



WEEKLY COLUMN in TORONTO
CANADA

Melvin University with Me



Direction of my column

My first column last time introduced three pastors from three countries who helped me to the present (Korea, United States, and Kenya). At that time, I was busy starting the column, so I didn't have time to think about the direction of the column. This time, I will write about the future direction of the column.

First, my major fields seem to be in two categories, 'Lay Pastors Ministry' and 'Leadership'. Of course, during the seminary, I studied Homiletics, and later I taught on preaching at a seminary in Korea and published several translation books. However, after starting LPM Korea in Seoul in the late 1990s, Melvin University is now being established in Kenya which is named after Dr. Melvin, who founded the Lay Pastors Ministry in the States.

It was Rev. Sangbok Kim who first used the term Lay Ministry (Pyeongsindo mokwhea), and Lay Pastors as well in Korea. He took a special lecture when he was studying in the States. At that time, Rev. James Kennedy (founder of the International Evangelical Explosion Movement) of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church came as a lecturer and introduced Ephesians 4:11-12 to the students, said the pastor's main job is "to equip the saints to do ministry" (sa-yeok) rather than to do ministry by themselves! After hearing that, Rev. Sangbok Kim thought, 'I can be a church pastor because I have talent in teaching,' and he proceeded to the seminary and planted church (in Baltimore, USA), then stressed to the congregation the name 'Lay Ministry' which is from the Scripture Ephesians 4:11-12. And later once he was invited to the Hallelujah Church in Korea, he introduced it to the whole congregation, and opened the [Academy of Lay Ministry] around 1989.

In my (Byeong) case, I received the text (Ephesians 4:11-12) and ministry (Lay Pastors Ministry) from the Rev. Melvin in Ohio, USA, and naturally, I opened the

Lay Pastors Ministry Korea Institute (LPM Korea) in 1999. Therefore, in 2000, when I contacted Rev. Sang-bok Kim to invite as a theology member of our institute, By the way he wanted to know more about our ministry (Rev. Melvin's resources), so I shared it to him, and we together held the first Conference of LAY PASTORS MINISTRY in the fall of that year. Since then, for more than 20 years, the ministry has served Korean churches, as two institutions (Hallelujah Church and our Institute) have served together, called as good Partners in Ministry. At that time, Korean churches needed a new paradigm, and it was already a time when Para-church ministries and those institutions blossomed in North America, so Cell Church, NCD, and Family Church began to permeate Korean churches along with our ministry. It was timely, too.

Now let's think about the direction of the Toronto column. I think Toronto is a bit of an unusual place for me. First of all, Toronto is different from the United States, South Korea, and Kenya. I was in Toronto for a few years around 20 years ago. I think Toronto has changed a lot since I left. Of course, it is expected to have its own characteristics. It will not be American style, it will not be Korean style, and I guess it has grown and developed according to its needs, and it is presumed that the church there has changed a lot as well.

As I mentioned earlier, my major is leadership. It seems that I was very interested in the field because I needed to study leadership to help churches and pastors while conducting the LPM Institute in Korea for more than 20 years, and I also needed leadership while establishing Melvin University in Kenya.

Therefore, what I have can be seen as know-how of Lay Pastors Ministry, and leadership Knowledge. In addition, stories from Melvin University and students are expected to be included in this column little by little. Eventually, however, it is expected that leadership will be mainly addressed. I don't want to say much about Melvin University. People know about universities already. However, because it is a university in Africa, there are some differences, and students and culture are different from other places, so it is likely to be mentioned occasionally. I don't want to talk about the mission itself. I think many people, especially missionaries, have already written good articles about it in the newspaper.

Currently, I am giving leadership lectures to senior students at Melvin University and the ministry and philosophy of Dr. Melvin to new students. But my focus will be more and more on leadership. Leadership here is not intended to deal with basic things such as what the leadership is, so on. Looking at the resources of leadership today, it is heading toward self-development. It seems that because self-development can be a good leader.