

Questions to promote the writing of an Integrative Immersion Reflection Paper

Introductory Comment: Your integrative paper is to be a theological reflection upon your immersion experience. It is not a summary of what happened. It is not a journal of the day to day events. It is, however, a well thought out reflection upon your experience within a specific cultural context, a context which includes the people, the places, the events, the environment, the interactions with the individuals and groups. It includes your own grappling with disorientations, conflicts, and struggles with what you “heard, saw, and touched”. It is a reflection of your encounter with yourself within a different culture. The following questions are offered as stimuli to your own questioning of your experience:

- Where was God in the experience? Where was God for others in the culture?
- What biblical stories or images come to mind?
- What theological themes were prominent in your immersion experience? e.g.

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|------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sin | Evil | Forgiveness |
| Redemption | Reconciliation | Joy |
| Despair | Transformation | Abandonment |
| Being | Doing | Faith |
| Works | Justification | Sanctification |

- What church traditions connected with your immersion experiences?
- How did your experience come into conflict with your faith?
- What beliefs that you hold were reflected in the culture?
- What values that you hold were challenged by your encounter with this culture?
- What values that you hold were supported by your encounter with this culture?
- What might God want you to learn from this experience for your own growth as a cultural person, and for your preparation for ministry?

Resource: Reflecting with God by Abigail Johnson, The Alban Institute, 2004.

Project Proposal Guidelines

Your project should help you explore an expanded understanding of the church and the world. Now you have returned home from your Immersion experience and you have experienced a new dimension of the corporate shared world. This is a Communications project, intended to communicate what God is doing in the world. You have been exposed to another culture's story, and you are now its steward. How will you share it? Reflect theologically on how what you have experienced can be important to others.

When creating your project, think of the community in which you will present it. Questions to guide you include:

- What does the experience I have had mean to the people I am presenting to?
- How is my experience able to be a means of grace for those I am presenting to?
- How is my project a means of grace for those who I am representing in my project?
- How am I honoring those who hosted me in my Immersion?

Your project should:

- make connections
- show interpretive work
- show spiritual work
- explore a sense of who we are as Church even across different places and/or cultures