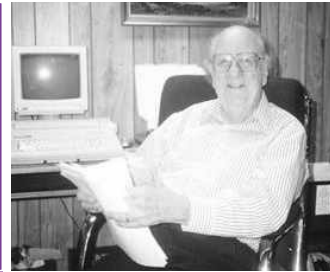


Digest of Melvin Ministry, #1

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with Byeong



I (Byeong) am glad that to make this "Digest of Melvin's Ministry." I hope this is helpful to understand of Melvin a bit more and guide to your ministries. Mostly I will excerpt Melvin's original writing from the Network News of LPMI USA which was published since 1988. But also sometimes from other resources which is Mel's writings.

What Keeps You At It? (By Dr. Melvin)

"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.●

DIGEST

I (Byeong) remember that once Dr. Melvin told me, "**money is interesting.**" I thought he is also wrestling with financial difficulty (not sure, just my guess)...I remember that I told him about our difficulty of finance to manage LPM Institute in Korea, so he agreed with me. (Maybe this is more correct).



Melvin mentioned of I Peter 5: 2, 3; ..."**not because of greedy for money, but because of eagerness to serve.**" Melvin, here, compared money with eagerness. It's not easy to make money. We have to work hard to make money, so when we are doing ministry, we have to work hard as people work hard to earn the money. We may say this way, work hard for money? or work hard to do ministry? which means helping people and helping churches.

Melvin show us the reality in ministry: "**once we are doing ministry, definitely there are discouragements, rejections, demands on already scare time, and failures.**" I think to overcome these pains we have to keep on going (This is my understanding, even looks like a little slightly different prospects from his own intentions, anyway). Lets take a look followings.

Then he gives us some reasons for keeping at it: 1) he mentioned we need to recall of callingness from God. Sometimes we are discouraging once in a trouble, then we need to remind of our callingness, whatever our situations are –sometimes family difficulty, personal disappointments, etc. names of a few – Calling is unchangeable truth.

Desiring means "wanting" in my paraphrasing. In the other place, Melvin said we have to "wanted" to do God's ministry. Are you wanting to do it? Really want to do it? We have to answer YES. It should be definitely positive response. If we are not wanting to do it, there will be problem. Of course sometimes we don't as you understand, but...once we have positive answer on that, we can keep on going gladly.

It's also important **to encourage each other:** clergy to clergy and laity to laity, and in any way with one another, with others those whom involved in, related people in ministry. Melvin illustrated the mountain climbers that why they need to tie together each other. I don't have those climbing experiences but to enjoy talking with our staff members even to a tiny, trivial things. If we were not being tied with others, sometimes with family's problem, the problem will be into more trouble. Especially one family has in troubles, problems we need to tie more than ordinarily daily lives.

I would better say here, tie together and pray together should be goes in hands, not only prayer but also tie together is more making lightly our burden, pains as we all experience it.

Sense of fulfillment is also necessary to keeping at ministry. Without fulfillment, we will be disappointed, so we need to learn how to complete the task which was given by God. That's why we need short-term vision and execute, and focus on there until to complete. Our energy is growing from 1 to 10, not 10 in the one morning. Start from 1, which is small thing, small idea, small insight, then our energy, our skill, our competence are growing more and more.

Melvin mentioned, "Significant." What we are doing in any ministry should be significant. Significance is important in our lives. That's why the author of Halftime, Bob Buford, meant Significance than success. Of course he said there are "first-half" which focused on the "success" (up to 40 years old?); and "second-half" (after 40 years) should be stress on the "significance" in our lives.

Melvin added pastoring has a significant importance, Biblically and historically. Pastoring is the main topic of this ministry. We already know why it is. I want to say again that pastoring is the people-oriented ministry and on top of that Lay Pastors Ministry is done by lay people, that's why it is more important and significant in the churches today ever than before.

FOOTNOTES

So, what keeps me (Byeong) at it? I retrospects again at this moment.

I have a little difficult when to start School in Korea. We, LPM Korea, thought that LPM School has to be in the world. If it is in the States, it's the best. If so we don't need to make another one. But they don't have it, so its burden came to my shoulder. I don't know why. Maybe God's Will....maybe God needed LPM/PACE School in the world. Anyway PACE School for now is Nagaland India by God's grace. And I was thinking always how to keep on this ministry going continuously even after Melvin's departure in this earthly world. That was why my original intention to make school. "If he dies, will this ministry keep on going in the States?" was my question all the way last many years. So if we want to do this ministry permanently, it should be school. That's my conclusion.

Practically how I have continually stayed in this ministry? I have helped churches and they wanted me to help them afterward, it makes me at here more than 15 years. And also I have seen the LPMI USA that they have done more than 30 years. It also challenged me to stay at here.

Probably another reason that is compelling from God? Something have stirred in my mind all the way, and it makes me to say here and keep on going. Working good or not, even big progress or small step, still keep me on going.■