



WEEKLY COLUMN in TORONTO  
CANADA

Melvin University with Me



## Theory and practice

There are two approaches to doing the ministry: [theory] and [practice]. Theory comes first? Practice comes first? Some people hold the theory in their hands first and then move to apply it in practice, but some people practice it first, and build the theory from that real experience.

If you read books, they usually use a lot of experience first. So it can be a little boring. People with a short temper like me are a little bored reading more than 10 pages of experiences, so I just skip it. Later on, some of them are taken out and established as theories. On the other hand, some books have established some theories and then spend hundreds of pages explaining them. Looking at the theory first, it is a little simple and boring.

Most schools present theories first when teaching and learning. They learn the theory in the classroom and try to apply it to the real field. I can't say which is the better order. I think it depends on the situation.

Of course we need both. In the second book of the Rev. Melvin ("Lay Driven Church"), he said, "A theory without practice has no fruit, and practice without theory has no direction." That makes sense.

There are many theories in the Lay Pastors Ministry. In other words, Rev. Melvin first established the theory by developing various materials for 35 years, starting with practice. With such theories, I saw the possibility of establishing Melvin University. The school needed a confirmed theory because it was different from the church.

Such theories and materials are very practical and useful for PACE ministries in

real churches. So LPM/PACE is not only a theory but also a practice, which means that PACE is practical and used directly and reasonably in our daily lives. So both are included.

However, there are times when we find that our ministry is boring and not growing enough. If we continue to focus only on practice at that time, it is difficult for us to know where we are now and what we are serving for. So we need to check, but we have to change this and that. In this way, we discover and find ourselves that we are using [theories necessary for practice]. In other words, we can apply these two while making appropriate use of them.

The person who has mastered these two aspects-theory and practice- is called a 'practitioner'. In other words, it is a case of success not only in theory but also in practice. So we need both of these. You practice it for a while, then you go back to theory, and then you check the theory for a while and then you go back to practice. At first, we can rely on such experts, but we soon discover that we have become experts ourselves in the two fields. If that doesn't happen, we can't be successful and long-term.

In terms of interpersonal relationships, books, experiences, and knowledge, we can get theoretical things from colleagues as well. And in practice, we can get it intentionally, and on some emotional level as well.

I have been practicing for many years, but I even read books to reaffirm my leadership as much as I can now. There are many differences between "Institute ministry and university management." It is to see how well I cope with reality-university management. It is because it is helpful for my personal growth and for the development of administration and leadership.