What is ministry!

I'm an expert in para-church ministry. Not an expert in local church ministry. The word ministry comes from Ephesians 4:11-12, and in my 40s, I have been taught the ministry of the lay pastor from Dr. Melvin and have been doing it for more than 20 years. As a LPM Korea Institute, it was purely to help local churches.

As I continue to emphasize ministry in school, students often ask, "What is ministry?" I was a little embarrassed then. Because I had never thought about the definition of ministry, nor had I ever questioned myself about it. I just took over from Rev. Melvin and worked hard. When they ask me "what my ministry is," I think it's compared with a secular job. In other words, what is the distinction between occupation and ministry? I thought this was the core of the student's question and tried to explain it to them, but I'm going to think about it more specifically. This is because when seminary students graduate, there are almost three ways in front of them: ministry, ministry, or world business.

What is ministry? I don't know exactly what it is. There seems to be no book written about it. But I think there's a clear difference from a secular profession, so let me say:

First, the purpose of ministry is not to make money. Of course, there

are many by-products through the ministry, but the primary goal is not money. So all para-church ministry organizations should be non-profit, that's non-profit ministry. Of course, money is needed (I know this well), but if we follow it, it will soon weaken, decline, and eventually die because people see it as pursuing money, not ministry. If we devote complete energy and time to a given ministry itself, money will follow. But God can't make us rich because He only gives us food that is essential for ministry and for daily living (extremely my personal experience). He supplies bread and water while we are in ministry.

Second, the ministry should focus on the direction itself and people, not on maintaining the organization or institution. Ministry and people are primary, and other things are secondary. Most secular institutions focus on its "survival" rather than pursuing its "purpose." But the ministry should focus on people, which is the responsibility and mission of the organization's chief leader. They have to focus on the organization's purpose, and then the people who are involved and involved in the organization will think about its survival. I have also been very focused on our mission and purpose for the past 25 years. And our members tried to maintain and survive our organization. In fact, I think this is a good system.

Third, it is important to develop software for ministry. The strength of the ministry lies in software development rather than hardware, which means that data should be developed. If we neglect them, it is difficult to expect the ministry to live a long life. That way, the hardware will slowly follow later. Of course, as a leader in ministry, we should think of hardware, but people should see that it comes after software, and that there is not only hardware but also software. With enough software, people will also be interested in it as they come and sympathize with the need to prepare hardware, an office or a

building and schooling as well if necessary.

Finally, the mindset of a leader is also important. The leader of the ministry should be respected by core members inside. In other words, 1) Leader must devote his entire life to ministry. 2) They should be risk takers at all costs. 3) It should be a simple lifestyle that is not greedy for money, welfare, and wealth. I like to label them "sacrifice". They should be champions in being able to sacrifice and take risks.