

Opening Prayer and Closing Prayer (Urbana 2022 IA prayer ministry)

(Karl Lehman M.D., Draft 10/18/22)

When I use the Immanuel Approach in my private practice, my training groups, or in any other situation in which I have time to explain my opening and closing prayers (and especially the spiritual-warfare component), I use an opening prayer and a closing prayer that I have developed with a lot of study, observation, and discernment over many years. However, in the context of Urbana, with no opportunity to explain my usual opening and closing prayers, and with recipients who will be complete strangers to the facilitators, who might not know anything about spiritual warfare, and who might not even be Christians, the IVCF leaders and I feel that it would be wise to use much simpler opening and closing prayers, that do not explicitly address spiritual warfare issues, during the actual ministry time. (Sample simple opening and closing prayers are included in the ministry outline/"cheat sheet" in the Urbana Ministry Handbook.)

My recommendation is that each facilitator pray my opening prayer (or something similar) immediately before each ministry session, and then also use my closing prayer (or something similar) immediately following each ministry session. This will allow us to apply the benefits of our authority in Christ, with respect to spiritual-warfare issues and concerns, without the risk of alarming or confusing recipients.

The following links will take you to my sample condensed opening prayer and sample closing prayer.

Sample condensed opening prayer: <http://www.immanuelapproach.com/pdf/group-exercise-pdf/sample%20condensed%20openpry.pdf>

Sample closing prayer: <http://www.immanuelapproach.com/pdf/group-exercise-pdf/sample%20closepry.pdf>

The following links will take you to the essays that explain the study, observations, and discernment behind these prayers (for those of you who are interested).

Essay regarding opening prayer: <http://www.immanuelapproach.com/pdf/group-exercise-pdf/openpry.pdf>

Essay regarding closing prayer: <http://www.immanuelapproach.com/pdf/group-exercise-pdf/closepry.pdf>