



PACE International Seminary

PIS

(since July 2015)

Nagaland India

PIS is to serve the needs of the church with its motto “to equip the Saints”. PIS remains committed to the mission of the World fast growing churches, to train pastors, missionaries, church workers, theological educators and Lay Pastors.

By providing sound and solid theological teaching, PIS seeks to anchor Christian ministers in the historic faith of the church so as to enable them to engage the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

PACE International Seminary is not only a school but most importantly it is a Mission Centre of LPM India to do mission in different parts of north east states of India and beyond.—Aloto Anche, Principal of PIS

www.pisind.com

President Dr. Byeong Chea Seo
Emeritus President Dr. Melvin J. Steinbron
Principal Pastor Aloto Anche (Th.M)

Reflection

on the Lay Pastors Ministry (since 1999). *published bimonthly*
Rev. ByeongChea, Seo (Ph.D), President of PIS

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“Lay Pastors Ministry is the system of congregational care by laypeople”— Dr. Melvin J. Steinbron, Founder of LPM Inc. USA
www.laypastors.com (since 1978)

FAITH PLUS

Dear Faith-Plus partners in ministry,
For my hayfever I take *Alka Selzer Plus*.
To wash the little hair I have left I use
Pert Plus. To flesh out my faith I use
Faith Plus, a laundry list of seven
spiritual add-ons from II Peter
1:5-8—goodness, knowledge, self
control, perseverance, godliness,
brotherly affection, and love. “If you
possess these qualities in increasing
measure, they will keep you from being
ineffective and unproductive in the
knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
Wow! The apostle gives us a
life-molding Faith-Plus challenge directly
from six words or word clusters:

IF YOU: Do you want success in your
ministry? Add “these qualities” to your
faith. *POSSESS:* It’s up to each lay
pastor to “make every effort” to add
these qualities. *THEM... THEY:*
These pronouns represent all seven
qualities. Don’t avoid a one. *IN*
INCREASING MEASURE: It’ll not

happen over night. Keep at it! Persevere! *THEY WILL MAKE YOU*
EFFECTIVE & PRODUCTIVE: Success is assured. *IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF*
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: Truly know
and share him.

You already have a faith to add to—“Without
faith it is impossible to please God.” You
either leaped to faith in Jesus Christ or you
crawled to faith inch by inch over a rugged
terrain of doubts and delays. (The contractor
who fixed my driveway told me his conversion
was by microwave, not by crock pot.)
However you obtained your faith, you have it!

Because you have faith, God’s Spirit—who
seems never to leave us to ourselves, for our
own good of course—is ready to help you add
these seven qualities. The fact is, if we
expect to (1) “participate in the divine nature,”
(2) “escape the corruption of this world
caused by evil desires,” (3) “keep from being
ineffective and unproductive,” we can’t do it
alone—we must seek his help. “Don’t put it off; do it now. Do this, and you’ll
have your life on firm footing.” Now, on to the seven *Faith Plus* add-ons.



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What is the essence of the **ADD GOODNESS**: *Be good and do good.* Being precedes doing. A tennis champion said, "If you don't win the game in the locker room, you won't win it on the court." Goodness on one's inside makes for goodness on one's outside. The key to being good is to be filled with God's good Spirit; the key to doing good is adding these doing-good qualities to your faith, starting with goodness. *Faith Plus* capacitates you to "discharge all the [good] duties of your ministry."

ADD KNOWLEDGE – There are two worlds of knowledge: (1) The tangible—the totality of reality (the world, its systems, and the endless space around it.) Learn all you can learn in one lifetime about the material world over which the Creator-God is sovereign. 2) The intangible—the Lord Jesus Christ who is also the Son of the Living God. ("All things were created by him and for him." He therefore is Lord over all that exists. Knowing Jesus runs far beyond just knowing *about* him, it means personally and intimately *experiencing* him, as did the two people on their way to Emmaus who, after discovering it was Jesus who had been walking with them, asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us?" We don't truly *know* Jesus until we experience him: first, as the LORD of our life; second, as JESUS our savior from the penalty and practice of sin; third, as CHRIST the Messiah who came to give his life as a ransom," and who is coming again as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Knowledge is the engine driving your ministry, making it effective and productive. You need all eight

cylinders (faith, plus all seven qualities) tuned up and firing at full power.

