

Title: Amazing IA Ministry for InterVarsity Staff at Orlando

January 8, 2024

Greetings all,

Thank you for your prayers. They were much appreciated, and much needed in that we encountered many challenges. One week before the conference, we had seventy volunteers in place for the ministry team. And then a number of volunteers had huge family crises immediately before the conference, and many got sick immediately before the conference or during the conference. Overall, we lost fifteen of our volunteers, and both Charlotte and I spent the week before the conference miserably sick with COVID. (There were several days where we thought we would need to call Peter and let him know we would not be able to be there.)

The *good news* is that we still had a team of expert troubleshooters who could provide consultation if anyone encountered complicated difficulties, we had fifty facilitators who were available for praying with recipients, and the response from the conference attendees was enthusiastic. If I correctly understand what Peter has shared with me, this is the first time in the history of prayer ministry at InterVarsity conferences that people were signed up for every available spot for every prayer ministry block, even including the first block on the first day. (Usually, many of the prayer stations are empty during the first half of a conference.) In fact, even when those who had signed up for prayer didn't show, almost all of the vacancies were filled by people flying "standby." ("I know I didn't sign up for a prayer slot, but I thought I would come anyway, just in case someone with an appointment doesn't show up.") For several of the prayer blocks, so many standby recipients showed up that we filled every no-show vacancy and had to deploy most of the troubleshooting consultants to facilitate sessions. All told, we were able to provide Immanuel sessions for **four hundred and fifty** InterVarsity Staff.

Furthermore, recipients included area directors, regional directors, and national leaders.

And the best news is that recipients had amazingly, wonderfully positive experiences. From checking in with recipients, facilitators, and troubleshooting consultants throughout the conference, my initial assessment is that at least 95% (and possibly 99%) of recipients had powerfully positive interactions with the tangible, living, personal presence of Jesus. Recipients made comments along the lines of, "That was amazing – I just don't have words," and "That was the most profound experience of God's tangible presence I've ever had in my life." Half-way through the conference, a facilitator told me that two recipients he prayed with had experienced the tangible, interactive presence of Jesus for the first time in their lives. And this was just *one* facilitator *half-way* through the conference!

As the mental health professional officially designated as the supervisor for Immanuel Approach ministry at the conference, many facilitators have checked in with me regarding their sessions. I have heard so many stories of profound, poignant, powerful, beautiful, amazing encounters with Jesus that I literally can't keep them straight. (I am hoping that many of these

recipients will give me permission to share the amazing, wonderful, beautiful, inspiring details with the rest of you.)

Thanks again for your prayers, and blessings,

Dr. Lehman/Karl

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