do business among the community but to introduce businesses from the community to those from other communities and thus help everyone to grow .

One of those testifying was Mr Orwin Noronha of Bangalore who had invented a mosquito trap called “mosquit” he said that with the help of Dimensions members he was able to plan the financial marketing of the product. He was in talks with a leading business house to market his product.

Mr. Freddy Mendonca the guiding force behind Dimensions closed the morning’s proceedings exhorting everyone to be committed to the cause. It was his oft repeated query of “Why is the Christian community individually rich but collectively poor” that brought about the formation of Dimensions. He pleaded with all those present to forget about denominations and regionalism. We are all Christians and it does not matter where we come from, but we must work to sustain the growth and progress of Dimensions so that the Christian community could become wealthy and be a force to be reckoned with.

This meeting of the Vashi Chapter happened only with the tireless efforts of Mr. Francis Fernandes of Providence Builders. He worked for weeks to spread the news of Dimensions and the meeting so that the maximum number of Christians in Navi Mumbai could benefit from Dimensions. He proposed the vote of thanks to all those who helped him make the morning’s proceedings a great success.

No Christian meeting can end without thanks to the Almighty and to thank the Lord we had Pastor Johnson who gave thanks to God in the closing prayer.

A fellowship lunch followed where, in the spirit of dimensions, all those present networked with each other, exchanged visiting cards and averred to help each other grow.

Business persons from Navi Mumbai will meet every month on the second Saturday at 8am at Hotel Sagar, Sector 17, Vashi. Those interested in attending the meetings can contact Mr. Francis Fernandes on cell No.9819195700.