



**LPM is God's principle for creating ideal church that can win the nation for Christ Jesus.**

Kwaku, Ghana

When God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, it was never His intention that they leave the Garden. Instead, He wanted the Garden to spread over the earth. What does this mean? God wanted them to take the character of the Garden- God's presence (the Kingdom of Heaven), light, love, care, truth and unity, and spread it throughout the world. This was the overarching meaning of having dominion over the earth. This is still God's purpose, Isaiah 11:9 says "The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea"

God's purpose for creating humankind was to establish relationship, not religion. The original plans and purpose of God was to have a family of sons that He could relate to as father to his children. This plan was evident from the beginning and is expressed more fully in the earthly introduction of the father by Jesus Christ Himself. A careful review of the principle set forth in the Holy Scripture, will reveal this constant desire for personal and personal and intimate relationship and fellowship that God desired with all mankind. He desired that mankind will intern extend this relationship to all generation. God ultimate goal was always to have personal love, care and unity, or oneness with man by dwelling in the heart of man.

In other words He wanted man to demonstrate love, care and unity in the environment of light and truth throughout the planet. And that is exactly what the principles of Lay Pastor Ministry seek to establish back into the world. Because when you study critically the word Pastoral care, you would realize that it is the essence of bringing the Garden of Eden and for that matter the kingdom of God on earth. It is for this reason that I can confidently say that LPM is the right biblical based principle designed by God Himself and He first gave it to Adam and Eve but they failed to implement it on the earth. But now through the redemptive work of Christ Jesus at the cross of Calvary, the Holy Spirit has brought it back to the church and the world through Dr Melvin. That is winning every nation on the planet trough the demonstration of God's love with skin on to the congregation of churches as well as all the nations in the earth which was the mandate given to the church in the Great commission.

Our Lord Jesus Christ commissioned every believer, "Go ye therefore, and teach all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. (Matthew 28:19 KJV).In this King James version the word **teach** is translated into the Greek language **Matheteuo** which means not only to learn but to become attached to one's teacher and to become his follower in doctrine and conduct. It is really not sufficient to translate this verb as "learn" but as "making a disciple" meaning, in the

New Testament sense of **Mathetes**. Derive from the Greek word **Manthano**, which means to cause oneself to know.

In this one statement, Jesus said it all. Everything the world need to know, hear and see is found in this one verse. I can trace the solution to every problem facing the church and the world today in this single statement. And the answer to every question we can ask is found in this statement. For He said all powers is giving to me in heaven and in earth. I can infer the principles of the Lay Pastors Ministry from these words of Jesus Christ. Oh I like the Greek translation of the word (**Matheteuo**) which means not only to learn but to become attached to one's teacher, or to cause oneself to know. In other words, it is not enough to teach through words but also through personal contact, living example, be available and regular prayers. When you analyze the Greek word Matheteuo (discipleship) practically, it is the reflection of Lay Pastoral Ministry principles which is Prayer, Available, Contact and Example.

I believe that my understanding of the Lay pastoral care principle underlined by Dr Melvin J Steinbron in the book *Can The Pastor Do It Alone?* Couple with The Twelve Foundation Block concept also developed by the founder LPMI at this initial stage of my involvement in this program; I have no doubt in my mind that the Great Commission is achievable. At first, I always ask myself, is it possible in this earth full of religious fanaticisms to fulfill the task imposed on us in the great commission. But now I find out that, God has already made the provision to accomplish His mission. The lay pastoral care ministry is biblically designed by God, and has been reveal to us through Dr Melvin for the church to realize its divine mandate on the planet.

With the critical study of the principle and structures of the lay pastoral care ministry as designed in the book *can the pastor do it alone?* I believe that, it is more than just another religious phenomenon, for it has in it God's love, care and unity, and that is exactly the basic need of every body irrespective of their religious, cultural, political and social affiliation. It cut across the boundaries of the believe systems if it is accurately implemented. Therefore, it has what it takes to fulfill the Great Commission. Because, I believe that, Jesus came to create the strategy for doing it but did not come to establish a religion, He never wanted to raise a group religious people who will call themselves even Christians. What amazons me is the fact that, when Jesus was giving the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 He never mentioned any names that has religious connotation in it. But He said go ye therefore and teach all nations instead of Jews and Gentiles, why? Because He knew very well that the world doesn't need religion, and forth at matter religion can't take the message of the kingdom of God to all nations and for that matter need strategy that carry the message of the kingdom with skin on which is the only way to win the world for Christ. So He uses nations indicating that His vision goes beyond religion, cultural, political and social lines. He

came to establish a relationship between God and His redeemed children called the church, and love care and unity among believers and non believers as well. It is for this reason I consider the principles and structures of the Lay Pastoral Care Ministry which is base on this three functions very appropriate.

Jesus gave the great commission but let it up to us to develop plans and mobilize people to do it. He charges us to "Tend the flock" we have to understand that, it is our duty to develop the plan and create the strategy for doing it, the lay pastoral care ministry has the structures with which will systematically cause oneself to know what practical experience of God's love "with skin on" is all about. In fact, it is this kind of love; care and unity are the basic need of everybody. I believe that the lay pastoral care ministry should not be limited to the "church" alone but the nations, the continents and the world as commission by Jesus Christ. Let us, once again consider something God said during creation and see if it can be link to LPMI principles. "God blessed them and said to them, be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it". The first part of(Genesis1:28). Can you see LPMI system and structures in this statement from God? That is God's ideal way to spread His love with skin on to all nations.

Many people have written different books on discipleship, other people have created plan and strategies for soul wining. They are all good, how ever studies have show that, the best place for effective discipleship is our immediate family and people in our neighborhood and friends. What this means is that people prefer to join church with the people they know already and can relate to more than the open air crusade. Where many people may come forward but few could become active members.

It is against this background that I maintain that even though the principles of lay pastoral care ministry are intended to strengthen the growth of the existing churches. It is the most effective strategy through which the message of the kingdom of heaven could reach every nation on the face of this planet. The principle of LPM has been tried and tested to be the effective church growth strategy. It is proving of the fact that, it has what it takes to reach out to all nations of the earth

"There was no "worship," at least, as we know worship, in the Garden of Eden. There were no alters, sacrifices, songs, clapping, dancing, Bible, hymnbook, sermons or prayers—none of this stuff we call "religion". There was only relationship: Adam and Eve walking and talking with God in perfect fellowship and harmony"

Therefore, LPM principles which are based on Prayer, available, contact and example is to me the original plan God has for every individual, the church, the nations and the world.