

Title: IA Training and Healing in Kenya #2 – Beautiful IA with Children

September 10, 2009

Greetings all,

Here is the second segment of Andy and Kristin Ross' description of their recent Immanuel Approach training and ministry in Kenya.

Blessings,

Dr. Lehman/Karl

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Andy and Kristin Ross' IA training and ministry in Kenya, continued:

Kristin and I were each blessed to guide 7 to 10 children in Immanuel Prayer sessions. Most of the time we were accompanied by social workers so that they could become comfortable in praying with children after we left. They also translated into Swahili for us. The prayer times went well. No children appeared to get stuck in negative emotions.

The first step of the prayer is telling stories of when God was close. These usually had to do with God's protection during violence or miraculous healing. One child said that he was sleeping alone during the post-election violence and he woke up in the middle of the night to see a figure in white standing at the foot of his bed saying, "Get up! You must leave!" He stumbled to the door and opened it to see flames from the riots at his doorstep. He turned around and the figure was gone. He escaped through the roof and ran to find his family. When he found them, his mother said that they knew he was in danger and they had been praying for God to protect him.

The second step of the prayer is inviting Jesus to be with us in the present. ***Almost all of the children reported that it felt true Jesus was with us right now in the room.*** We explained that God is always with us but sometimes hard things happen and we don't know how God was there. We can choose a hard memory and invite Jesus to show us how he was with us in that memory. The memories ranged from topics like becoming homeless, being teased, beaten, losing parents, and sexual assault. These children have very difficult lives. Most of them described the events in a matter of fact way with little or no emotion. Obviously they have learned to be tough to survive.

Next they invited Jesus into the memory. We saw Jesus act in a variety of ways depending on the needs of each child. Some reported God lifting the pain of the event so that it no longer felt

painful to think about. The Lord seems to have a special grace for these children. More than half of the children we prayed with spontaneously wanted to forgive the people who had hurt them without us prompting them to forgive. The Lord brought it to their mind. It seems that forgiveness was one of the Lord's high priorities in his plan for healing these children. Some children believed lies like, "I am a burden to my family." We coached them to ask the Lord what he thought, and he brought to their minds his truth like, "You are not a burden because you are obedient to your mother." These truths seemed right in line with the thoughts of the Jesus we see in the gospels. This gave them new confidence.

To be continued....