

Weekly Column
Korean Newspaper



Melvin University
and Me

Aggressive Pastoring/Ministry

I don't know if this is the right title for today's post, but it's what I feel is appropriate.

The ministry of our Melvin University graduates these days is very aggressive. First of all, I think they do it out of necessity. They feel like they need to do something after they graduate, and they're jumping into ministry and pastoring with a lot of intensity. I'm very happy with that passion.

Just as there is a saying "remove the ox horn as soon as possible." I think they do it when their passion is burning, and I think they also have curiosity. I felt like they were just trying things out because they hadn't done it before. I think it's a trigger of curiosity to try something because they don't know what church ministry and ministry are in detail, and another thing is that they have a lot of energy because they're young, so whatever they do, it seems to be full of energy. It's like how evangelists who just graduated from seminary in Korea were recklessly promoting pioneering.

So when I looked at the characteristics of our graduates' pastoral and ministry work, first of all, they were very creative. I see them trying new things all the time. They were reckless, for example, holding so-called revival meetings in the middle of the week in an open field near the church. It reminds me of busking [live music on the street] in today's language. It's not a big gathering. There were a few people sitting down and it seemed like there were hundreds. They can't afford a tent or anything like that, so they just make a pulpit out of wooden boards and lead praise and preach from there.

The difference from Korea is that the wives are almost the main singers, preachers, and testimonies, so the audience seems to be more responsive. In Africa, lay leaders, especially women, do a lot of preaching. Of course, they are not ordained. It's just the way society and the church traditionally is. Women are more active than men. The same is true in the church and in pastoral ministry.

However, there seems to be an outside influence on this. One of our professors is an American missionary who is very active in ministry and has a lot of talent and experience. He has a lot of pastoral experience in the United States, but he came to Kenya as a missionary and met me by chance when I was preparing to establish our university, so we talked and asked him to be a professor at the university, and he happily agreed and is teaching. He is younger than me and his style of preaching is very evangelistic and even revivalist, which is perfect for African churches and people. Therefore, since our students receive his preaching lectures and guidance, it seems that they follow in that direction and do pastoral ministry as well.

Another thing is that as I lecture on the experience, content, and process of my lay pastors ministry, I find that they are being influenced by it. I think younger pastors who are new to pastoring or ministry should have a model to follow. I think they have found something from me, just as I have found something from Dr. Melvin. Being a model for them is not only about the content, but also about how to use it to achieve the purpose and goal of their calling. The content is different for each ministry, so there is no need to discuss it, but it seems to be effective to pass on the basic know-how.