ADD SELF CONTROL – We often read of respected people (Christians included) going berserk, shooting or beating up on a friend, carrying on an affair, or some other bazaar form of spinning out of control. Often I've said, "If only they'd had *Faith Plus*—a personal and intimate relationship with Jesus, plus the self-control add-on—how different things would have been." In addition to controlling self destructive behavior, we need self control to mature our faith, sweeten our relationships, purify desires, pray earnestly, faithfully engage in personal & public worship, and to "make every effort to add to your faith in increasing measure" all seven qualities.

ADD PERSEVERANCE – This quality is one of the great themes of the Bible, one of the majestic features of God's nature—steadfast, unyielding, unchanging, faithful, trustworthy. Some OT words for this quality are loyal, enduring, standing firm, continuing ever; some NT concepts: holding firm, patient, settled, secure, determined not to cave in to pressure. To persevere means not being distracted from moving steadily forward toward a chosen goal. Jesus taught perseverance when he refused to accept a wanna-be disciple, *but* who had to do something else first—"No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." Those who serve him must keep their eyes fixed on the task and their hand on the plow. ♣



What is the Ministry?

When I was at PIS, Nagaland India, our principal Aloto asked me, "Byeong, what is ministry?" Then I was a little embarrassed because I never got those questions, and also never questioned myself about it. Just I have done ministry last 15 years! I have just handed over it from Dr. Melvin. So what is the distinction between secular job and ministry, I think this is the implication of Aloto's question and more acute question, then I tried to explain to him, now I am thinking again more in detail.

What is ministry? I don't know exactly what it is. There is no books which is written about it. But I think it is clear difference from secular job. Let me try to explain here: First, its purpose is not making money itself. Of course there are many byproducts through ministry, but primary goal is not the money. So every ministry organizations (included local churches) should be non-profit organizations. Of course they need money (I know it very well), but if they follow the money, they will decline and die soon because people see them as money-oriented, not ministry-oriented, so the people will hands off soon. If we dedicated fully to the given ministry itself, money comes after, but we can't become rich people, because God gives only daily bread. He supplies bread and water while we are in the ministry.

Second, Ministry has to focus on the given direction itself and people, not to maintain organizations, or institution. Ministry and people

are the primary things, and then other criteria are the second. Most of secular organizations focus on the survival of organizations than pursuing its purpose. But ministry should be focus on the people, and this is the task of top leader of the organizations. He or she has to focus on its own purpose, then other members will think of organizations to survive. I have focused our mission last 15 years very strongly, then our staffs trying to survive our organization and tried to maintain. Actually this is a good system.

Third, to develop software is important. Ministry's strong point is to develop software than hardware which means we need to develop resources as much as we can. If we neglect it we cannot keep the ministry with longevity. Then hardware comes later slowly. Of course, as a ministry leader, we need to think of hardware too, but it should come after software, and people see us not only we have hardware but also software. If we have software enough, people will come and concern of hardware, e.g., Office and make Buildings, so on. Lastly, leader's mindset is also important. Ministry leader should be respected by the core members which means: 1) They have to dedicated to the entire of their life to the ministry, 2) They are dare taking a risk person whatever costs are there, 3) Should be ordinary life style which means does not greedy money, wellbeing, wealth, so on. I like put here, "sacrifice" at their label. They should be champion to sacrifice and taking a risk. ♣



To be a lay pastor

I found that to be a lay pastor, I mean to be a “real” lay pastor is not easy job.

Most of churches and one of our staff Rev. Jang developed the process of training and designation in the church. They said in this progress: 1) new member, 2) training, 3) discipleship, 4) lay minister (we call it lay pastor). Anyway, they put lay minister or lay pastor at final stage. Because church thinks they are prepared to be a lay minister and that is ultimate stage. They believed they are matured enough.

Let me talk about lay pastor here. Usually they are matured Christians, that is why church and pastor recommend them to be lay pastor. Yes, that is true. They are better than any other fellow Christians, but how can they become a quality lay pastors, just not church offices or designation, or even title. This is really another aspect than just naming itself. There are some qualifications from the point of my view.

Above all they shouldn't self-centered person. This is the first quality because most of us are tempted by thinking from ourselves which means we tend to be self-centered with consciousness or unconsciousness. Of course

this is not easy job to overcome in this kind of world today. Every people changed to be very self-centered life, selfish, and if not unless they couldn't survive in this tough world. Of course there are differences between self-centered and to be wise. To be wise is necessity for today, even though lay pastor shouldn't be a self-centered. For instance, if they think God is so loved only to them than others, it might be a self-centered concept. We have to be careful to get this kind of mindset.

