

April 2012



## India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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**Fire Relief** We thank you for moving so quickly to help IREF provide relief for the fire victims of Rajamundhry. IREF has provided these families with rice, groceries, cooking utensils, clothing, and financial assistance for temporary housing and work supplies.

The fire started and spread when lit firecrackers fell on a thatched roof of a village home. The people of the village attempted to put out the raging fires but could not enter their alley ways due to the fierce strength of the flames. The fire left over 2,000 fishermen and their families homeless. Houses were reduced to ashes within minutes. The fisherman not only lost their homes but also lost all of their equipment to continue their primary livelihood of fishing. By the grace of God, no one was hurt in the fire.

IREF has been involved in emergency relief in rural villages throughout southeast India for years. Your helping hand to the people on the other side of the world will forever be grateful for your quick response. IREF pastors and staff members helped provide emergency assistance to those in desperate need because of your prayers and support. Hundreds of families now have hope!



Friend us on Facebook to see more photos of IREF's fire relief efforts.

## 2012 Medical Missions Report from the UK Team

Rest and relaxation — forget it! Two hours after arriving in Repalle in February, the medical team was on the move, setting up the clinic in readiness for seeing the first children later that day.



As in previous years, some of the nursing students were allocated to work with us in the clinic. The B.Sc. Nursing programme has around 50 girls in training. It was a pleasure to have a number of the 3rd and 4th year students working alongside the team throughout our trip. Some of them translated for us very competently, with the additional advantage of clinical understanding. Professionally, we were delighted to have an opportunity to share our knowledge with the students and use learning opportunities when they arose.

Over the course of the week around 700 children, students and adults came through the clinic. The general health of the children was fairly good, though the challenge of skin and gastric infections is ever present.

Overcrowding, especially in the girls' home, has always been a concern. It was therefore encouraging to see significant improvements here with now around 20, rather than 40, younger girls sharing each room. For the older girls, there are 10-15 per room.



Generally the clinic is a noisy place, full of laughter and chat. While some of the children can be a little frightened of the unknown, most of them are just plain curious - especially of what is going on around them!

It's hard to believe that after all the planning the UK medical team has returned from their trip to IREF in India. Thank you so much for your prayer support — it meant so much to the team to know that we were being supported in prayer during our time in India.

*Elizabeth Callander - IREF UK Board Trustee*

**Summer in Repalle** is underway. The IREF 2011-2012 school year has ended. This year in particular, countless numbers of students have given their lives to Christ. Although this is a very wonderful life-changing event and a cause for celebration, it comes with a heightened awareness. Many of the students at IREF come from a Hindu background. As they have begun walking with the Lord, the ever-present fear of returning home has now become reality. Most of these students return to a home where the name of Christ is not a household name, but one that is forbidden. These students have found a new life with Christ that has set them free from the bondage of Hinduism. The fear of rejection and persecution is there, but the hope they will share the Gospel to their families is greater. Please keep all of the IREF staff and students in your prayers while they are on vacation. Pray that they will carry the light of Christ into their dark homes and villages.