



Child Sponsorship Pays Blessings

To watch any child from IREF succeeding in school or graduating to the next level of their education is always a cherished time of achievement for IREF leaders. To report this achievement to sponsors and for a sponsor to see these moments unfold firsthand is a precious gift from God.

Professor Jason Leitch and his wife, Lynn from the UK have sponsored a child by the name of Meena Madhuri since she first came to IREF at the age of 8. Jason has traveled to the IREF campus every other year for nearly 20 years to lead a team of medical professionals to provide healthcare for IREF children. Lynn has visited the IREF campus twice with her husband to assist with the medical team. Together, they have allowed God to use their gifts, talents and resources to serve the ministry of IREF.



God has blessed Jason and Lynn by allowing them to see the progression of Meena's education when they visit. They have been able to witness Meena establishing herself as a woman who has earned the right to a good paying job in India, which will provide for not only her; but also her family. During the 2014 medical team visit, Meena was in the process of completing her Chemistry exams and the Leitchs got the opportunity to discuss with her what the next step in her education would be.

The way that God continues to connect children from such a remote and impoverished region of India with loyal sponsors is absolutely amazing to see unfold. Providing children with a Christian education is providing them with the tools that will expand the kingdom of God in a region of India where less than 5% of the population are Christian. God is allowing IREF to impact communities with every child that graduates. Please pray for the IREF students as they wrap up the 2013-14 school year in the coming month.



Lynn and Jason with IREF Repalle Christian College Principal, Z. Ratna Prasad.



Jason with the IREF children as they wait for medical care.

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Child Sponsorship Update from John Rebba, Donor Relations Coordinator



The last few months have been exciting for IREF to see how God is working in and through the child sponsorship program. I have had the opportunity to work with individuals who have been clearly led by the Holy Spirit to begin their sponsorship journey with an IREF child. I have also had the joy of seeing current IREF sponsors step up to support additional IREF children. Since January 1st, IREF has seen 11 new child sponsors accept the call to provide an IREF child with a chance at a life they can be proud of. IREF values this relationship with any individual that decides to partner with the children of India. Sponsoring a child provides an education, food, clothing, shelter and the opportunity to develop a relationship with our Lord and Savior, which is most important.

Currently, IREF still has a strong need to partner children with a caring sponsor to ensure their educational process is not interrupted with the reduction in child care funding from our European donor. If you are interested in learning more about how the child sponsorship process can benefit a child or how you can become a child sponsor, please contact me at sponsors@IREFUSA.org and I would be happy to discuss any aspect of this process with you.

John - IREF Donor Relations Coordinator



2014 Gospel Team: God's Rock in Sinking Sand

When hearing of all the accomplishments IREF's Gospel teams achieved this year when they provided healthcare and preached the Gospel to the poor and lost of rural India, one might ask how this process is facilitated flawlessly? This process only becomes more complicated each year to provide medical care to more people in harder to reach areas. Pastoral teams are speaking to more and more people each year where evening Gospel meetings go until late into the night and begin early every morning.

If a person didn't realize these processes were completely dependent on God's mercy and grace, they might become overwhelmed to think it could continue for the next 30 years. Our loving God has blessed IREF with so many professionals that have surrendered their talents and abilities to follow God to this very remote part of the world. Through inconvenient travel, unfamiliar conditions and very tiring days; US and UK leaders have continued to provide the IREF community with the support needed to continue to reinforce the ministry of IREF as a cornerstone of rural India.

As the economy grows, India still fails to improve medical care. Many hospitals are crowded with people who wait to see a doctor in conditions that many Americans would decline to let their pet experience. Rusty beds, soiled bedding, re-used needles and the sight of professionals re-using rubber gloves and sterilizing equipment is a sobering sight.

IREF extends its appreciation to every member of the 2014 Gospel teams from the US and UK who have given their time and resources to bless the people of the Andhra Pradesh. In addition to providing check-ups for children from the IREF campus in Repalle, medical personnel were able to provide care for children from the Arumbaka, Penamudi and Ullipalem CDC. The nurses and physicians still allotted time to see local community members and handed out medications after the morning session of the Gospel meetings.

Most importantly, every evening the Gospel meetings saw thousands in attendance. Hundreds came forward each night to receive prayer from a pastor or team member. Over 50 individuals took baptism to confirm their salvation. IREF extends special thanks to Pastor, Craig Darling, David Moorhead and John Knowlton for their leadership which allowed for the Gospel Meeting success.



Prayer Requests and Praise

- Each week 20-30 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 3rd Annual IREF Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, August 23. 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.
- 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.

March 2014
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