

Weekly Column  
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Melvin University  
and Me

## Two kinds of Care

In the pastoral care, we can say there are general care and particular care. What does that mean? This is also one of key concepts of lay pastor's ministry. This is just like evangelizing and being an evangelist. Most of the church says about evangelizing to be out there, but many people neglect and think it but not seriously, why? It is just too ordinary an announcement so they think that's not their job to do, maybe others conclude saying nobody is going to do that or just a few.

Just like that, the same happens in the lay pastoral care situation. In short, people care for others generally, just say "hello," "how are you doing." Of course many Christian are doing well at this level and they are very kind people, very polite to others, but they are not interested in other people's real life. Of course today's society is very ego-centered, so churches are affected by those outer phenomena. Anyway, most people are doing general care. In some sense it is not real care, it is just interested in something surface.

Most schools tend to teach only general care, and they are interested in getting a degree in that area, so real caring is far from their mind. CPE, as you know, is trying to focus on personal care, but it is limited to some particular unit, for instance hospital, correctional center, nursing home, and so on, and they just use those centers as training spots but not real caring.

That's why Melvin developed lay pastoral care, which means individual care and also not short term care just as Stephen ministries but long-term care and longevity. Individual care is very important, of course some do group care very well, but in some cases it's not care but a kind of leadership or management. Some people are doing discipleship making very strongly and they think they care for people, but I think that's not care,

just manage people, because most of discipleship ministry is consists with 10 to 12 people in a group, so it not possible for one leader to care for 10-12 people, it is just management or we call it 'general care'

What is particular care? It should be not more than 3-4 people to one caregiver. It's not possible to care more than those numbers. And through individual care, caregivers may grow themselves. Because they look at the person very closely. From far outside they could not see the person very well, so when they see and look into their real lives, they see more in detail. And our motto, slogan is "love with skin on," and it gives us meaning. People need this kind of care, so if we look at Melvin's first book we can find a lot of real caring stories. I am saying that individual people can do this care but we need a more systematic approach if the church wants to be more effective and make synergy with it.

Both individual growth and the whole church's growth is important. Because God's ministry is just like yeast it should be permeated into the church, then synergy is possible, that's also the pastor's aspect of leadership. And also it should be good for individuals, of course God's work needed commitment and sacrifice as everyone accepted but also they need to grow in intellect and skills. Management father Peter Drucker said many times in his writing, every business has to give good first for individual employees rather than the company itself. This is true. Why is the company here? Only for profit? No, I don't think so. They exist for individual employees and society. I agree with that, so pastoral care has to be good for caregivers themselves. Because they need to grow.

How can we grow? We need real experience. Without real experiences we can't grow. What is that? We need to experience real difficulty, and wrestling with , to cope with that, also need to see real life and listen to life stories, then we can think and grow ourselves, because it gives us challenges and instruction for our future.

And if we look at the Bible, we can find this concept. Jesus said love others, care for others, so on, that is general care, but when he asks to Peter "do you love me,?" then he said take care for my sheep, which means Jesus tells us to be particular caregiver, yes sometimes we need to do general care, but originally individual care is our priority because people out there need individual care not general care, so Lay Pastors Ministry is real ministry and what Jesus commanded us to do.

Pitfall at caring. This is not a serious issue, but I am willing to deal with it. Once we

are trained with the PACE Manual. There is mention of a few cautions when we care for others. The one is the money issue. We shouldn't give and take money with our flock family. That is what the PACE manual teaches us and also I trained people with this text many times on many occasions.

Of course we have to be careful to borrow from those who are under our care. Personally I couldn't remember I borrowed money from my flock members. It's ok. But I am wondering here about giving money to them, helping them financially, and lending money to them. This is a critical issue to me all the way. Yes, we have to be careful to borrow money from them, and also do we have to be very careful to give, to lend money to them?

Sometimes, we need to give them when it's very serious to them, of course, this is a significant issue between us and the flock. By the way I found that we are too careful to use, to give our money to them. So we tend to close our minds too early. I think sometimes we need to give money to the needy, especially in terms of ministry we have to donate some finance to the ministry. Of course I am not a generous person, but we have to be careful to close down our mind too early as the instructions of PACE Manual tells us.

Of course we can't help everyone, every ministry, and every organization but some organizations in poor countries really need our financial help, so we have to open our minds to them. Yes, we need to be cautious about giving as Melvin advised us, but if we are too strict to it all the time, there is no ministry to survive in the world and couldn't expand the kingdom of God, as we know every ministries need finance to accomplish it, and God know what and how to complete it.