



WEEKLY COLUMN in TORONTO
CANADA

Melvin University with Me



To resist failure in ministry (1)

Whether or not we want to succeed in any ministry, we often fail as much as a successful church. Perhaps because it has become a habit, we often give up the "desire" too quickly and make it too easy to "recognize failure." Continuity of the "aspiration for success" is necessary, and the "prediction of failure" should not be made too easy. In the case of success, it is not because the situation is good or because we are lucky, but because we have gone through a process that deserves success.

Pastor Melvin has been in the Lay Pastors History for over 30 years and has seen a lot of churches that succeed and fail, and he found that there are many factors to avoid failure and wrote it as a monograph so he wrote it, so I'm going to write it three times from now on in light of my ministry.

This is also a checklist that we should know the ministry [before you start], but we should always check it out in the process of our ministry. In the United States, it is said that they feel these things keenly around four or five years pass by. In Korea, I opened an LPM Korea Institute and started applying to them as soon as the ministry began. Because I followed these things, I proceeded without any major mistakes or failures. It has been applied to overseas ministries and is currently applied to various ministries at Melvin University. Pastor Melvin named it 12 blocks. In other words, it seems to have been named in the sense that bricks should be well stacked. I introduced it to each church, naming it a strategy or pillar.

In Korea, I visited again about six months after I started this ministry of the church to substitute this checklist for preventing failure. Substituting this strategy allows us to check whether our ministry is going well [now] and whether it has [so far], and what has not gone well is that it has allowed us to

quickly get back into place. In other words, we must prevent it before a complete "failure." Just like to build a building, a strong ministry should be built on a solid foundation, and second, it should be built on good materials. If we see a stage where erosion begins, even though the foundation is weak from the ground up, or started as a solid foundation, we are afraid of the future of the direction. The use of these 12 blocks as the basis for a ministry is essential in the beginning and should also be used to ensure that they are in place.

1. VISION. This is something you already know well. However, as the saying goes, "If you don't work and have a vision, it's just a daydreaming, while working without a vision is a drudgery." The vision here comes from the question, "Is this ministry (Lay Pastoral Care) surely necessary for our church?" If pastors or interested laypeople check the attendance rates of congregations, they can see how much pastoral care is needed for an individual. You will find that there are active church members, while there are also the inactive. A church in Bundang, Korea has also been actively conducting this ministry for a long time, because they strongly felt the need to solve this problem.

2. OWNERSHIP. This means that "people" who feel that need more clearly should take responsibility for this ministry. In other words, who will take responsibility for this ministry? It should be people who had a clearer vision. We need a team to say, "We have to succeed because God wants this ministry to our church." There should be strong will. Those people should "own" the ministry. That means someone should take responsibility for it, manage it, and be responsible for its success. But in fact, the success of this ministry should not be put off to all congregations. Nor should the senior pastor take responsibility. It shouldn't go further and leave it to his associate. Then this ministry will be forced to go back to the past. It should belong to this group. If not to do so, it will result in 100 percent failure.

First of all, those who had ownership should attend meetings regularly. As long as they have decided to devote themselves to this ministry, no excuse for absence is tolerated. Because it is just as important. The consequences of absence should be 1) No shared visions (big visions and small visions). 2) Fellowship is not available. 3) They are not encouraged. 4) They do not know the strategy. 5) They can be passive.

Second, they are people who think more about this ministry than only during meetings. There are some people who shout only at meetings and talk as if they are doing it alone, which can be a momentary reaction. The reason they need to think more about it in our normal times is that they need to be fully aware of the reality and problem consciousness. Third, people who talk about it to their friends and others at home. Fourth, they are those who agonize over problems that arise and cannot sleep because of them. Lastly, they are those who feel joy when they succeed.

In conclusion, it means that only those who always think, agonize, and pray about the ministry will have the ownership of the ministry.