

Weekly Column
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Melvin University
and Me

Five B.A courses are approved and accredited by the Government

Not long ago, we got a call from the Kenyan government that [five major areas] have been approved for a four-year BA course: theology. Education. Counseling Psychology. Community Development. Biblical Counseling. If only 20 students from each department enter this May, the total number will be about 100, so we will start recruiting new students next week, expecting them to improve further in terms of school development and finance. The Ministry of Education is also encouraging us to prepare to do so because the advertisement for new students from now on is more important to be done late.

It is true that "university [accreditation]" and "degree [approval]" are very difficult to establish universities in Africa, including Kenya. I alone expected that we would have to pay separately for the university "accreditation fee" and the degree "Approval fee", but when it became a reality, I was quite embarrassed. Anyway, Kenyans and Africans feel that it would be really difficult to build a university by themselves. After all, it is possible only with outside help. Construction costs are high, but it is also impossible for locals to pay the authorization fee to the government twice. Of course, I know that it will be very difficult to establish a university in Korea, but it was completely wrong for me to expect Kenya to be a poor country, so it would be a little cheap and easy to proceed. Moreover, Melvin University is located in Homa Bay County. Of course, Kenya's Ministry of Education is in the capital, Nairobi, but the local education office is in each county, encouraging its employees to come and go frequently and continue to do well.

Anyway, five degree courses (four-year B.A.) were approved as a result of following all the requirements of the Kenya government. Of course, when we paid the confirmation fee, they made a quick decision. Until then, it took a long time and made us suffer.

THEOLOGY is a four-year course for the present pastors, and young pastoral candidates. Kenya's churches have a weak theological part, so even institutions called heresy come to Kenya in from all the world including Korea, and they have money, so many people are misled by it, and when they go to church, they are given to eat, to wear, and even to give pocket money, so they have no choice but to go there. In any way, for the future of the Kenya Church, a sound regular theological university is necessary. It is our desire to bear the burden as a university.

EDUCATION is a four-year regular course that was approved this time as the government accepted that after graduation, one should receive a teacher's license (through the employment exam) and become an elementary and middle school teacher. Since young people have no job, dozens or hundreds of youngsters are left unattended and spending time day by day. The best jobs here are teachers, civil servants, and professional soldiers. We should give hope that Melvin University can become an elementary, middle and high school teacher for the future of young people.

COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY has been in progress since last semester, and it is a four-year regular course that has been approved this time. Counseling is a popular topic in any country. It is true that the department of counseling is popular in universities, and so-called top TV instructors also have a lot of this field. Our new students at Melvin University seem completely out of touch in this respect. There will be great interest.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT is a four-year regular course approved by the government's policy to pay attention to Melvin University as it is a comprehensive university, as it continues to pursue development in Africa. Through this course, I hoped that the current status of African development and the necessity and challenge of development would be present to

students.

BIBLICAL COUNSELING is a four-year regular course in which counseling is biblically searched, studied, and taught.

Anyway, I really thank the churches and congregations in my home country, Korea, for helping Melvin University get here despite the difficult process and now start the regular four-year B.A. course approved by the Kenya government.