



Lay Pastors Ministry with Melvin University

Lecturing from the President Byeong

Lecture 3

(based on the experiences)



Why lay pastoral care is important?



Also, laypeople know more about people, especially their fellow Christians than their pastors, so it is much easier to share their inner stories, pains, struggles, losses, difficulties, because they believe their peers will listen to them well. Not saying here they or they do not believe their pastors, but they are more comfortable to pour out their feelings more often to their colleague. We pastors need to understand it, so lay pastors' ministry is effective.

I am thinking that this ministry gives hope to the church, and people, pastor, especially to the lay people themselves. Most of the laypeople want to do something; it means they want to accomplish something valuable for church, for God, also for themselves. I have trained, and usually I made a Leadership Group, we call it MLG, at the end of PACE equipping seminar. If we look at the ending page of Training Manual, there are checklists, from 1 to 10, how much they are motivated, mostly circled 7 to 8, means they are motivated 70-80 percent, but some marks 10, means motivated 100 percent fully. Actually they were waiting for this kind of ministry for many years, but they couldn't find it, which means that church did not give them to develop those ministries, and in the other way, their church didn't give them permission to do, to serve, to care for people, which means they have no authority to do by themselves.

A leader of significant ministry. I have trained one church with PACE, so one of trainee made circle at 10, means she wanted to do this kind of ministry in her lifelong, and she helped, cared for people very well many years already, and it was more effective than associate pastors, she was trying to do this caring by herself, nobody in the church, even church are not recognized and publicize, so she was dying of burning heart, by the way through the PACE equipping session her burning heart was rekindled inside, so she became the ministry leader of PACE in her church, and later she became one of national leaders, and finally helped to start PACE School, Nagaland India. book was writon the caring ministry, but might be used for any other ministries.

Another example was that I have heard from one pastor of PACE network churches. He said one day their ministry leader of PACE, Mrs. Oakja Kim came to pastor's office and expressed gratitude to the pastor because church gave her to lead this PACE ministry, so she felt self-esteem through her leadership, actually she was just ordinary wife of farmer, and of course herself was a farmer all of her life, so she thought her life will end with poor farmer's wife, but one day she became a leader of significant ministry for her church. So it was a fascinating story to hear.

He kept the promise. One was to talk to his wife, she was also there, but looks very young, less than 30 years old, anyway he said very sorry to his wife at that moment, because he was drunk almost every day, he is actually a patient of defoliant which got from Vietnam War, so his life desperate past many years, so he has been behaving to his wife badly, he apologized again to his wife in front of us. And the second promise was that he wants to do God's work from now on, then we didn't know what he meant, but later on I heard from the pastor, and also I have seen with my eyes many times, because I have visited and re-equipped them in the next few years. First, he made LPM Office in the compound of the church that was big enough to sit 15–20 people, lay pastors were gathering at the office all the time, once I visit the church I sat there and talked with them, and he did other things that made pond with pretty fish in the front yard and got up 4 a.m., early morning every day, to ring the bell which is traditional bell at rural churches, even during in cold winter season he got up so early, probably 4 a.m., come to church and ring the bell, so people come to church for dawn worship service, 5 a.m. He changed through PACE. He kept the promise for the next many years.

Mrs. Yoon's is also another case. She was a member of Hallelujah church. One day pastor David Kim asked her to help PACE ministry in their church; those days about 5,000 people were attending the church. She didn't know exactly what the PACE ministry and Lay Pastors Ministry was. However, she was dedicated more than thirteen years for this ministry, for her church, and for God.

As we see the stories up to now, lay people find good things from this ministry, that is why I put 'hope' on this ministry. It gives them to church, and also they grow, and they love what they are doing, so they felt real accomplishment. And their self-esteem became much higher than before, and on the other hand it gives them freedom to use their God's given spiritual gifts. When we talk about freedom of lay people, there is no need to misunderstand! Actually, they are not in the hands of the pastor. Freedom here means they need to use their spiritual gifts. Everyone has spiritual gifts as we know, of course there are different opinions on how many spiritual gifts are in the Bible. For instance, Melvin says 27 gifts; John Maxwell 24 gifts; James Garlow 20 gifts; Ronald 15 gifts; some says 20 gifts. Major differentiation is how to see Ep. 4:11-12, some think those are also spiritual gifts, but others don't count them as a spiritual gift, also some distinguish spiritual gifts and ministry gifts that is why there are many different opinions on the number of gifts.