

Title: "The Immanuel Approach in Latvia and the Czech Republic"

May 31, 2020

Greetings all,

Just a quick note to share an encouraging excerpt from a letter we received from a ministry person that our church supports. She takes the Immanuel Approach principles and tools everywhere she goes, and applies them in every situation she encounters.

"I'm home in SF. Had time to think and listen and pray about my trip to Latvia, England and the Czech Republic. First, I am so grateful for prayers, notes of encouragement and love from all of you. The trip was beautiful. Challenging. Filled with insight and "next level" experiences....

In Latvia and Czech Republic I expected to come, meet beautiful women, and ask, "What resources do you need? How can I - and a team of therapists and prayer ministry folks - support the ministry you're doing?" That isn't what happened. What happened is that I found exhausted, overwhelmed women experiencing "vicarious" (second-hand) trauma from the stories and lives with which they had connected. And, experiencing re-emergence of their own unresolved trauma.

I spent nearly all my time meeting, listening, praying and bringing Jesus into the situation with staff and volunteers from Latvia, Prague, Paris, Lausanne Switzerland, London, and a couple of places I can't remember – staff and volunteers who are reaching out to Roma women (where human trafficking is sometimes part of their culture), women on the streets, runaway kids, immigrants, and women working in legally authorized brothels.

I prayed. Jesus came. Women poured out their stories and pain. Jesus came. I held and spoke gently and encouraged, "Jesus is there? Good...stay with Jesus....what does Jesus want you to know?"

It was a sweet, challenging, powerful and painful time of healing. Our God is FAITHFUL."

Blessings to you all in this challenging time. May you be especially aware of Jesus' living, interactive, loving, wise, gentle, life-giving, friendship presence.

Dr. Lehman/Karl

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