

May 2018



The 2017-18 Academic Year has come to an end and IREF students have started their summer holidays. Many students that IREF ministers to and educates come from very poor family backgrounds. IREF works with children who need a safe haven. Some children have been abandoned or sold into slavery/prostitution while others come from families that are unable to support more than one child. They are all welcome and safe at IREF.

Often times, when these children go home for summer holidays, desperate financial and home situations will lead to them having to work to help provide for their families. Please pray that many children will return to IREF to continue their education and growth in June.

At IREF, children are provided with a foundation of faith and education to last a lifetime. Child sponsorship of \$35 per month allows children from the poorest families in Andhra Pradesh the opportunity for food, clothing, shelter and the power of Christian education - the building blocks of a good life. Sponsors help save a child from having to take on field

work at a young age and continuing that hard labor through adulthood; save a young girl from being abandoned by her family in the event they cannot support her; stop child prostitution in India which is often the result for young girls whose families have no means to support them. A Christian education through IREF is giving the gift of hope.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can make a difference through IREF, please contact sponsors@irefusa.org.



Dale Vermillion, President and Founder of MPPH and Emmanuel Rebba dedicate the new playground for IREF.



A New Playground Provides Joy and Hope

We thank our partners at Mortgage Professionals Providing Hope (MPPH) for their generous contribution of a new playground for the IREF children!! After approx 20 years of natural wear and tear, the playground (which was originally built by Kids Around the World, an organization based in Rockford, Illinois) equipment became a hazard to the children.

While the MPPH team was in India this past February, they were able to dedicate the new playground for the IREF students. Thank you to Mortgage Professionals Providing Hope for this incredibly generous gift to the children of IREF!! The joy you've given the children of IREF is immeasurable and will be valued for many years to come!

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

Save the Date

7TH ANNUAL INDIA RURAL EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP

GOLF OUTING

SATURDAY 7.28.2018

BONNIE BROOK GOLF COURSE - WAUKEGAN, IL

Save on Taxes, and Help IREF Make a Difference

Even with this year's massive tax overhaul, there are tax strategies that can really make a difference.

Congress recently passed a sweeping tax overhaul that brings many changes. But there are tax strategies that can still significantly save in taxes when making a charitable contribution. Here are two:

The first strategy works for anyone at any age. Because the new standard deduction is \$12,000 for a single (\$13,600 for single 65 or older), and \$24,000 for a married couple (\$26,600 if both partners are 65 or older), it would take a lot of deductions, such as state and local taxes (capped at \$10,000), and charitable contributions before a tax payer would exceed the standard deduction. The strategy is to bunch charitable contributions so you can benefit in certain years. A good method to do this is through donating appreciated stock to what is known as a "donor-advised fund". You claim a big deduction in one year, and the money dribbles out to your favorite charity over time. Many large investment firms such as Vanguard, Schwab and Fidelity, etc. offer this service.

Another strategy only benefits people 70 ½ or older. At that age you are required to make minimum withdrawals (or distributions) from pretax IRAs. These are known as "required minimum distributions" or "RMD". But, the IRS allows you to instead to make a contribution directly from your IRA to a charity, and it will count toward your RMD without counting as income on your tax return. An additional side benefit is that it can also reduce or eliminate "high-income" Medicare premium surcharges.

These are great tax strategies that can really help IREF at a time when our operating budget requires more partners to get involved in giving life-changing opportunities, and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in Southeast India.

Certainly consult with your own financial advisor and if you need further information about how you can direct funds to specific IREF ministries, *contact U.S. Director - Dan Wagner at dwagner@irefusa.org or 815-378-3996.*



Testimony of the Holy Spirit Healing and Moving

A young woman from Bangalore named Sunitha, had been spiritually oppressed for months and struggling to figure out what happened to her. She eventually discovered that her in-laws had performed witchcraft rituals on her, in hopes that she would die and they could get a better dowry from a potential new wife for their son (her husband). After attending IREF's summer Gospel Meetings in Evangelist Ch. Devasahayam's village; her parents asked Emmanuel Rebba and IREF evangelists to pray for their daughter over the phone (as Bangalore is far from Repalle), so they did on two different occasions and she felt relief. Sunitha recently visited her parents, who live in Repalle and Emmanuel Rebba was able to pray for her in person. IREF students have been praying vigorously for her and she has seen a huge weight lifted off her shoulders as she accepted Christ as her Savior. Praise the Lord for moving so quickly and rescuing her from the darkness she was facing. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to move and make significant waves for His kingdom.

Prayer & Praise

- Hindu organizations have become more aggressive, claiming that India belongs to Hinduism. Pray for Christian converts from Hinduism who are forcefully pressured to return to Hinduism. Pray for God's provision and protection over IREF evangelists, Bible ladies and Pastors as the Hindu radicals are moving closer and closer to Repalle.
- Please pray for IREF staff and students while they are on summer holidays. Many return to idol-worshipping families for the summer holiday and need your prayers as they stand firm for Christ.
- Please be praying for the 7th annual golf outing. Pray that it will be a successful event and a day of great fellowship and celebrating all that God is doing.
- Evangelists and Bible Ladies are wrapping up the summer 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.
- Praise God for a successful and healthy 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.

May 2018
continued...

India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship

