

Title: "How Can I Get On One of the IA Mission Teams?"

November 20, 2013

Greetings all,

After our recent note about Mark's upcoming trip to India we have been getting a lot of questions along the lines of "What is the procedure for getting onto one of Mark's international mission trips?" So I thought I would answer all of these questions with one newsletter, instead of trying to respond to them individually.

1) First, I think it's great that people are excited about international Immanuel approach emotional healing work.

2) Unfortunately, we don't have any nice, easy answer for people who want to be a part of this. Neither Mark or I have been involved in building these teams or planning these trips. The teams have been gathered and the trips have been planned by other ministries and/or churches, and Mark and I were just asked to help with training the teams with respect to the Immanuel approach. So I guess the answer is, "Find a ministry or church that is planning an Immanuel approach mission trip, and then ask them about the possibility of being a part of their team."

3) Another thought is to prepare yourself so that you will be a strong candidate. If I were a team leader, I would want someone who has already been studying the Immanuel approach, who has already been practicing with the basic tools, and who is doing his/her own healing work so that he/she will have strong capacity and be free from disabling triggers when we are in intense situations in the field. Another way to say this is that it is very costly if team members get triggered and/or overwhelmed, and then the team has to focus a significant part of their energy on caring for people they brought with them instead of the people they came to serve.

4) I am expecting I will also start getting questions from people who are involved with churches/ministries that are already planning international mission trips, and would like to get Immanuel approach training for their teams and would love to have Mark go with their teams (a very understandable desire, in my assessment). So I will answer this one in advance. The bad news is that my time for training seminars is very limited at the moment (I am trying to focus all my energy on the Immanuel approach book). And with respect to Mark, all the details just happened to work out so that he was actually able to go along on the August Uganda trip and the November India trip. However, he needs to finish his Ph.D. dissertation in the next six months and so will not be available for other adventures in the near future (I encourage any who feel inspired to pray for his dissertation work). The good news is that much of my "Mission team training package" is available as free downloads from our website. I basically present the teaching material in the introductory chapters of the draft Immanuel approach book (free download from the "Getting Started" page), and then I coach the team to repeatedly go through the super basic group exercises – I just coach them to keep practicing with the tools they will be using, demonstrating, and teaching on the mission trip. And these super basic

exercises are also available as free downloads from the “Exercises for Groups and Beginners” section of the Resources page of our website.

5) Even more good news is that there are a number of other trainers listed in the network directory on the Immanuel approach site ([www.immnauelapproach.com](http://www.immnauelapproach.com)). For example, Pastor Patti Velotta is an excellent trainer and regularly travels internationally for Immanuel approach training, and Kim Campbell is an excellent trainer who has already done a lot of international training (he was on the team that trained the widows in Colombia) and who is available for more international work. Also, Mark is excited about doing more of this kind of mission trip work as soon as he finishes his Ph.D. (again, pray for him). 2024 update: Cathy Little and Melinda Wilson with Face to Face Ministries also have an excellent training program.

6) Just in case it’s not clear, I think that it’s a really good plan, if at all possible, to have an experienced trainer on the team who can lead the Immanuel approach part of the trip. Team members who are familiar with the Immanuel approach and comfortable using the basic tools are a great start, but I strongly recommend having an experienced trainer as the team leader.

And just a reminder regarding the upcoming India trip (departure date 11/30): we welcome intercession for Mark, the team that he’s going with, the staff in India that will be getting training, and the women and girls that will be receiving ministry.

Thanks and blessings,

Dr. Lehman/Karl

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