

Title: Urbana Stories #8 – Student Experiencing Living, Tangible Jesus for First Time

May 15, 2023

Greetings all,

Here's another story from one of the Immanuel Approach volunteers at Urbana:

“I worked with a young man who had never experienced God in any tangible, relational way. He was able to connect with a positive memory, but every attempt to experience Jesus in any way was met with Bible verses, Christian principles and a to-do list from ‘God’. We went through a series of troubleshooting attempts. Each one brought him a little closer. With each step, it felt truer and truer to him that God was closer and closer. The information he was receiving began to be less like things he would come up with from his own thinking and more surprising. You could see the change on his face as he went through this progression. He was starting to FEEL. He shifted from ‘I need to set aside things that distract me from God’ to ‘God wants me to know that He is with me in both the things I consider sacred and the things I consider secular.’

As this truth hit him, I asked him if he wanted to invite Jesus to be with him as he experienced this new way of thinking. He said, ‘He is sitting right next to me. He looks so relaxed. He has a big smile on His face.’ I prompted him to ask Jesus ‘what do You want me to know here?’ Jesus answered, ‘I want you to have fun!’ What a change! This young man was absolutely shocked! I think his God image was altered just a bit... We had a few minutes left, so the young man asked if we could talk through the session so he could write down what had just happened. Pretty amazing!”

Blessings,

Dr. Lehman/Karl

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