



WEEKLY COLUMN in TORONTO  
CANADA

Melvin University with Me



## Planning and preparation

I was very interested in these two things when I set up a seminary in Nagaland, India. In other words, I made a plan and started 'preparation'. These two words may be both known, easy, but not taken seriously.

Usually, they decide to work on a certain ministry or project, and now they plan it. However, a lot of time and energy is invested in planning, but often they cannot actually proceed. It's a long way from trying to put the plan into action right away. This is why 'preparation' is necessary before practice.

Preparation means, rather than preparing everything at once, what you can do is prepare, as there is a saying that "if you light a candle at night, you can only see it in front of one or two meters." When I tried to start school in Nagaland, I talked a lot with the locals. The local person was Mr. Aloto, an international student who came to Korea. We knew each other while training together for two years in Korea.

We decided to set up a school and said "let's pray" to each other many times. While praying, I read one piece from the summary of a book written by the Auxano Institute in the United States, which seems to have been titled 'Preparation is more important than planning'. So after praying and making a plan, I told Mr. Aloto, "Let's get to prepare now," and he also understood what I meant and spurred the preparation. The word "plan" was no longer needed. Only the word "preparation" and the verb "prepared" remained, and in fact, only that "prepared" was waiting for us. So as I continued to prepare, I was able to get the Opening Ceremony eventually. It was the result of a steady preparation for almost a year. Plans alone do not produce results. You can't just expect something to happen.

In fact, we have learned and done a lot to 'plan'. That's not to say you don't

have to plan, but the potential unconsciousness that the plan itself is the end often entwines us. In other words, after the plan, you should focus more on preparation and focus your energy.

Why is preparation important! Preparation is not a one-time slogan, it is not completed at once, nor is it a stationary noun form. It's actually continuing to do something that has no end. Then one day, the ending moment that we completed will come.

Anyway, once the preparation starts, we will get a lot of ideas, insights, and resources from inside and outside. If we just sit still to plan, we cannot see and find the surrounding resources. When we [prepare] for a goal, we will find a way, and when we do, people will also help to see what we do.

Robert Fritz emphasized in his book, *The path of least resistance*, that if we set one main goal, and tried to achieve it, everything around us would help us. Because that's how things are aligned with people. This is what he calls "structural dynamics."

That's right. God will be with you when you prepare for an important ministry. Planning alone is not enough. Many people make plans, but not many people do, and just stand still and wait, and they no longer prepare in that direction. Nothing happens, even if you plan very well.

I found this to be the case because I opened the school. If we just make a plan and stop there, we can't complete it. It is sad that many people make plans and stop before they prepare. Because, when they make a plan, they stop as if they're done. Then they spend their time looking forward to something "what's going to happen!" but that doesn't really happen. Once you've planned it, you should then move on to preparation.