



**This month, myself and a team** of volunteers were honored to visit India and witness the life-changing work IREF continues to undertake. Having been raised by parents who have been blessed to support the ministry for years, and having personally visited the IREF compound five times, I am humbled to consider Repalle my “home away from home.”



I first visited India in 2004, when I was just 11 years old. That trip shattered my worldview, and reoriented my understanding of the world, the church, and the preeminent role Christ is meant to play in our lives.

My life has taken a markedly different path having had the opportunity to see the faith of our brothers and sisters in India, and to witness the extreme poverty that plagues so many. My heart has since longed to see the body of Christ strive to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of every Indian!

This trip, I have been reminded once again that IREF is doing just that. Every day the leadership and staff of this Christ-centered ministry are fulfilling the work Christ Himself called us to in Matthew 20:27-28 *“and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”*

During our time in India earlier this month, our team was blessed to witness how IREF is meeting the physical needs of those in its care, and those it ministers to through its network of churches:

We saw how IREF is raising up a generation of skilled nurses equipped to care for India’s sick. We were honored to serve rice to IREF students, who—unlike their counterparts at other public and private schools—are provided three meals every day. And we were able to visit the Senior Care Center (Home for the Aged) IREF-UK constructed a few years ago which, with additional funding, will soon care for as many as 20 elders who are in need of assisted living.

We were blessed to witness how IREF is meeting the emotional needs of those oppressed by grief, depression, and feelings of inadequacy. Through prayer, counseling, and teaching, IREF’s leadership and staff practice a lifestyle of encouragement—constantly providing the attention and care needed to overcome the lies the enemy sows. And we were blessed to witness how IREF is meeting the spiritual needs of its students, their families, their villages, and Central India at-large.

Every morning, we rose to the sound of thousands of students glorifying the Lord with songs of worship, and prayers of praise. Every day we celebrated the success of students who are being taught not just earthly knowledge, but Heavenly knowledge in classrooms anointed with prayer. And every evening, we worshipped with, preached the Gospel to, and prayed with hundreds from local villages.



Every day, IREF is fulfilling the role of the church! The leadership’s burning desire to administer the Gospel has resulted in a ministry whose roots extend so far and so deep into the villages surrounding Repalle, only the God of Jacob could claim any credit.



The Lord continues to pour out his blessing upon this place! Because of His faithfulness, IREF’s resources will never match its impact—every dollar is being multiplied in ways that neither you nor I will ever understand, all praise and glory be to God!

## India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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*"The works of His hands are faithful and just, all His precepts are trustworthy. They are established forever and ever, enacted in faithfulness and uprightness." – Psalms 111:7-8*

As circumstances change in India, we need to remember the Lord's faithfulness and to trust in His provision!



With a government bent on pushing faith-based nonprofits out of the country, religious fanaticism on the rise, and persecution on the horizon, we have to stay the Lord's course and continue to support those who are doing His work.

IREF is doing the work of the Lord! They are caring for orphans and widows, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, housing the homeless and exposing the lost to the Good News of Jesus Christ!

As a supporter myself, I cannot say enough about the leadership's steadfastness to the sharing of the Gospel! Because of their faithfulness to meet India's spiritual needs first, I know that more opportunities will avail themselves for IREF to meet India's physical and emotional needs also!



But, perhaps more than ever before, your partnership is needed to continue the work being undertaken. Together, we can meet the financial obstacles IREF currently faces. By seeking the Lord's will over our finances, and by sharing testimonies of the work being done with those in our networks, we can raise-up a generation of new, committed partners blessed to be able to support the Lord's work in Central India.



*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My House, and test Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, 'if I will not open for you the windows of Heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.'" – Malachi 3:10.*

The Lord has created in IREF a storehouse for His people in Central India. Together, we can fill it in faithfulness and reap the hundredfold reward promised in the age to come!

Sincerely,  
Jake Vermillion



February 2017  
continued...

India Rural  
Evangelical  
Fellowship

### Prayer Requests and Praise

- Thank you for praying for the 2017 Youth Conference! God used His servants from the US to speak powerfully to the young people of IREF and surrounding villages. Many came forward and accepted Christ as their Savior!
- Praise God for His graciousness to this ministry and His sovereignty to provide for every need.
- Please pray as IREF staff and students prepare for their year-end final exams and close out this academic year. As many students return to their respective homes for the summer, please pray that they would be a light for Christ in their villages.
- Please pray for the strength and prosperity of our supporting churches, businesses and sponsors.

