

Weekly Column  
Korean Newspaper



Melvin University  
and Me

## Light and Shadow

"Shadows are as important as light." This is the part from the novel [Jane Eyre]. It's a story of man and woman, and everyone has a dark side and a bright side of life. I think both are important. In Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), the term gray area is used, which refers to experiences, mistakes and misfortunes that they want to hide from others. I learned from my colleagues when I was trained in CPE that everyone had this. During the training, there was a student who quit, because he had to open such a gray, and couldn't survive in the midst of colleagues. As such, everyone wants to hide the dark shadow days of life. Jane Eyre's novel reminds us that the dark side of life is as important as the bright side of life. It's like when we paint a picture, the shadow is painted with a dark color.

It should be acknowledged that there must have been dark times behind the success after rising up. We should humbly appreciate the success of bright colors, and be willing to accept the difficult times of dark colors as a necessary process. Just as Yin and Yang exist, it seems that our lives cannot escape such ordinary truths.

The question is what to do with those dark days now. If it was a process in our life so far, shouldn't we admit it and accept it! But I don't think there's a need to brag about it publicly. For example, in my case, there were a few times like that, but for one thing, I was very embarrassed when an acquaintance they promised when establishing Nagaland Seminary contacted me that they couldn't send mission money because of the difficulty of their business. I promised and started the seminary as a building rental there, so I couldn't stop or ask anyone else. So I thought I should take responsibility, so I read the newspaper and

jumped into general social work. It was a so-called 3D job because I thought asking churches would hurt them. So I jumped into **there** rightaway, without thinking about what the job was and how hard it was. It did it for four years and spent all of it buying land at Nagaland Seminary.

I made no one know that I was doing that except my family. If people know, of course, they will blame me "the pastor should have to pray and why he is doing at a secular company, money making, things like that (?)". In the end, my fellow pastors found out. Anyway, that's how I kept my promise to Nagaland. One day, my old brother said, "Think of it as a period that has never been in your life." That's true. That means that I shouldn't think of it too much, because I have done what I had to do. Maybe it's a process that everyone goes through once or twice. There was a time when our parents also told their children later. The same will be true of course. If they say it naturally, we can just listen to it.

By the way, some people tend to use it and keep pinching it out. Especially in interpersonal relationships, it seems to be a fatal drawback. It is actually difficult to ask the other person what they don't want to talk about. Here in Africa, there seem to be many dark times like that in other ways. It is a poor and difficult place, so it is inevitable, and maybe it is also up to themselves. The pain and suffering from the students will be indescribable. I personally sense it to some extent, but I don't have to ask. We can be sympathetic and empathetic to those experiences and situations.