



WEEKLY COLUMN in TORONTO  
CANADA

Melvin University with Me



### **The meaning of 'trust'**

We're all familiar with Stephen R. Covey's 7 Habits. He passed away more than a decade ago, and his son, Stephen M. R. Covey, has taken over his father's company and is doing well. Covey wrote a book about trust, 'The Speed of Trust' (2006), which is subtitled 'The One Thing That Can Change Everything'. The overall idea of the book is that when we trust, everything speeds up.

First of all, trust has to start with ourselves. It's like Elvin Toffler's fifth wave of the times, and he talks about it that way in this book, that trust starts with ourselves, then it flows into relationships, then it flows into organizations, then it flows outwards, and finally it flows into the cosmic world, which I think is something he discovered while running his own company, the Covey Leadership Centre. In other words, trust is something that starts from the inside out and progresses, develops, and expands. It could be urged that in order to earn the trust of others, we must build trustworthiness in ourselves.

But what caught my attention more than the book, which contains all of the above, was the relationship between Covey the father and Covey the son, that's father and son.

It is noteworthy that the son has taken on the ministry of his father, who was widely trusted, and continues to pass that trust on to the next generation. Perhaps it is true that the credibility of his father's ministry has certainly influenced the success of his son's ministry.

In any case, if you look at Covey's '7 Habits' book, the testimonials include things his children said about their father. It's a testament to their trust in him. I was surprised at first, because it's shocking to me that children would write about their parents in a book that is widely read around the world, let alone

thank them for what they've done. But when I looked at his son Covey's book about trust, *Speed of Trust*, I realized that Covey, the father, had written another endorsement for his son's book.

It's truly enviable to have a relationship like that between a father and child. Of course, if you look at his book *'7 Habits'*, he wrote a lot about his family as well as personal growth up to the general seven. He definitely gives us the image of an 'ideal father', but is it possible for a parent-child relationship to be like this? I imagine a child looking up to their parents, and their parents encouraging them.

For me, it's not quite like that. I have married and had a son when I was in seminary, so poverty and hardship were always present as a seminarian and as an student evangelist.

In Korea, the life of an student evangelist or pastor is not very rich, so children have to take sacrifices, so I always feel sorry for my family. For my son, he would always be known as 'the father who did not take care of his family properly.' And he spent all of his finances on overseas missions, which seemed to be a source of frustration for my children.

At the end of the book (*'The Speed of Trust'*), he lists several conditions for gaining trust at such a speed: you must earn people's trust by being honest and faithful; you must do whatever you do with good intentions and not deceive or hide anything from them; you must have the expertise, knowledge, skills, and ability to do what you are asked to do; and you must give them the expectation that you will bring good results in the future as you have in the past.