

Weekly Column
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Melvin University
and Me

But bean sprouts grow

I have often heard the saying, "Sending money to a missionary site is like pouring water into a broken jar." There are also talks about, "There is no end to financial support." Both of them spoke negatively, but I agreed 100% at first.

But as I keep thinking about it, financial support is not necessarily a waste. The answer is the proposition, "But bean sprouts grow." When I was young, I saw them growing bean sprouts by pouring water into a broken jar. My mother poured water into it, but it all fell out. But when I sleep at night and open my eyes in the morning, I see more bean sprouts growing. It seems like a strange logic. The water is drained, but bean sprouts grow. Eventually, it means that they drink light water and grow.

On the surface, it is obvious that water is poured into a hole (broken jar). Still, they pour again without complaints. They keep pouring it, too. I felt the answer that financial support is like this to the overseas and mission sites.

Let's take a look at Melvin University. Our school has been passing by for three years, so it is true that the broken jar has been watered down and poured over and over. At first, it seemed to be showing well. As something was built and the number of students increased, even external sponsors seemed to be satisfied. However, as time goes by, money has to keep going in, and there seems to be no end, complaints that "it's like pouring water into a broken jar" continue to emerge. These seem to be common phenomena in any mission site.

However, on a second thought, it is not a phenomenon of pouring water into a broken jar. Although it appears to be, in reality, the pouring is not wasted to

cultivate future youngsters in poor Africa. The answer is students who graduate every year to prove that it is not pouring water on a broken jar. It was that kind of pouring water, but students who study and graduate are the fruits of the pouring. This June, Melvin University will also graduate with 23 students. Students are still growing like bean sprouts, even though it is like pouring water on a broken jar. So they will graduate.

Even if it is poured into the broken jar, the fruit will be there. when it is continuously poured, and when the time comes, the fruit will come out. Graduates are the fruit. It won't take long. In the case of our university, the fruit is produced in as little as four years, or as little as two years. This fruit lasts forever. The graduating degree is forever. So while it is correct that "it is pouring water into the broken jar," it is not all water being thrown away, and like bean sprouts that grow with the water for a while, as students graduate every year as they grow up. If one school is like this, the schools of poor countries, which are mission sites, produce hundreds of graduates every year. This calculation reaffirms that completely discarded water, that is, it is, it is not an unnecessary investment.