



Lecturing from the President Byeong  
in the light of  
**Ministry, Philosophy, and Leadership of Dr. Melvin**  
(Number 15)



## Dr. Melvin J. Steinbron & Byeong

Dear Students,

It is better to introduce you to the late Dr. Melvin J. Steinbron (July 25, 1922 - June 25, 2017) and his ministry for your understanding, because where I am now is entirely of his help.

I met him through his first book, *Can The Pastor Do It Alone?* Once I came back to Korea from Canada, my home seminary asked me to teach pastoral care, especially with an English book. So I was looking for an English book on pastoral care. I tried to get it from many bookstores in Korea, but could not find it. Then I was looking at web-sites of theological schools and found one professor of pastoral care in Seoul. Then I went to that school, Asian Center for Theological Studies (ACTS), now it has become a university. So I met Professor Ruth Elsner. I could not remember her name's spelling exactly, because it was almost twenty-eight years ago, in the year of 1995. Even though she is not there anymore, I tried to meet the professor again afterward, but not there. Anyway, the professor gave me the book, *Can The Pastor Do It Again?* (Copyright © 1987). Once we met each other, and said to me, "Korean church needs this book sooner or later." I found this is true much later. I assumed that she had been teaching with this book for many years in Korea, so she understood the weak-points of Korean churches even when they are grown up.

I had taught students with this book, and they gave me feedback surprisingly, "Korean churches need this book and this ministry, so please translate the book right away into Korean language. We feel its urgency of this concept for Korean churches." It was shocking to me, and some sense of God's calling toward me about what to do for the rest of my life in the future. Then I contacted Dr. Melvin, the author of the book, to get permission to translate and also to copy the English book itself. I had no idea at all about him and what he was doing. Just as I thought, he is a pastor at a local church. But soon I realized he started this ministry at one local church many years ago, and now he has been doing this ministry nationally and internationally already, I mean for the entire of the United States as a founding president of LPM Incorporated. He was gladly permitted to translate and to copy original books as well, agreeing with what I said, "Future of Korean churches depends on present seminarians." So I have translated it into Korean language along with his second book, *Lay Driven Church* (Copyright © 1997). Both books were translated in 4 years and published thousands copies successfully, also copied 1,000 books on each English book itself, so used very well for nearly 20 years.

While I was teaching with that book, I got feeling strongly and challenged for doing this ministry myself for churches in Korea, so I opened small Institute of LPM Korea at corner-room of one church where I was belonged to, and I was working for this ministry as part-time because I was associated pastor, so I have to work for church ministry as well, and soon later I jumped into full-time ministry because too much demanded from many local churches, so I could not confine at one local church anymore. I am determined to do this ministry as my life-ministry. So I helped approximately 200 churches with this ministry for nearly 20 years. I have copied what and how the LPMI USA were doing, so started easily and moved smoothly and was successful in my point of view. You can look at more in detail how I have done this ministry at my first book, Reflections of the Lay Pastors Ministry, which is published in Kenya Africa in 2020.

As I work for this ministry, it happened naturally to meet foreign students those who came to Korea for theological studies, so we have shared, studied one another of this ministry and trained them especially with PACE Equipping Manual which is developed by Dr. Melvin, and they agreed to its concept, philosophy, and training process, so they invited me to visit their countries, and thus I traveled many countries, equip them (pastors and laity as well) with this ministry. Through those opportunities I became accustomed to other countries, and finally I had helped to begin two Schools; one in Nagaland, India in 2015, another one in Kenya Africa in 2021. Both schools are running okay and doing their own tasks.

I was thinking a lot about how to get things done, because in those days I have read many books on leadership, management, and so on, and those resources help me to start and end up successfully for two schools. Now I am writing to you weekly those insights that I have learned with previous experiences.

**Weekly Axiom**

*Opportunities have to be reflected against the experience of organization  
and against its past success and failures.*

(P.F.D)