



WEEKLY COLUMN in TORONTO
CANADA

Melvin University with Me



Meeting with three people

I think meeting each other is important in life. In my case, I would like to introduce three people based on my seminary day, my ministry, and the case where Melvin University in Kenya was established.

First, it was Rev. Kwangseok Yang, Korean, who opened my way in the 1980s when I was a seminarian (currently, the father of Rev. Seungmin Yang at the Yeongam Church in Toronto). At that time, I was studying English hard, so I bravely wanted to pray in English during the entire school chapel. I told Rev. Yang, who was the head of the school at the time, and he gave me permission to pray in English. I didn't even remember what I prayed for, but afterward, my classmates responded, "You were good at English!" So I laughed alone, wondering if they would have reacted like that probably they couldn't speak English well. Since then, I have become interested in English continually, so interpreting, translating books, etc. Since I grew up in the Methodist Church, I went Methodist Graduate School to become a Methodist pastor, but I wanted to study abroad after the school, so I visited Rev. Yang again, and discussed about studying abroad, and he wrote a recommendation letter, and I had studied at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton Canada. In the end, my ordination was in my own denomination of alma mater, the Jesus Korean Church of Holiness (Yesung). Even now, I feel grateful to the late Rev. Kwangseok Yang. He gave me hope when I was an immature child. Thank you very much.

The second is the late American pastor Dr. Melvin Steinbron, who has been a my personal mentor and helped and coached me with special affection for more than 20 years, to start LPM Institute in Korea in 1999. Once, I gave a lecture at Sungkyul University, and the school asked me to teach on the pastoral cares to the senior class in English. Perhaps it was because I had received Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) as a graduation requirement when studying at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton. So while I was looking for an English book in that field, I found Dr. Melvin's book, "Can The Pastor Do It Alone?" So I contacted Dr. Melvin in the U.S., and he said, "That book and ministry may be necessary for the future of the Korean church!" And it was right, and the theme of the ministry bloomed over the next 20 years. The content was that laypeople were called by the Lord as well just like pastors. So, I met Dr, Melvin in person several times and received his ministry. (He already has been serving American churches for 35 years in the United States).

The third, meeting with Pastor Kenya Ogilah went back to 2017, he had Institute with Lay Pastors Ministry, and we LPM Korea had funded for his Institute and ministry. In May 2020, I sent him a lot of English resources of Dr. Melvin, then he responded, "it is definitely possible to establish a university with these wonderful materials". So we started construction on December 4 of the same year. Finally we have Opened Melvin University in Kenya. Anyway, I think these are an examples of how precious meeting each other is.

Another encounter: It's a meeting between Andrew Carnegie and Napoleon Hill. Carnegie was an American steel magnate, also known as Carnegie Hall in Manhattan, New York. Mr. Hill changed several jobs as an ordinary salary-man, and at the end of his career he was working at publishing company to make magazine, so the company decided to interview successful people in the world, and the Me. Hill

visited Carnegie. The meeting between two people have changed business world. Carnegie suggested to Mr. Hill: "Find successful people around the world next 20 years and interview them. And let's organize their successful stories, to make a book. I'll pay for all the expenses - your family living expenses, hotel expenses, and flight expenses for 20 years or so." Mr. Hill accepted Carnegie's suggestion and interviewed those successful people for 20 years, studied and published book with the material found, "The Law of Success". I think these are true stories that show how important it is to meet someone in our life.