



WEEKLY COLUMN in TORONTO  
CANADA

Melvin University with Me



## Quitting

I've noticed that when I watch people quit, some quit early, some quit in the middle, and some quit almost at the end. I'm more interested in the last one. For example, Thomas Edison is said to have failed 9,999 times to perfect the light bulb we use today, but he didn't quit until he got to the end. If it were up to us, we'd probably quit halfway through, around the 5,000th failure.

In one example, there was a man who was looking for a gold mine, and he dug deep into the ground, but he got so tired of digging that he finally stopped. Later, other people tried to dig further and found that the previous person had stopped after three feet. If he had just kept going, he could have fulfilled his dream and become rich, but because of those three feet, he let go of his big dream, his lifelong dream of becoming rich. In response to this example, I wrote, "Great achievements and successes are reminders that we are closer than we believe."

When I look at books about success, it seems that past books focus a lot on [how] people succeeded, while current books focus more on [why] they didn't give up. They talk about what keeps them going. What is it that keeps them going, does it have to do with courage, etc. Of course, there's a lot of backsliding and a lot of thinking. But the people who keep going, who overcome those fears and keep going, are the ones who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

You don't have to wait for everything to be perfect. Perfection is not something that will be solved forever. There will always be challenges and obstacles to overcome, rather than expecting things to be perfect or in perfect condition. Starting now, with each moment of progress, we will become stronger and stronger, more and more skilled in our field, and more and more successful as

we become more and more confident in ourselves.

Successful people see opportunities in their failures, that is, they see obstacles as opportunities. Every failure contains a seed of greater good, or at least a seed of equal good. I often think back to the book *The Meaning of Suffering*, written by Rev. Han-Heum Ok, in which it is understood that suffering is not useless.

I wondered if I could add to it and help someone else fulfill their dreams? In the past few weeks, I've been thinking about Melvin University graduates starting their ministries and entering the workforce, and I've been thinking about how much help they need: how meaningful and necessary it is to receive and share their passion and vision!

Today, everyone is so busy and so focused on achieving and accomplishing their own things that they don't seem to have time to be receptive to others. People who listen, accept and have fun with you will be a great encouragement and become mentors you will never forget. I personally believe that the highest level of leadership is this: the pinnacle of leadership is to invest your time and energy into something that is not yours and help others achieve it.