Title: Urbana stories #2 - Beautiful Freedom from Shame for Man from South Asia

January 16, 2023

Greetings all,

Another story from one of our Immanuel Approach volunteers at Urbana:

"Samuel" is a boisterous young professional from South Asia who was willing to let Jesus lead the session. Jesus appeared at a birthday party in which Samuel felt loved and celebrated by all his friends back home. Jesus was robed in brilliant white and light was radiating from His face so that Samuel could not see it clearly. But Jesus was also leaning casually over a couple chairs giving a "thumbs up" as though He was just one of the friends at the party. Samuel asked how Jesus felt about being with Him and Jesus simply responded, "Good." He then asked Jesus if there was anything blocking the connection and Jesus gently encouraged Samuel to spend more time with Him in scripture and prayer. Then Samuel became aware of ongoing sin and shame in His life that was blocking His connection to Jesus. When we asked Jesus for help, Samuel perceived he was being transported into a white room full of light. In that room, he said he could tangibly feel the love of God in His body. He felt as though God's love was surrounding him and hugging him. He looked at the sin he had been struggling with and saw that to Jesus, the sin was a very small thing compared to the strength of Jesus' love. He felt like God's love was making the sin seem inconsequential and easy to manage."

The last couple sentences in this story feel similar/parallel to aspects of my experience with Immanuel prayer and the Immanuel presence of Jesus. As I interact with the living, tangible, life-giving presence of Jesus, I often feel that His grace and love make my struggle and sin seem small (in a good way – hopeful and encouraging). And as I have removed more and more blockages between my heart and Jesus, and have been more and more able to feel Jesus' presence and love, it has become easier and easier to deal with areas of struggle in my life.

Blessings,

Dr. Lehman/Karl

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