

Title: "InterVarsity Update"

May 2, 2022

Greetings all,

This is going to be a BIG year for InterVarsity and the Immanuel Approach! Here's the update:

- One of the most exciting developments is that InterVarsity is now doing their own ongoing internal training. That is, several of the senior staff are now using the new video series to provide basic Immanuel Approach training within the organization. And this will continue indefinitely without requiring any additional resources from the Immanuel Approach training fund.
- A closely related exciting development is that I am now working with InterVarsity to prepare a special, customized basic training package, just for InterVarsity, that will be included in the library of materials that all of the regional directors can use for training staff throughout the organization.
- More encouraging news is that we have already completed one series of mentoring group sessions this spring, and we will be running more mentoring groups in the fall. As mentioned in earlier notes, these mentoring groups provide intermediate/advanced training for staff who have already been through basic training. Some of these staff with intermediate/advanced training will help with the ongoing basic training within InterVarsity, and many of them will be on the prayer ministry team for Urbana.
- In addition to the mentoring groups, I will also be joining the annual IVCF staff training event in Madison WI, to provide more intermediate/advanced training for twenty staff from around the country who will be the primary leaders for the prayer room at Urbana; and I will be providing regular consultations for the Urbana prayer ministry leadership between now and the time of the conference (December 2022).
- Furthermore, we have just gotten final approval to include volunteers on the prayer ministry team at Urbana. Our hope is to have 100 staff and 100 volunteers. So I will be helping to recruit volunteers from the Immanuel Approach community.

And then there's the actual Urbana conference!:

- I will be available to the prayer ministry team each morning, as they prepare for ministry in the afternoon.
- I will be in the prayer ministry room every afternoon, to provide onsite consultation regarding any issues or questions that come up regarding Immanuel Approach ministry.

- Each afternoon after the prayer rooms have closed, I will be available to the prayer ministry team for debriefing.
- I will be on call throughout the conference, as a special consultation resource for situations that require advanced Immanuel Approach interventions, and also for complex situations involving combinations of spiritual issues, psychological trauma, and mental health concerns.
- I will be providing a workshop in which I will briefly explain the first steps of the Immanuel Approach – to the point of establishing an interactive connection with the living presence of Jesus. And then I will coach the students to pair up and practice these first steps with each other. My expectation is that most of the participants will experience the wonderful, living, interactive friendship presence of Jesus. I will definitely be providing this workshop at least once, and my hope is that I will be given space to present it at least once each day. (Please pray for the IVCF leadership regarding discernment with respect to this point.)

But wait – there’s more! In addition to the training for staff throughout the organization, the training for the Urbana ministry team, the actual prayer ministry at Urbana, and the Urbana Immanuel Approach workshop, we are also going to start experimenting with various ways to use the Immanuel Approach directly with students on campus. Thanks to Zoom, I can easily work with students on any campus in the country, and the plan is for me to partner with a number of campus staff who have already been through the basic training. A very specific goal for this beta-testing work is to identify any particular points of difficulty in using our current teaching material and practice exercises with Gen-Z, so that we can make any adjustments needed to help college students have the best possible experience with the Immanuel Approach. At present, I am hoping that we will be able to include at least the following in this beta-testing work:

- Consultation Immanuel Approach healing sessions to help with particularly difficult student situations. In addition to providing valuable beta-testing information for myself and the IVCF leadership, these consultations would also provide direct benefit to the students involved, and they would provide intermediate/advanced training for the staff.
- Opportunities to explain the Immanuel Approach to groups of students. (This will allow me to test-drive the brief explanation segments I will be including in the student Immanuel Approach workshop for Urbana.)
- Opportunities to lead group exercises, where I will coach students to practice the first several steps of the Immanuel Approach with each other. (This will allow me to test-drive the practice exercises that I will be including in the student Immanuel Approach workshop for Urbana.)

- Opportunities to get feedback from students regarding any/all aspects of the Immanuel Approach.
- Opportunities to identify common questions that come up. (This could be as easy as offering a Q&A session to any students who are interested in the Immanuel Approach.)
- Opportunities to try the Immanuel Approach with unbelievers. That is, I'm thinking that there may be students who are not Christians but who are seeking, and who would be interested in trying the Immanuel Approach "just as a fun experiment." I'm hoping to get opportunities to try the first several steps – just to the point of connecting with Jesus – in this setting.

Finally, here's the update regarding the Immanuel Approach training fund:

- The good news is that contributions that have already come in have fully covered all training time, consultation time, and training materials for 2020 and 2021. (Thank you!)
- And here's more good news: Twenty copies of the new video series have already been funded (one for each of the IVCF regional directors for the U.S.); and Charlotte and I are contributing 30 gift copies for international associates with International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES).
- And here's even more good news: After 2022 (during which I will be spending a LOT of time providing training and consultation), the spread of the Immanuel Approach throughout the IVCF network will become more and more self-sustaining, with less and less need for resources from the Immanuel Approach training fund. As mentioned earlier, several of the IVCF senior staff are already using the new video series to provide basic training within the organization.
- The big challenge is that we need to raise almost \$50,000, in addition to what has already come in, in order to cover all of the IVCF Immanuel Approach adventures we currently have planned for 2022 and the first half of 2023. (Considering everything we're hoping to accomplish, I think this is a bargain!)

In addition to discerning regarding your own giving, please share this note with others who might be able to help with support. (For example, friends who support InterVarsity and are excited about the Immanuel Approach, and who've been saying things like, "My accountant has just advised me to make an additional charitable contribution for tax purposes. I just wish there was a way to make a contribution that would support both IVCF and the Immanuel Approach.")

Information regarding how to contribute has been included below for your convenience. Thanks again to those who have already provided support.

Blessings,

Dr. Lehman/Karl

P.S. So far, a small handful of contributors (less than 40) have provided all of the support for the IVCF Immanuel Approach training fund. It would be a tremendous help if a thousand of those receiving this e-newsletter made a contribution of even \$20.

Want to support the Lehman's Immanuel Approach work? Click here for more information:
<https://www.immanuelapproach.com/supporting-lehmans-immanuel-approach-work/>