

Title: Amazing IA Teaching and Practice in Korea, Thanks for Your Prayers

September 19, 2015

Greetings all,

Many of you knew I was in Korea from September 6 to September 13, and I greatly appreciate all who were praying. And for those of you who didn't already know, I just got back from a week in Korea with Jim Wilder and Ed Khouri at Onnuri Church in Seoul. We were the speakers for the annual conference on recovery that Onnuri Church hosts each fall, with Jim and Ed speaking during the days on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and then myself speaking in the evenings on each of these days, as well as giving two additional presentations on Saturday morning.

The whole trip was an adventure, and again, thank you to all who were praying! Between the LONG plane flight and 14 hours of jet lag, I was exhausted when I got there, and very grateful for the recovery day that had been planned into the schedule to give us some buffer before jumping into the conference. In addition to the physical strain, there were also lots of other challenges that stretched my capacity, such as traveling without Charlotte. We almost always travel together, but she was not able to be a part of this trip, and spending a week in a foreign country without her helped me *really* appreciate how much her presence usually blesses me. And Windows 10 seems to have trouble playing nicely with the wifi card in my OLD laptop, so I spent hours fighting to maintain internet connection. And it's definitely more stressful to navigate all of the normal tasks of life when almost everybody you interact with speaks English as a second language. And..., and..., etc.

But the real challenge came with my presentations. For my evening lectures, I had thought that I was supposed to prepare five 90 minute presentations for an audience of maybe 200 to 300 mental health professionals working in the field of recovery. And this was, indeed, the initial plan. But somehow there were a LOT more people who wanted to participate, and even with the Korean team trying to keep things "small," we ended up with an audience of 1,200 instead of 200. And most of them were lay people, as opposed to mental health professionals. I learned all of this on the day of my first presentation, and had to quickly adjust my material for an audience that was very different from the one I had prepared for.

But this was only the beginning. When I had agreed to be a part of this conference, I had been emphatic that I needed to focus on the new book, and so would not be able to take the time to put together a custom package. I had prepared five straight-forward presentations about the basics of the Immanuel approach, straight out of chapters from the new book. That was the plan – five simple lectures straight out of the new book. But I clearly had not thought this one through. After the first presentation, there was a huge wave of requests from both the conference participants and the staff, "Could you please condense the rest of your teaching material so that we can have time to actually try the Immanuel approach, as opposed to just hear about it?"

At first I was almost offended – “I can’t believe they’re even asking me to consider this!” But then I realized, “Of course they want to try it! Anybody with their lights on would want to try it. This just shows that they were paying attention.” To start with, I had already prepared way too much material (I almost always seem to end up doing this). And then I discovered that working through a translator actually took three times as long, as opposed to twice as long. When both of these pieces were combined with trying to free up the entire final lecture space for an exercise, I had to cut out about half of my material for all five presentations. So my translator and I spent every minute, including most of the meal breaks, reworking all of my material.

Amazingly, it all worked out. (Thanks again to those of you who were praying!) I even threw in a live demonstration on myself (a last minute idea that seemed a bit crazy, but turned out brilliantly), and we were able to use the final time block for a group exercise. Wow. I wasn’t sure before hand, but now I know it’s possible to have 200 to 300 small groups do a group exercise while packed together like sardines in one huge room. We didn’t have time to go all the way through to working with trauma, but the group had a very positive experience with the first parts of the Immanuel approach, up to and including the step of establishing an interactive connection with Jesus. During the exercise I could see many, many people with big smiles and tears running down their cheeks, and at the end of the exercise most of those who had gotten a chance to try it indicated that they had been able to connect with Jesus.

Again, wow. We didn’t have time to hear any specific stories, but I’m hoping that some of the participants will eventually be able to tell me about their experiences via e-mail. One more time, thank you to those who were praying.

Blessings,

Dr. Lehman/Karl

P.S. For those of you who are having trouble finding the new, updated chapter three: the whole chapter 1-5 package has been updated, so that the new chapter three has simply taken the place of the previous version, embedded in the chapter 1-5 package. (This is part of the draft Immanuel approach book, posted on both the “Getting Started” and “Resources” pages of www.immanuelapproach.com)