

“A Cappella” as a Paradigm of Mission for the Future (and of the Past) : Reflections on the Mission through Chaplaincy in Korea

The term “*a cappella*,” which is known to many people as a form of music performed without any musical instruments, literally means “in the manner of a chapel.” “Chapel” is derived from *cappa*, a cape (cloak). During the Kingdom of the Franks, the cloak of St. Martin was considered as a sacred relic and carried in a mobile sanctuary (chapel) to the place wherever the king resided. Later, the meaning of chapel was extended to include any places of worship other than a church. Because there was no organ, the music played at chapel became *a cappella*.

“*A cappella*” is a very profound symbol for a new paradigm of mission. “From church to chapel” is a very significant shift. Chapel is symbolically connected with mobility, versatility, margin, openness, fields, non-hierarchy, public sphere, and so on. *A cappella* way can be compared to the move from *missio ecclesiae* to *missio Dei*, or from temple to synagogue, in the case of Judaism.

This paper examines the importance of chaplaincy in the early (school and hospital chaplaincy) and modern (university, hospital, military and prison chaplaincy) history of Korean Christianity. It will then explore theological implications (serving two masters, public theology, inter-religious dialogue) of “*a cappella*” way, and suggests that theological reflections and education for chaplaincy should be differentiated from those for parish ministry.

This paper will contribute to the missiological scholarship by rediscovering chaplaincy as one of the oldest and most effective ways of mission, and by suggesting *a cappella* as an important theological paradigm for the overall missiological efforts in this changed world of the 21st Century.

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