



Lecturing from the President Byeong
in the light of
Ministry, Philosophy, and Leadership of Dr. Melvin
(Number 45)



Monthly meeting of pastors, *ministerium*

Dear students,

The monthly or bi-monthly gathering of pastors, that is, the meeting of pastors, is termed [ministerium.] This originated from Ephesians 4:11-12, and is a key concept of the lay ministry. In the 1970s, Lutheran theologian Oscar Feucht wrote the book "Everyone a minister," which means that "anyone whoever has Christ in their heart is a minister." He also emphasized, "those who have the Gospel in their hearts also have their own ministry."

At that time, only the ordained pastor was considered a real minister, so it shocked lay people, especially the pastors. While I was also talking with pastors, they said that they liked everything about lay people, but it was still uncomfortable to accept lay people as partners in ministry. It was an era in which the idea that lay people were one step below, inferior, was dominant. Anyway, Oscar Feucht emphasized the new term MINISTERIUM in that concept. In other words, the church is called "ministerium," a group of pastors and the whole congregation. In other words, all the lay people gathered on Sunday should look around the whole people and shout, "We are all a ministry team with the pastor, "ministerium."

This eventually played a major role in developing the concept of 'partners in ministry'. For example, Dr. James Gallow, who was a pastor at the Skyline Methodist Church in San Diego USA, became famous for writing a book called "Partners in ministry" which was from his Ph.D. dissertation at Drew University in New Jersey. Because he wrote the dissertation as a study by John Wesley, and then he made and published a book based on it. In the book, he emphasized that pastors and laypeople should be partners in ministry. That's why it gave the whole of the United States a fresh concept of partnerships in ministry.

For example, there is the Frazer Methodist Church in Alabama USA, and Sunday schools are known to gather the most. It is said that there are 6,000 church members and 4,000 children at Sunday school. John Mathison, the church's pastor, was named the "best pastor of the year" a few years ago. (The Church of America seems to select and present "The Pastors of the Year" every year.) I've been to a few conferences within the church itself, and every year, their major theme was "Everyone in the Ministry," which is the concept of partnerships in ministry.

The idea of a partner in ministry is a very good one. A church in downtown Seoul, is famous for its "discipleship-making," which is well known to Korean churches and even Asian churches. However, I heard that from a while ago, they put up the slogan, "A partner in ministry." Although they became a disciple, it seems that they were eventually upgraded to a "Partners in Ministry."

More than 20 years ago, a conference of lay ministry was held at Hallelujah Church in Korea, and the main speakers were Pastor Ok Han-heum and Pastor Kim Sang-bok. Pastor Ok Han-heum wrote a book called "Called to Awaken Laity" and Pastor Kim Sang-bok was running the "Lay Ministry Academy." In the end, the direction of the speeches were that both of them had to accept [the laypeople as the partners in ministry]. The lay people, who had been known only as consumers physically, showed the possibility of becoming ministers and partners with the pastor in serving the Lord. Since then, the Korean church has grown with many changes in the position and role of laypeople, so I am grateful, and I remind myself once again that both pastors and laymen become a good team, ministerium, in ministry together.

Weekly Axiom

*In the past a leader was a boss. Today's leaders must be partners with their people...
they no longer can lead solely based on positional power.*

(Ken Blanchard)