



WEEKLY COLUMN in TORONTO  
CANADA

Melvin University with Me



### Meaningful ministry

I have trained one church with PACE, so one of trainee made circle at 10, means she wanted to do this kind of ministry in her lifelong, and she helped, cared for people very well many years already, and it was more effective than associate pastors, she was trying to do this caring by herself, nobody in the church, even church are not recognized and publicize, so she was dying of burning heart, by the way through the PACE equipping seminar her burning heart was rekindled inside, so she became the ministry leader of PACE in her church, and later she became one of national leaders, and finally helped to start PACE Seminary, Nagaland India.

Another example was that I have heard from one pastor of PACE network churches. He said one day their ministry leader of PACE, Mrs. Oakja Kim came to pastor's office and expressed gratitude to the pastor because church gave her to lead this PACE ministry, so she felt self-esteem through her leadership, actually she was just ordinary wife of farmer, and of course herself was a farmer all of her life, so she thought her life will end with poor farmer's wife, but one day she became a leader of significant ministry for her church. So it was a fascinating story to hear.

Another story was that I have trained at one rural church for two nights, from Wednesday night, and Thursday night, usually starting at 8pm and finishing 11 or 12 midnight. On the second evening, we started about 8 p.m., and went on the session until the next morning, 4 am. When it finished about 4 a.m., I asked the participants to say something, and then nineteen people were there. They talked about how they felt about the training, and expressed one by one, but one gentleman, named Mr. Han, looks about 50-years-old, he said that he is going to promise two things through this session. One was to talk to his wife, she was also there, but looks very young, less than 30 years old, anyway he said very sorry to his wife at that moment, because he was drunk almost every day, he is actually a patient of defoliant which got from Vietnam War, so his life desperate past many years, so he has been behaving to his wife badly, he said sorry again to his wife in front of us. And the second promise was that he wants to do God's work from now on, then we didn't know what he meant, but later on I heard from the pastor, and also I have seen with my eyes many times, because I have visited and re-equipped them in the next few years. First,

he made LPM Office in the compound of the church that was big enough to sit 15-20 people, lay pastors were gathering at the office all the time, once I visit the church I sat there and talked with them, and he did other things that made pond with pretty fish in the front yard and also got up 4 a.m., early morning every day, to ring the bell which is traditional bell at rural churches, even during in cold winter season he got up so early, probably 4 a.m., come to church and ring the bell, so people come to church for dawn worship service, 5 a.m. He changed through PACE. He kept the promise for the next many years.

Mrs. Yoon's is also another case. She was a member of Hallelujah church. One day pastor David Kim asked her to help PACE ministry in their church; those days about 5,000 people were attending the church. She didn't know exactly what the PACE ministry and Lay Pastors Ministry was. However, she was dedicated more than thirteen years for this ministry, for her church, and for God.

As we see the stories up to now, lay people find good things from this ministry, that is why I put 'hope' on this ministry. It gives them to church, and also they grow, and they love what they are doing, so they felt real accomplishment. And their self-esteem became much higher than before, and on the other hand it gives them freedom to use their God's given spiritual gifts.