



WEEKLY COLUMN in TORONTO  
CANADA

Melvin University with Me



### **The necessity of Continuing Education**

I have recently felt that Melvin University needs the Institute of Continuing Education (ICE). There are a few reasons why people who want to come into Melvin but don't have money, who are also busy making a living, and they are too far from Melvin. Also, seeing people who are not eligible for a degree program and people who are out of school a few days to sit comfortably in their classrooms and study, I have pondered for some time about the solution, and I am convinced that the breakthrough is a lifelong education center.

In fact, this project will be a big challenge for me. Perhaps the concept of making another school and I thought that it would take that much effort. However, I was confident in the answer to the question whether it was necessary, so I decided to pursue it and recruited students while preparing for the basics for the past few days. As expected, people who wanted to study at ICE began to contact me with reactions that were "necessary." Online, when the Mobile Learning System was emphasized, inquiries began to come from not only Kenya but also all over Africa. Along with the necessity, encouragement came from many places as a meaningful project.

The faculty decided not to involve professors who currently teach full-time at Melvin University. The professors decided that the current classroom lectures are too much, and it would be too burdensome and inefficient to manage and teach students from various countries online. So, when I thought about ICE under the policy of having completely foreign professors, I found people I know who can teach as professors. Since I have been close to them for more than 10 years, it was easy to ask. In addition, all of them have studied at the World to Universities (Yale, Harvard, Oxford, and Cambridge), so it was good to show them outside. They responded well and organized like that. Not only have they studied, but they are also currently working as church pastors in the United

States, so anyone can demonstrate their skills in any field. Perhaps they are grateful to think that what they have studied is utilized. Rather than following the style of a lifelong education center in Korea, I decided to benchmark the ICE system of Cambridge University in the U.K. I think that's a good fit for us.

There were many inquiries about how much the tuition was. And they were asking what to do when they didn't have a computer. In a word, they couldn't go to school because they didn't have money. First, I made a tuition fee nominally, but in reality, I decided not to receive it in the name of scholarship. How can we ask people who earn 30 dollars to 50 dollars a month to pay? In fact, Africa is a place where we need to help, but it's really difficult to pay. So, we made a decision to make a "knowledge donation" with the concept of talent donation by making the professors aware of it. They've already earned honor elsewhere and received enough salary to live as a pastor, so it doesn't mean much to receive a few dollars. Rather, I think it's meaningful to serve like this while thanking the Lord for His great grace to get a degree by studying like that.

Second, as I know that there are not many computers, I chose the [Online-mobile virtual-learning] system of studying online through phones, SNS, that is, Messenger,WhatsApp, Facebook, etc. In the African situation, this is the best way. It is a difficult environment to quietly sit at a desk to teach and learn because the professors who teach are busy and the students who learn are busy as well. Even if they have a computer, it is impossible because there is almost no Internet. Even a mobile phone will be very difficult for students because they have to pay for phone and internet separately. However, we are urging students to install the Internet on their phones at least. It is difficult to study with us if they are not in a situation to prepare for that, too. I think it will be effective at the minimum cost. Fortunately, the professors understood this situation and passed.