

MELVIN JOURNAL

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(week 7)

What Keeps You At It?

"not because of greed for money, but because of eagerness to serve." (1 Peter 5: 2, 3)

"I wouldn't do that for a million dollars!" said a friend to one who was telling of her experience as a Lay Pastor. The Lay Pastor's response? "Neither would I!" Pastoring for money is ruled out as an acceptable motive by Peter who called lay people to be shepherds of God's flock, "not because of greed for money, but because of eagerness to serve." (1 Peter 5: 2, 3). What, then, keeps lay people pastoring once they have started? Especially since there are discouragements, rejections, demands on already scarce time, and failures. These are the major reasons for keeping at it:

1. Alert to God's call to be a Lay Pastor/Shepherd. What committed person can say "No" to God?
2. Desire to serve one's church.
3. Encouragement from the clergy and other brothers and sisters who also pastor. Gehard Frost quotes an unknown speaker in his booklet "What In The World Are We Doing?" who say, "the reason mountain climbers are tied together is to keep the sane ones from going home." There are times when all of us would quit if it were not for being tied in with others doing the same thing.
4. The sense of fulfillment which excites as person when he experiences being a blessing, inspiration, and help to another - being "love with skin on".
5. The conviction that what you are doing is significant. God calls you to do it. The Spirit has given you the gifts for doing it. Your church needs it done. Your people need you whether they all acknowledge that or not. You are pastoring people. And pastoring has a significant importance, Biblically and historically.
6. Wanting to hear Jesus' word, "Well done good and faithful servant", on the day of His appearance. Or, as Peter put it, "You will receive the crown never fade away." (1 Peter 5:4) Doing what you are doing with an eye toward the future generates adequate intrinsic motivation to keep at it.●

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How do you see this comment? Can you apply this to your life and make of you ministry philosophy? Focus on your church or ministry's value, mission, and vision, and consider second choices everything else.

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