



Christmas Gifting Helps IREF Students Understand the Love that Comes From One True God

Each year IREF aims to use the Christmas season as a tool to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with as many children and community members as possible. Events are constructed to draw attention to the story of Jesus Christ's birth. Emmanuel Rebba layers each event with a Christmas message to reinforce what the event is meant for. Caroling, star lighting ceremonies and gift-giving are among several events that IREF uses to draw the attention of children, young and old, and community members to hear of God's love. Gift-giving is a special time that truly reaches the hearts of the children as they come from unfortunate backgrounds and many don't even own a pair of shoes. When they hear that they are going to receive a gift, they are astonished at the love that is shown to them which causes them to ask "who" and "why". "Who would want to bless me with a gift" and "why would anyone care enough to see me have a new pair of clothes, something I can't afford on my own". This is the exact time when God is able to touch the hearts of many as they begin to listen more intently to the Christmas messages to find out "who" and "why" and begin to understand they have a loving Father who wants to bless them and prosper their futures. IREF could not facilitate Christmas gift-giving without the help of loyal child sponsors and one-time gifts. Your faithfulness to see IREF children learn of Jesus Christ is the only reason Christmas gift-giving at IREF is so successful each year and why so many children take that step to accept Christ and become baptized. To God be the Glory!



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Christmas Caroling Leads IREF Leaders to an Amazing Need

IREF staff and students went into neighborhoods near the Repalle campus for Christmas caroling. It was a time to visit IREF staff with seasons greetings; a time to pray with them and sing with them. Staff welcomed the caroling group with open arms into their homes. It was a good way for the IREF community to reach out to, not only their fellow colleagues but also to share the Gospel throughout the town of Repalle.

On the first night of caroling, the group met a crippled man (Kaseem) sitting on a church porch - he appeared to have muscular dystrophy. While they got to sing, talk and pray with him, Kaseem showed them that his self-propelled rickshaw was in need of repair. The very next day, IREF staff traveled to a city two hours away searching for the same type of rickshaw and found exactly what Kaseem was in need of. Delivering the rickshaw to Kaseem's home was no easy feat. They had to carry it from the main road to Kaseem's home. IREF staff were so delighted to present Kaseem with this gift, that they decorated his new rickshaw to help him celebrate God's goodness. He was grateful for the new gift IREF had given him. Before the IREF staff members left, they prayed for Kaseem and God's continued watch over him.

IREF is thankful for the opportunity to serve the community in ways like this, especially in the midst of the Christmas season. We believe it was God's design for the caroling group to run into Kaseem to extend God's hand of love to him.



January 2016
continued...

India Rural
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Trinity Team Blesses IREF with Many Talents

The Trinity International University team of Deerfield, IL travelled to IREF for two weeks at the end of December to encourage IREF children from poor backgrounds by showing them how God has worked through their own lives. They began their mission of blessing the IREF students and locals with songs of joy and testimonies of struggles overcome.

The Trinity Team arrived just in time for the New Year's Eve service at the Repalle Evangelical Church. It was a celebratory time in which IREF transitions from one year to the next in prayer and worship for God's continued mercy on the mission. Every New Year's Day, the Trinity Team visits a couple of IREF's village churches to encourage the church body. This year the churches were located a long distance from Repalle in the villages of Lankevanadhebbba and Borrivarilpalem. This visit was a wonderful way for IREF to reach out into the community as there are many former students of IREF who live in these villages and have been asking for events to be held in their communities.

The team shared Scripture with the church and prayed for the congregation members. With some extra time and laughter, they pulled the children of the villages together to sing. Although the songs were in English, the children enjoyed participating in worship with the Trinity team. It truly paints a picture of the One Living God we worship.

The Trinity team also facilitated Vacation Bible School (VBS) with the IREF school children. It was a good chance for them to minister to the kids on IREF's main campus. The team taught the children new action songs, performed a skit based on the book of Daniel, taught/played games and lastly had a session of arts and crafts. It was a great opportunity to expose the team to children who come from burdened backgrounds. The joy these children experience from the Trinity team can only be expressed by the smiles on their faces. At IREF we count it a blessing to hold a VBS and are thankful for Trinity for having a heart for the children of IREF.



Prayer Requests and Praise

- We are truly grateful for the way the Trinity team blessed and served the children of IREF. We praise God for using each member's talents to serve Him faithfully.
- The 2016 UK and US missions team has arrived safely in Repalle. Please pray for the health and well-being of each team member as they teach, preach, pray and serve during the 2016 Youth Conference in Repalle, which will be held Jan.11 -15.
- Please pray all who attend the 2016 Youth Conference. Pray that many will come to know Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.
- The medical team members will be working with the IREF nursing students and staff to facilitate checkups on all students, evangelists, Bible ladies and staff members at IREF and local villages. Please pray that the clinics will run smoothly and the team will be able to help all in need, effectively and efficiently.
- The 2016 Gospel Crusades will be held February 3-7. Please pray that IREF will be able to conduct these crusades with no opposition from the government and that many more will come to know Christ.