

Weekly Column  
Korean Newspaper



Melvin University  
and Me

### **Are laypeople only server?**

This Monday's Chapel was the first time since Melvin University started. It was time that I gave a sermon. Since it's the first time of the semester, I want to give directions to the students this semester. I preached on the subject of my major, the Lay Pastors Ministry.

The Bible was written in Ephesians 4:11-12.

11) He gave it to them as an apostle, or prophet, or evangelist, or minister and teacher. 12) This would keep the Holy Father intact, do the "work of service" and build up the body of Christ.

First, Pastor Kim Sang-bok said that for the past 100 years, all the church members had to do was leave the nail out of the "volunteer service" and come to the church to cook noodles and clean them.

The main fatal factor that led to this was the translation of the Korean Bible. If you look at the English Bible, it is translated into two. The work of SERVICE; and the work of MINISTRY. Anyway, the Korean Bible was translated by early missionaries.

I don't know exactly what English Bible it comes from, but someone said it from RSV. However, what is clear is that it is translated directly from the English word "The work of service." Therefore, it has been handed down to our Korean church for more than 100 years as a "work of service." Bible scholars and pastoral experts currently argue that these errors should be corrected immediately.

Forty or fifty years ago in the United States, these argue began to emerge among scholars and pastors. So the word "lay minister" began

to spread.

The pastor needs a paradigm shift to "Equipper". The laymen also need to switch to "lay minister." This is the main point of verse 12.

If you look at verse 4:11~12 again, during the first church, there were five designations in the church. They should all "train/prepare laypeople to do the ministry given to them by the Lord," which is the fundamental meaning of the original Greek Bible.

The scholars who rediscovered and emphasized this are James Kennedy/Coral College Presbyterian Church; Jim Gallow/Ph.D. from Drew University; Professor Greg Ogden/Fuller Theological Seminary; Professor Paul Stevens/Vancouver School of Theology, Canada; and Pastor Kim Sang-bok in Korea.

Rev. Melvin emphasized this concept by linking it to calling. It is said that laymen were called by God 100 percent like pastors. This is a fact. Pastors are more responsible for not doing this. The pastor's problem is the responsibility of the seminary, and the problem of the seminary is the responsibility of the professors. Theological schools that are busy producing ordained pastors. Since they focused on making curriculum for pastor mainly on pastors and focusing on producing good pastors, they could not afford to pay attention to their relationship with laypeople, that is, how to equip laypeople to do their work.

And here in the churches in Kenya, it's easy to see that only pastors are called 100 percent, both inside and outside the church. I am keenly aware that it is also our Melvin University's mission to correct it. This is because the future Kenyan church is up to the present seminary students.