

April 2016



Summer Gospel Meetings continue to send God's message of hope to rural and poverty stricken areas of India. As an extension of the large Gospel Meetings that take place in January and February, summer Gospel Meetings are being held in the rural villages. These meetings allow IREF evangelists, Bible ladies, as well as Emmanuel and John Rebba to focus evangelism efforts on particular villages and support the IREF village churches. This is a great opportunity for church congregations to reach out to their local communities and invite them to hear the message of hope. Each year these meetings see new believers come to Christ and be baptized. Emmanuel Rebba commented "we are seeing an increase in the numbers of people coming to hear the message each evening and people are eager to hear what God is saying. People feel more comfortable to come hear the message when it is in their own village where they have grown up and are familiar with the people around them."



IREF nursing students recite their pledge and receive their caps.

IREF's Annual Lamp Lighting Ceremony

was held for its nursing students on March 19th. This ceremony, created by Florence Nightingale over 150 years ago, signifies the completion of the initial professional nursing education. This tradition presents graduates of the nursing school with a symbolic "badge of courage." The symbol is meant to encourage nursing students to faithfully serve the injured, sick and dying in challenging situations and often dangerous circumstances.

Dee Rebba, who is also a nurse, participated and led the ceremony for the IREF nursing students. She mentioned "that this is always a joy to see new nurses pledging to care for those in need. Their education at IREF has given them a background of faith to protect them in this role."

Please pray for these students as they go out into their home villages to serve and spread the Gospel through their profession and help those in need.

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SAVE THE DATE! 5TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING



SAT 2016
AUG 20

NEW LOCATION!
HIGHLAND PARK
COUNTRY CLUB
ILLINOIS

Join us for a day of golf, silent auction, followed by dinner and an IREF ministry update. Foursomes and sponsorship opportunities are available!



Graduation at IREF 48 students recently celebrated their graduation from the Prasada Rao Memorial Bible Institute. These students completed a year-long intensive Bible course that includes in its curriculum: Intro to Theology, Gospel of John and Life of the Disciple. The goal of this study is to equip and train the young men and women of IREF in God's Word so that their foundation in Scripture is strong as they go out and spread the Gospel in rural India.

These courses were offered for the first time in 2015 and students have been studying diligently since last July. The Bible intensive courses were designed for all students and provide a truly balanced education while students are at IREF. Many students signed up for the courses when they were first offered and it is such a blessing to see these students complete their year long course. They are now more prepared to share the Gospel with non-Christians wherever the opportunity will present itself.

IREF Evangelists commissioned the graduates during the ceremony. Please pray for this next generation of faithful disciples as they go out and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Graduated eagerly wait for their certificates.



IREF Evangelists and staff pray for the graduating students.



Summer Heat Leads to Devastation As temperatures creep higher and higher in SouthEast India, the result is often house fires as many roofs are made of dried palm branches. The scorching sun sets homes on fire very rapidly. A village close to IREF was effected by this but fortunately, the fire was stopped before it spread too far. IREF has provided the families effected by this disaster with rice, groceries, cooking utensils, clothing, and financial assistance for temporary housing and work supplies.



IREF has been involved in emergency relief in rural villages throughout southeast India for years. Pastors and staff members helped provide emergency assistance to those in need. Please pray for these families as they rebuild their lives.

Prayer Requests and Praise

- Please pray for IREF as the remaining number children supported by our European Partner are no longer supported and searching for new support.
- Praise God for His graciousness to this ministry and His sovereignty to provide for every need.
- Please pray for IREF staff and students as they prepare to close the 2015-16 academic year. Many of these young people return to idol-worshipping families for the summer holiday and need your prayers as they stand firm for Christ.
- Praise God for the many people who have come forward and accepted Christ as their Savior throughout the Summer Gospel Meetings. Pray for the IREF Evangelists and Bible ladies ministering in the villages, particularly in the heat of the summer.
- Please pray for IREF leaders across the globe as they serve. May the Holy Spirit guide and protect.
- Praise God for a successful academic year. We thank God for the teachers, professors, principals and administrative staff for their dedication and diligence in serving the Lord through IREF.

April 2016
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India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship