

Weekly Column  
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Melvin University  
and Me

## Ministry Cycle

I 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 ministry and various ministry within the church.

Then why do we need to do six 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 we're conducting nationwide ministry. In our case, changes were needed about six years after the lay pastors' ministry began in Korea. In about six years, two phenomena appeared, one was being almost satisfied with the entire Korean church as we expected. In addition to, whole of Korea were covered by this ministry: from East to West and South to North; without heresy, almost all were included. Particularly, our ministry permeated various denominations, including Presbyterian, Methodist, Holiness, and Baptist. At that time, all churches were interested in the theme of the lay ministry. It was a time when the concept of 'partners in ministry' was essentially requested by laymen.

The other was that the staff and volunteers who joined our ministry began to think, "We've done our job now. What's gonna happen the next?" For six years, they devoted all their energy to holding church' seminars, pastors'

seminars, and annual conferences for the National Church, 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 no longer needed personal growth.

So, as a ministry leader, I began to worry. In other words, will it be closed to the ministry? Or have we find at a crossroads of finding a new breakthrough? This was a worry that occurred in the sixth year of ministry. So I began to study how the ministries in the States that were ahead of us at this point. 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 the ministry of Rev. Billy Graham, and another one was the George Barna Institute where was a famous institution which researched the future trends of the ministry and provided it to churches in the States. I looked at the 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 are not the Company like George Barna. If so, for the long run, we need to make school, and opened the PACE International Seminary in India in 2015 and Melvin University in Kenya in 2021.

It is regrettable that many parachurch Institutions 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 institution with a history of two to thirty 30 years.