



India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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God's Love for India Her brown eyes were wide with wonder as she sat at the end of a clinic table, assessing our team doctor and quietly submitting to her medical exam. Nursing students, like big sisters, instructed her to open her mouth as a strange, lighted instrument probed her ears, nose and mouth. Skilled hands moved a stethoscope across her chest as she willingly took deep breaths. She knew of doctors, but had never been in the presence of one, her family never could have afforded to see one. Her life, in this rural fishing village, would likely have been devoid of medical care. Yet here she was, with a loving health care professional giving her personalized attention.

I have been asked why doctors and nurses would travel half way around the world to a place with marginal sanitation, minimal facilities and maximum needs to do medicine! My answer is simple, because Jesus would do the same. In a tangible way we demonstrate Jesus' love for the oppressed, the weak and the marginalized by serving them. Our medical teams become the conduit of Christ's love poured out on those who are our neighbors (Luke 10:25-37 ... Jesus taught in the parable of the 'Good Samaritan' a neighbor is one who attends to the needy). There is a deep satisfaction when we follow Jesus' example where he exclaimed, "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and give his life ..." (Matthew 20:28).

Watching our medical team serve and eagerly "bear one another's burdens" (Galations 6:2), I saw the trust these little ones had in our team of nurses and doctors as child after child was carefully examined. I observed the joyful interaction our IREF nursing students had with our medical staff as they translated, interacted, and learned from our team in the clinics. But most significantly, as our team used their gifts and talents, I was aware that all of those we were serving and training knew our presence in India was because of our love for Jesus Christ. We were, in a small way, showing forth the glory and greatness of Jesus. "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

One last word, as our medical clinic was operating there was a Youth Conference of students worshipping in song and hearing the word of God. The intensity of the messages preached and the authority of God's Word fanned the flames of faith for many students, while significant numbers of young men and women believed in the Gospel of the glory of Christ. "Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ." (Romans 10:17) The image of students moving forward at the conclusion of the sessions, clutching their Telugu Bibles against their chests, tears streaming down their cheeks, cries of repentance and praise pouring forth toward heaven, mobs of youthful faces moved by the power of the Holy Spirit applying the Word of God to their hearts as the kingdom of God advanced! Nearly 50 of these students were baptized in the Krishna River during our days together. God's mercy was pervasive! "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; in His great mercy He has caused us to be born again into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading ..." (1Peter 1:3,4) God is alive in rural India!

*Craig Darling -
IREF US Director*



Medical team with IREF nursing students pray together before opening clinic.



Craig Darling entertains a young girl from IREF's Nizampatnam CDC before her medical check up.



Karen Gray helps the pharmacist administer cough medicine to the young children with colds.



Craig Darling and Emmanuel Rebba pray with the young people who came forward during the altar call at the Youth Conference.



Bill Hampe, Emmanuel & Dee Rebba, Frank Chao and Elizabeth Chao at the Pedalanka CDC dedication.





Reflection from the Trinity Team Our team was so blessed by our time with IREF. After preparing for several months, we were excited to finally spend time with the children in Vacation Bible School, during devotions, and while playing games during free time. We were amazed to witness firsthand the incredible things that God is doing through this ministry! Although we came to make a positive difference in the lives of the kids at IREF, I believe the students on our team may have been more influenced by the kids. What a beautiful experience to live life together for two weeks with the body of Christ in India! We will continue to pray for the ministry in Repalle, for the kids to know and love their Heavenly Father, and for the impact of the Gospel to spread like wildfire.

Kelly Kim, Trinity International University Team Leader



February 2015
continued...

India Rural
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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 2015 Youth Conference went extremely well. Many young people came forward and accepted Christ as their Savior. 49 young people were baptized at the end of the conference.
- The 2015 Gospel Crusades were held February 4-8. We praise God that IREF will be able to conduct these crusades with no opposition from the government and that many more will come to know Christ.
- March and April is the end of the school year and for some this means the end of their time at IREF. Please pray as they go back to their homes and for the Holy Spirit to work through these young people to bring light into their villages.
- Each week many young people are making the public profession of faith through baptism. We praise God for the decision so many are making to follow Christ! Please pray for the many new believers as they face opposition from family members and communities. Please pray that they will find peace and strength in Christ.
- Save the Date! The 4rd Annual IREF Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, August 15. Please be praying for how you can introduce IREF to new friends and family.
- Please pray for the continued support of IREF children in light of a faithful sponsor leaving. Ask that IREF leaders will seek God through upcoming decisions regarding the ministry's ability to serve the children.

