



Lecturing from the President Byeong
in the light of
Ministry, Philosophy, and Leadership of Dr. Melvin
(Number 12)



Ministry Cycle

Dear Students,

I have learned from my experience that the cycle of ministry is about six years. In the end, no matter what ministry we start, we have to last six years. Of course, this is what I got from my personal experience of parachurch ministry, but I think it also applies to any ministry, and various ministries within the church. Depending on the organizations and ministries, it might be slightly different for how long.

Why do we need to do it for at least years? Of course, the short-term project will be completed in a year or two. However, long-term ministry takes a longer time unlike this, because it takes that long to achieve the bigger desired goal.

This is especially true when I was conducting nationwide ministry in Korea. In my case, changes were needed about six years after the lay pastors' ministry began in Korea. Around six years, two phenomena appeared, one was being almost satisfied with the entire Korean church in this ministry as we expected. In addition, all of Korea's churches were covered by this ministry: from East to West and South to North; without heresy, almost all denominations were included. Particularly, our ministry permeated various denominations, including Presbyterian, Methodist, Holiness, and Baptist, and so on. At that time, all churches were interested in the theme of the lay ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12). It was the time when the concept of 'partners in ministry' was essentially requested by lay people.

The other was that the staff and volunteers who joined our ministry began to think, "We've done our job now. What's going to happen next?" For six years, they devoted all of their energy to holding church seminars, pastors' seminars, and annual conferences for the Nationally, and it became clear that they grew up a lot and almost finished their doctorate degree, so they are no longer needed to work with me, Byeong. We altogether have done our job: "to fulfill God's mission, that's helping the church of Korea by Lay Pastors ministry," and our staff no longer needed personal growth.

So, as a ministry leader, I (Byeong) began to worry. In other words, "will it be closed to the ministry?" Or have we found ourselves at a crossroads of finding a new breakthrough? This was the worry that occurred in the sixth year of ministry. So I began to study how those ministries in the States were ahead of us at this point. What did they do? In the meantime, two organizations caught my sights. One was the George Barna Institute, and the other was the World Evangelism Association of Billy Graham.

We already know very well the ministry of Rev. Billy Graham, and George Barna Institute was a famous parachurch organization which researched the future trends of the ministry, and provided it to churches in the States. I looked at their final direction and destination of these two ministries. And I found that George Barna Institute finally founded a Christian publishing company, and Billy Graham founded a theological school, as well known Golden Cornwell Theological Seminary.

So, it seems that our ministry direction and future destination in Korea are not the Company like George Barna. If so, for the long run, we, LPM Korea, need to make school, and opened the PACE International Seminary first in India in 2015, and then Melvin University in Kenya in 2021.

It is regrettable that many parachurch organizations usually close their doors around then without making another leap through the seasonal cycle (spring, summer, fall, winter), and now hope them to make another leap after six to seven years, and if there are three or four time of this cycling, that will be a meaningful ministry and organizations with a history of twenty to thirty years just like LPMI USA.

Weekly Axiom

*Decision makers need to factor into their present decisions
the "future that has already happened."*

(P.F.D)