

## **Spiritual Leadership and Spiritual Formation: Insights from Benedict's Ideal Abbot**

*Dr Donald L Morcom, Vice-Principal, Malyon College, Brisbane, Australia*

### **Abstract**

*The Christian heritage provides rich instruction on spiritual leadership and spiritual formation. This article suggests that the ideal monastic abbot, as conceived in the Rule of Benedict, has much to offer as a model for contemporary Christian spiritual leaders, especially in the task of spiritual formation. It also serves as a corrective to some of the shortcomings in popular Christian leadership models.*

*It is suggested that, both in the kind of person the abbot should be and in the manner in which the abbot exercises his role, valuable principles emerge which enrich understanding of the role of Christian leaders and particularly their function in the spiritual formation of disciples. Establishing a dialogue with the wisdom of Benedict in these areas would be of great benefit to contemporary Christian leaders.*