Secondly, it might be similar to the first one, but anyway Integrity is the important quality. What is it? We have to be same inside and outside. But this is not easy quality today too.

In addition to those, we need self-disciplined. I don't know what is that mean because people have their own strategy on self-discipline. Of course there are some qualities in the Bible, but it is different viewpoint in terms of how individual might see it.

Anyway, to be a good and real lay pastor is not easy job for today, so only chosen person, I mean those who get spiritual gifted with disciplined people can do that! ♣

Two visions

There are two visions in the ministry: long-range vision & short-range vision. Will Mancini¹⁾ writesthisinthisbook, *God dreams* that we have to focus on the long-range vision but execute to the short-range vision, daily duties. I think we need to get vision “over there” (future goal), but implement for “now and here.”

Why is he writes this? Today's church and pastors are too busy to do something for right “now,” so resultant is that they couldn't think for the future. Thus they couldn't accomplish what they wanted. To borrow Melvin's idea, says SIBKIS which means See It Big, but Keep It Simple. I guess this is the same approach to long term vision and short term execution. Generally most of people tend to think only for “now” but in the other hands other people are thinking only “future,” so both has problem, because it is not balanced, that's why they couldn't make it.

So what's the long-range vision of LPM. Most of pastor are longing for reproducing of lay pastors continually: first group of lay pastors; then the second group...so on. Another long range vision might be the final destination, finish line. Where are we going? Where can we get there? Where God wants us to go? to reach? maturing to Jesus Christ? Fullness of Jesus? There are many more ideas. At MLG (Ministry Leadership Group) meeting, they might to



discuss and decide the final goal of LPM in their church.

If so what's the short range vision? I mean what to do for this ministry for now. Dr. Melvin wrote 12 foundation blocks to success of this ministry. Among them, he referred “responsibility,” “maintenance,” “communication,” so on so.. which we have to do daily basis..office's paper work, ongoing tasks...let's say 'keep on motion.' ♣

Note

1) Will Mancini is the founder of Auxano, non-profit parachurch organization in the States and wrote two books: *Church Unique* and *God dreams*.



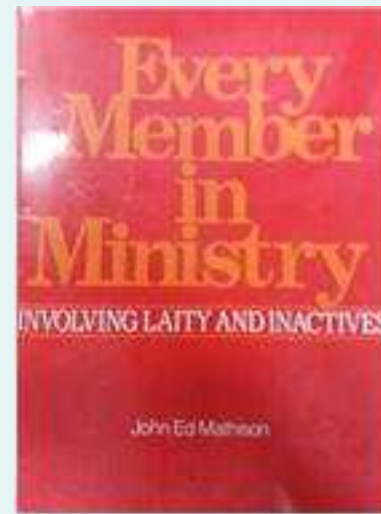
Why LPM is not succeed!

Melvin said about this: 1) disregard when they see the clue of problem, because they think it is not important things. 2) Pastors are busier than before. Is there any answer to solve this problem? Let's talk why it is happened. I found that people today are busier than before, so they don't look at closely anything, I mean they don't see anything attentively. I was also those kind of person before but tried to change style, attitude.

There are answers on this problem: Can you see it more in detail with time also you need to concentrate? I don't know how you are doing! How you are busy, but we

need to be wiser than other people if want to do something extraordinary work to do. If we, pastors are not concentrated on the something important thing, our people, ore congregation also will not focus on that. The result is that they are growing but not deeply, not fully commit, and just shallow mature. I think today's Christians, I mean laypeople are not grown up enough because of they just touch, just taste and pick up junk food mean junk ideas here and there, so on. If we are wise pastor, we do better to think of this matter more seriously.♣

Book of the Month



This booklet by John Ed. Mathison challenges each church to turn over the ministry to the laity by engaging every member in a ministry.

The secret of the church growth is the involvement of the laity in intentional, meaningful ministry through the church.(p.vii)

The most and effective ministry is that are designed to meet a specific need which laity perceive.(p. 8)

The lay ministry concept opens wide the door of possibilities of liberating the laity.(p.31)

The Author

The author, John Ed. Mathison, is the pastor of Memorial Methodist Church, Alabama USA, and he was the pastor of the year 2005 in the States. I met him at his church when I have attended International conference.



Contact to PIS

House No. 16/B, Sangtamtila,
Rangapahar Crossing,
797112-Dimapur Nagaland, India
www.pisind.com

Aloto Anche
Principal
aloanche123@gmail.com

Tel: 961-505-9895

Venice
Academic Administrator
Tel: 811-987-8999