

Title: "Profound Transformation Story from Missionary in Uganda"

April 19, 2016

Greetings all,

Just wanted to send a quick note to share an encouraging e-mail I received last month from a woman in Uganda. Elise has just given us permission to share her poignant, personal note with our e-newsletter, and I thought you all would be blessed by her story.

Blessings,

Dr. Lehman/Karl

Just to prevent confusion: Note that this e-mail is not about the mission trip mentioned in recent e-newsletters – that was central Asia. (We are still working to get some stories from that trip that won't compromise anyone's safety.)

March 9 2016 e-mail from Elise, in Uganda:

Hi Dr. Karl, my name is Elise. We haven't met, but maybe one day the Lord will cross our paths. I hope this, what will probably be a novel of an email, finds you doing well and encourages you.

A little about myself, I just turned 25 on the 7th of March, and I've lived for the last two and a half years in northeast Uganda working with the unreached Karimojong people. I work with a specific subtribe called the Jie (pronounced Gee-eh). Our vision and desire is to see a distinctly Karimojong expression of the church and a spread of the Gospel through relational discipleship and chronological bible storying. We also run a small income generation project.

Anyhow, last year was rough for me. Around this same time I was having an emotional break down. I was overwhelmed with all of the cultural pressures I faced everyday, plagued by past sin, abuse and other struggles I thought I had worked through, but didn't realize I hadn't. My team leaders became concerned and we got my board involved and began to pray through what the next step would be. Perhaps an extended furlough back in the States, though I struggled with conventional counseling because it isn't reproducible. It's great that the option is available for me, one that I took for granted, but I ached for the women I work with and the trauma they faced sometimes daily. For them - counseling wasn't an option, and when I would read scripture, I couldn't help but see how important reproducibility was. I got to a place where I wanted to believe Jesus was enough, I wanted healing, but didn't know how to move forward, or even where to start.

My teammates had a friend who has been doing Immanuel Prayer for the last two years. She contacted her counselor, who contacted Sharon Ogden, and put me in contact with her. I was

so raw and broken when Sharon and I first started that though I was willing to give it a shot, I had little faith it would work.

I used to see healing like a broken tea pot. I was the tea pot, useless. Unable to hold anything poured in, or be functional enough to pour anything out. You could see every crack and jagged edge... maybe healing would put the pieces back together and bondo the ceramic pieces to where they could function; hold a little water, even if I still leaked at the seams, but everyone would see that this tea pot has once been incredibly shattered.

Then I started Immanuel Prayer. I'm nearly a year in, and Karl, I wish I could give you a huge hug and tell you how much of an impact you have had on my life due to your obedience to our Loving God. God has continued to grow my capacity and words cannot even express how much deep healing I have received, how my intimacy with the Lord has grown so deep it's ALL I desire, and how I can stand now, no longer wallowing in the fetal position and proclaim that Jesus is enough because He is Immanuel - His presence heals. I found that that tea pot doesn't get bondo and super glued back together, rather the Potter takes the shattered pieces and reforms them, gently places it back in the fire, restrains and reglazes and a new, incredibly beautiful, functional tea pot comes out. A piece that He is overjoyed and proud of. One that is whole.

I wish I could write out to you the many ways Jesus has met me. Maybe one day we will meet and I can tell you about God's goodness, though I know you've experienced Him just the same. It truly is beautiful, and completely transformational. I'm continually blown away at how God meets me. I'm blown away at the simplicity but profound impact of the Immanuel Approach, and so very thankful for it's reproducibility. I can take this to the villages, the deep bush where probably no counselor will ever set foot, and I can point my brothers and sisters to Jesus in a tangible, reproducible way.

I've started working through your book that you posted on the Immanuel Approach site. I began praying for the Lord to lead me in facilitating and open those doors, he did that a lot sooner than I expected. Before I knew it, I couldn't stop talking about Immanuel - it came up in every conversation, I longed for my friends and family to receive the same deep intimacy I've come to enjoy with the Lord, not to mention the healing that comes with it!!! The more I talked, the more people saw a change and wanted to try. So I began facilitating sessions and it's continued to spread beyond what I could imagine. The Lord opened up opportunity to do Immanuel Prayer sessions with other missionaries, some so deeply wounded and burned out, and now are able to remain on the field and see health spring to life because of Him. Beyond that, each of those people are taking the Immanuel Approach to their teams, bringing deeper intimacy and health, and then to the different people groups they are working with. I am sure you are familiar with the pay it forward model... that's what we are seeing here in Uganda, spreading into South Sudan, and maybe even further to places I don't know. On top of that, I've begun to share about Immanuel Prayer and how transformational it has been with my organization in Colorado, my supporting churches back in Oregon and my prayer network, and all of them want to be involved. I have more requests for sessions and am constantly looking for

other facilitators – the great need of them is becoming overwhelmingly apparent to me!

I wanted to write you and tell you THANK YOU. If you want to hear the stories, maybe we could Skype or FaceTime.

The Lord is so faithful! I am loving being able to learn and grow as a facilitator (Sharon is mentoring me) as I continue to know God as Immanuel!

Much love from Uganda,
Elise