

## Urbana IA Ministry Big-Picture Perspective

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To some extent, the IA ministry sessions at Urbana will not just be giving the students a fish, but rather teaching them to fish (or at least starting them on the journey of learning to fish). With even just the prayer ministry time, they will at least get a taste of an amazingly simple and amazingly effective technique for establishing an interactive connection with the living presence of Jesus. And for those who also go through the workshop/seminar, their Urbana 2022 intro to the Immanuel Approach will be even more powerful.

My assessment is that the average student could go back to their home campus and get together with friends to do the first several steps that establish the interactive connection. For the first several segments of the video training series – the steps for establishing a connection with Jesus -- the teaching content, live demonstrations, and exercise handouts will all be available as free downloads from youtube or our website. My thought is that we could end ministry prayer sessions with an encouragement to the students along the lines of:

“If you experienced that as life-giving, the first several steps to establish a connection with Jesus are particularly easy and safe, and Dr. Lehman offers the teaching content, live demonstrations, and exercise handouts for these first several steps all as free downloads from his youtube channel and website. If you want to experience more of this kind of connection with Jesus, you could probably find some friends and learn to do this together – to help each other to establish this kind of connection with Jesus. And then you could just hang out with Him; you could talk to Him about discernment issues; you could take your anxiety (or any other distress) to Him, and then experience His comforting presence *with you* in your distress, and you could talk to Jesus directly regarding any intercession requests. (Note: if you want to work on healing painful memories, it will be important for you to work with an experienced facilitator; but for all of the other options, you could probably learn to do this with your friends.)

If you *do* want to work with an experienced facilitator to help you resolve painful memories, part of the challenge is that it can be difficult to find a facilitator. (At present, there are a lot of people wanting Immanuel Approach trauma-healing work, but there are not yet enough experienced facilitators who can provide this kind of care.) Fortunately, the essay, “Finding/Recruiting Your Own Immanuel Approach Facilitator” can help you get started.

If many of the students could go back to their home campuses and learn to use these tools to help each other establish interactive connections with the living, tangible, personal, friendship presence of Jesus, that would be a really big deal. So much more than just being blessed by a single prayer ministry session at the Urbana conference.

Coming at this same point from another angle: We are **not** expecting that prayer ministers will somehow provide students with complete resolution of the problems/issues/questions they bring to the ministry session. Rather, we are hoping to give them an Immanuel Prayer appetizer that will give them a vision for what is possible, and then encourage them to embrace the challenge of building an Immanuel lifestyle – encourage them to find ways to engage in Immanuel Prayer as a regular part of their ongoing growth and healing.