



Lecturing from the President Byeong
in the light of
Ministry, Philosophy, and Leadership of Dr. Melvin
(Number 11)



The Meaning of Parachurch Ministry

Dear Students,

I think there are usually three career paths in front of you after graduating from seminary, even from Melvin University, also for the near future. Those are mostly becoming pastor, professor, missionary, or planting a new church, so on.

And there is one consideration to be the leader of the Para-church ministry organization. In some sense the Para-church ministry is distinctive, and such as overseas missions, seminaries, training centers, and Institutes, and so on, and its purpose is to help local churches. They are very closely related to the local church, but not the local church itself, and their goal is to help the local church to mature and grow, and most of the Parachurch ministry has a fundamental purpose in helping the church to grow. That's it.

So Parachurch is doing a different ministry than the local church. There are many pastoral paradigms for the church in the world. In fact, it is thanks to Dr. Melvin that I was able to open my eyes and open my mind early to this concept of parachurch. I started this ministry as Parachurch from the very beginning, following the Dr. Melvin. And I have been more interested in the Parachurch ministry, so I bought a book called *The Prospering Parachurch* written by Wesley K. Wilmer, the vice president of the University of Biola and read it several times.

He seems to have been interested in it because he has been working with Rev. Billy Graham for a long time on the Global Evangelization Movement. There were some unusual things in the book, one of which was that people donated more money to the Parachurch ministry and to such Institutions than local churches. Why is that? Because they think the Parachurch ministry is meaningful, and it is more focused on expanding the kingdom of God than on local churches. The local church seems to think that it is less interested in the expansion of the kingdom of God because it should focus on its own operation and maintenance. Interestingly, some other local churches were doing their church ministry just like parachurch style intentionally, which is focused on expansion of the kingdom of God.

In fact, anyway, the leader of the Parachurch ministry has unique characteristics. They have strong confidence in what they are doing and what their philosophy of ministry is. Billy Graham's "World Evangelical Movement Association," for example, is a prominent example of the Parachurch ministry. He traveled all over the world with John 3:16 and came to Korea, in "74 Expo." Also, I had a very strong mind about my ministry, with parachurch philosophy. Since our Institute exists to help local churches, it was important to clarify who we are, what we do, and how we should do it.

I think I got this mindset from two resources. The first was from Dr. Melvin, and the other was from the book as I mentioned, *The Prospering Parachurch*. I have learned a lot about the ministry philosophy of Dr. Melvin Steinbron, founder of the LPMI USA. I think he is a wonderful example of Parachurch ministry and organization in terms of helping local churches. The idea of helping the church has not changed from beginning to the end. So it seems that the ministry was able to survive for a long life (35 years). Because many pastors and churches in the States saw what he was doing, that's the same thing in his ministry's [purpose], so they wanted to help him and followed his philosophy. Furthermore, they were natural reactions because their church received help from his LPM resources. I learned that philosophy from him for years.

Second, I have learned more theoretically and academically from the book *The Prospering Parachurch*, and also more systematically how to do it. Dr. Melvin was excellent in doing the ministry itself, and Wilmer's book gave me a systematic theory, which made me more confident in my ministry because I definitely required both.●

Weekly Axiom

Any institutions must organize for systematic, continuing improvement to be successful.

(P.F.D)