



WEEKLY COLUMN in TORONTO  
CANADA

Melvin University with Me



### **Why we can't complete our ministry**

I have studied leadership for many years. I would like to challenge myself here for leaders, especially today's leaders. In my heart, I used to ask the question, "Why can't people completely finish their ministry?" I read a book called *The Path of the Last Resistance* (Robert Fritz, 1984), which I even partially translated and taught at seminary schools, both domestically and internationally. He started the book with the question, "Why can't people succeed in their plans?" He wrote a lot of reasons. It has also become my own question since then.

So I learned from ministry experience, and I also discovered 12 elements for success, not for failure, and wrote them into books. Of course, these are my discoveries from books and field experience: strategies I've used for 20 years in Korea, doing lay congregation, and even establishing two seminaries (Nagaland and Kenya), and universities in Kenya. Some of the key concepts I've discovered are as follows. It's a matter of choice, which is deciding what to do. We have to decide for ourselves what to do with prayer and God will give us what to do. Then we have to do that ministry for God and for the people.

The second is to start at the end. Maybe you can't understand this. Why start at the end, not the beginning? The reason is this, which was true from my experience. People put a lot of energy into starting something. For example, if our missionary journey starts at 1 to 10, most people tend to stop or give up at 3 or 4. Because they don't have the energy to keep going up to 10 because they have used up (1-3) their energy at the beginning. That is definitely true. Look at the people around you. So the final destination seems to be far from their sight, saying, "It's not mine, it's someone else's." So starting from the end is a smarter way to complete. And maintaining momentum. It means we have to keep going "constantly." We don't have to keep going fast, but we shouldn't

stop it even if we keep going slowly. Sometimes you can be a sprinter, another time you can be a marathon runner, sometimes you can be like a turtle, but you should never stop.

It is because many people try, but they are disappointed and have ended in failure. There are many examples of failure around us. They did not plan, passion, or even pray, but their process was not appropriate to achieve it. This is the "Why can't you complete it?" I repeated in this book. Once we talk about a vision or a project, sometimes people are not easily accepted, and even the main people inside our organization cannot follow the vision. We are consciously and unconsciously uncomfortable with such a reaction.

Another thing is to acknowledge reality. But keep going. These two things seem paradoxical. The reality is terrible. So how will we continue? In fact, the two things are completely inconsistent. But neither of them can be abandoned. Sometimes there is a saying that reality is more important than vision. I think it's meaningful. I know the difficult reality, but keep going.