

April 2018



Summer Gospel Meetings kicked off on April 3-5 in the village of Bantumalli, which is located on the Bay of Bengal about two and half hours away from Repalle. IREF previously hosted a one-day Pastors' Retreat in this village two years ago, and since that time, the local pastors had been asking IREF to conduct Gospel Meetings in their village. After much prayer and consideration, IREF leaders felt God's direction to take the Gospel to this village.

Leading up to the Gospel Meetings in Bantumalli, there was unseasonable weather with heavy rain in the area. But the Lord did miraculous wonders and kept the venue of the Gospel Meetings dry. IREF staff, pastors and evangelists were able to pack and transport the stage, sound and video equipment to Bantumalli all the while praying that the rain would not prevent set up or people from coming to hear the Good News. All of the surrounding villages of Bantumalli were flooded but Bantumalli didn't see a drop of rain – Praise God!

The summer village Gospel Meetings continue to send God's message of hope to rural and poverty stricken areas of India. These small rural farming and fishing villages are crying out for any hope of prosperity for their families and what a better way to feed their soul than with the message of Christ's love! Summer Gospel meetings allow IREF evangelists, Bible ladies 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.

The central and most vital ministry of IREF is spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Over 200 Evangelists and Bible Ladies travel by bicycle, motor-scooter, or more often on foot to remote villages around Repalle, boldly presenting the Gospel message. The fruit of the Evangelists' work is seen in the churches they have planted in villages throughout the state of Andhra Pradesh. Some meet on the desert plains, some in open-air sheds, while others meet in cyclone-proof buildings, built with the help of special IREF friends from around the world.

These thriving village churches are the heart of IREF's success in the conversion and discipleship of new believers. Telugu Bibles are distributed and villagers are invited to open-air evangelistic meetings, and ultimately, churches are planted, furthering the growth of the Kingdom. Please continue to pray for the many IREF Evangelists and Bible Ladies who deliver the message of Salvation to these village members throughout the summer months of April through June, who desperately long for the love of a strong Christian church community. May the Holy Spirit continue to move among the rural villages of Southeast India, bringing more and more lives to Him.

We ask that you join us in supporting and praying for the many evangelists and Bible ladies who have dedicated their lives to reach the lost and further His Kingdom in rural India. With your help of \$75 a month they can serve the Lord full time and continue to bring more and more people to know the goodness of Christ's salvation.



India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

PO Box 1332
Park Ridge, IL
60068-7332

IREF Info Line:
p 847.220.IREF (4733)
f 847.680.4270

Visit us on the web:
www.irefusa.org

Send us an email:
info@irefusa.org





Celebrating a Successful Academic Year

IREF staff and students gathered to celebrate each school with a night of thanksgiving, and praising God for what He has done throughout the school year. It was a time for each school representative to give an academic and sports report of the accomplishments of this 2017-18 school year. Younger students gave a presentation of how India is made of up of many different people groups. Elementary through college students presented a dance and/or a skit of the culture of India and how God is working in this world. It was a great way for the students to show their artistic gifts through dance and acting. The winners of sports competitions and academic excellence were also recognized and given trophies and certificates based on their achievements.

These are the nights they look forward to - to have fun with their classmates and staff. The night was filled with smiles and laughter. We thank God for His watchful eye throughout this entire academic school year and are grateful for His guidance and His answering of many prayers for IREF.



Gospel Reach Expands through IREF's Evangelism Efforts

IREF recently hosted a Pastors' Conference to bring local pastors and denominations together under one church, one belief, one Christ and one cause – to reach the people of Andhra Pradesh with the message of God's love and mercy. IREF is seeing take root in an effort to spread the vision for collaborative ministry in India. A pastor named Raju from 10 hours away from Repalle, attended the recent Pastors' Conference and was surprised to see Emmanuel Rebba as the speaker at the conference. He had been praying to meet Emmanuel and thank him for his ministry since 2012. Raju is a high caste Hindu convert who became a Christian as a result of watching IREF TV! He left everything behind and has been ministering to a church of 500 since his conversion.



Pastor Raju is seated behind Emmanuel Rebba during the Pastors' Conference.

In August 2010, the Lord opened a door for IREF to begin broadcasting the Gospel globally via satellite and the internet. The IREF TV broadcast is available to 80 million people in India and has recently been aired in 175 countries worldwide. The audiences are able to watch, write, call or share their personal prayer requests and praises with IREF. Hundreds of calls (of prayer requests and encouragement to the ministry continue to flood into IREF from people watching the IREF program called "Jeevaharam" – meaning "Bread of Life" – which airs Emmanuel Rebba's preaching every Sunday morning on the "Subhavaartha" – meaning "Good News" – channel. The ripples that IREF is making in India are traveling far, with God at the center of it all!

Prayer Requests and Praise

- Please pray for IREF staff and students as they prepare to close the 2017-18 academic year in March and April. 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 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.
- Praise God for the hundreds of individuals who accepted Christ as their Savior throughout the academic year and made the public confession of faith through baptism.
- Evangelists and Bible Ladies are conducting summer (April and May) Gospel meetings in over 100 villages to encourage IREF congregations and also spread the Good News throughout rural Southeast India. Please pray for lives to change, and the staff as they often face much persecution during this time.
- Please pray for the strength and prosperity of our supporting churches, businesses and sponsors.
- Please be praying for the 7th annual golf outing that will be held in July. Pray that it will be a successful event and a day of great fellowship and celebrating all that God is doing. More details to come next month.

April 2018
continued...

India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship