



## “Importance of Encountering”

I think meeting each other is important in life. In my case, there are three meetings: one with the American Rev. Melvin. Meeting with Pastor Kim Sang-bok of Korea. Meeting with Pastor Ogillah of Kenya.

The meeting (with Rev. Melvin) began in 1998 with his book, *Can The Pastor Do It Alone?* (1987)<sup>1</sup>). After returning from Canada, I taught a course in the Sungkyul University, and since I had received Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in Canada, it was decided with the Sungkyul University to teach a course in the book on pastoral care.

So while looking for a book, I was introduced to Pastor Melvin's English book by Professor Ruth Elsner of the Asian Union Theological University (then Chungjeong-ro, Seodaemun-gu in Seoul), and my relationship with Dr. Mevin began. Professor Elsner gave me the book and said, "This book and this ministry are necessary for the future of the Korean church," and it was true, and for the next 20 years or so, the ministry blossomed under the theme of the lay pastors ministry. The content is that laypeople were called by the Lord just like pastors.

So, I contact with Rev. Melvin<sup>2</sup>) and received ministry to serve Korean churches, and eventually went to Kenya to establish Melvin University, and received approval from the Kenyan government to conduct the school as a foundation president.

The meeting (with Pastor Kim Sang-bok) was connected to the beginning of the Lay Pastors Institute in Bangbae-dong, Seoul, in 1999, and served as a ministry for almost 15 years. I faxed the English materials to Rev. Kim Sang-bok to form a theological committee in our Institute. He sent me a senior associate pastor in November, and I met him and ten

church members went in the U.S. Conference, and in June, until he retired from his church, there were beautiful partners in history.

The meeting (with Reverend Kenya Ogillah) went back to 2017 and was funded by the Korea Institute under the same ministry theme. In May 2021, I sent him a lot of English resources. Then he responded, "it is possible to establish a university with this wonderful materials". It started construction on December 4 of same year. Anyway, I think it's an example of how precious encounter meeting each other.

Another encounter: It's a meeting between Andrew Carnegie and Napoleon Hill. Carnegie was an American steel magnate, also known as Carnegie Hall in Manhattan, New York. Mr. Hill changed several jobs as an ordinary salaryman, and at the end of his career he set up a publishing company and published a magazine, decided to interview successful people and went to Carnegie. Here, the meeting between the two changed history.

Carnegie suggests to Hill as the two talks and suggested to Mr. Hill: "Find successful people around the world over the next 20 years and interview them. And let's organize the successful contents and make a book. I'll pay for all the expenses - family living expenses, hotel expenses, and flight expenses for 20 years or so." He accepted Carnegie's suggestion and interviewed them for 20 years to study and publish the material found, "The Law of Success" (p. 1928, 817). I think these are true story that show how important it is to meet someone in our life.

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- 1) It says, "Can The Pastor Do It Alone?" I have translated the book into Korean and was used formally in Korean churches for 15 years.
- 2) Rev. Melvin has been doing the Lay Pastors Ministry all over the United States for 25 years, so he developed a lot of materials and know-how, and continued to give help as a mentor. Rev. Melvin, 94 years old, went to heaven in 2017 at the call of the Lord.🕊