



## 2011 Gospel Conference is a Blessing to Thousands



The blessing of God never gets old! This is a truth our team and the IREF "family" enjoyed as we participated in this year's Gospel Meetings. 4 Pastors, 2 Doctors, 1 Nurse, and 1 public relations specialist (aka my 16 year old son) joined hearts and efforts

to support the work of IREF's leaders and staff as they seek to bring the gospel to Andhra Pradesh. While our team was smaller than usual, God's anointing was abundant, proving that the size of the vessel does not determine the blessing of God.

The following are a few of the things we witnessed during our 2-week trip:

- God answers when His people "lay hold of Him" in prayer: For several months, many of the students and Staff of IREF have been laboring daily in prayer for God's blessing upon these meetings. As Emmanuel is quick to say, "With prayer comes power. That is it!" Not only was the work of the gospel tremendous at the main meetings in Repalle where the respondents far outnumbered the available space to respond. But God's grace came powerfully as well upon our short crusades in Nagayalanka. Other churches had tried outreach efforts for years in this community in which a strong Hindu, Muslim, and idol-worshipping population lives. In fact we had been warned that coming would do no good. But God has His own ideas and does not seek us out for advice. Each of our two evening meetings saw 2-3000 people in attendance and when we were finished, more than 1/2 of those attending responded in some way to the Gospel!
- Everyone needs the Lord: Hindus, Muslims, idol worshippers, and American suburbanites all need the Lord and have hearts that are restless until they find rest in Him. I say this because we were struck once again by how vastly different our cultural, ethnic, economic and community differences were as a team from the people to whom we ministered. It doesn't take more than a few minutes watching scores

of women cleaning small fish by hand or laborers dredging sand out of the Krishna River to feel palpably how different our worlds are from one another. And yet for all of those differences, it becomes even more obvious that what we need, and find, in the Lord is absolutely common to all of us! From the rich fellowship we enjoyed with the church in Repalle to the response of repentance through tears of the attenders to the crusades, everyone at these meetings have an infinite, cavernous void in our hearts that only an infinite, glorious Presence can fill. Everyone needs the Lord!

- The Gospel remains God's power for salvation for those who believe:  
In the end of the day, it is the good message of the victory and enthronement of Jesus Christ who triumphed over sin and the grave in His death and resurrection that God uses to make rebels into worshippers! And while we would seek to speak in culturally understandable language and metaphors, the basic message of the Gospel transcends culture and is always perfect! When you and I speak the gospel those in our lives, God works a powerful miracle. It is true that when the Word of God is spoken, the voice of God is heard. We witnessed first hand that this is still the case today.
- God sovereignly brings people together to know and represent Him: I marvel at how each member of our team brought gifts and personality to be what we each, the IREF Staff, and the ministry opportunities needed. Each of our team had an important role to play and I saw once again that it is God who "arranges the parts of the body, just as He intends" so that He might be glorified.

As a long time friend of IREF, I will tell you that I left saying once again, God be praised! Emmanuel, Dee, the Evangelists and Bible Ladies, and Staff of IREF are doing a great job, as is Craig Darling, our US Director. If you are a friend of IREF, thank you for your support. God is using your prayers and support for this ministry in a wonderful way. And God continues to open more and more doors for IREF. It seems to me that as this ministry has been faithful in little, God is giving IREF the opportunity to be faithful with much.



Please continue to pray for how the Lord might want you to be a part of how He is bringing glory to the name of Christ on the other side of the planet through IREF.

Warmly,  
*Dan Weyerhaeuser -  
Sr. Pastor, Lakeland Church*



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