

JUNE 2015



Hope is Alive! "Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld His love for me!" Psalm 66:20. God has done great things for the children of Southeast India. Looking back at all the stories of redemption and changed lives, many children can credit only one God for everything they have in their life. In times of struggle, God has encouraged these children. In times of desperation, God has protected them. In times of extreme fear, God fulfilled His promise to save them from their enemies. Reading their stories is a constant and real reminder of the His love for this remote region of the world.

Divya Chandana - My story starts when I was 6 years old after my mother died with tuberculosis and my father abandoned our family. Our neighbor brought my younger brother, Preetham and I to IREF to be cared for and it is IREF that has been our home ever since. IREF is where we make our home all year round as we have no where else to go and no one else to care for us. I enjoy playing with my friends here at IREF and I am now in 5th class. Many students here at IREF have similar stories to the one I am telling you today. We have a love from Jesus Christ that encourages us daily and we get to hear about how He is working to provide all of us with a hope and a future. Jesus is my only hope!

Sai - My story starts when I was a little girl and my family caste/occupation was prostitution. According to the caste that I was born into I was expected to also become a prostitute. My mother and father both contracted the HIV/AIDS virus when I young and I went to live with my aunt (after my father died). She heard of IREF and brought me here to get an education, but I never expected I would have my life changed so dramatically. While at IREF, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. I also finished my degree in science and am now working in an eye clinic in the city one hour from IREF. I am able to provide for my family with the job God has given me and I have been able to break the expectations that my caste has for my life. Without the power of Jesus Christ my story today would have been much different. Praise God for His perfect plan!

Parvathi - My story starts in 2009 when I was brought to IREF by an evangelist from the city of Guntur. I was brought to IREF under very secretive and confidential conditions. You see my uncle kidnapped me when I was in high school and sold me to sex traders that were seeking to transport me and 49 other children to Thailand. The sex traders needed to move us in order to elude the authorities. At that point I was able to escape. I was brought to IREF for safety and for a chance to get my undergraduate degree. By God's grace, I was able to finish my education there in 2012. I am now married to an evangelist and we both plan to be serving at IREF starting in June 2015. Praise God for His saving Grace!

Children who would otherwise be destined to a life of poverty are being given the tools to change the pattern. They're being given a foundation of faith and a mind of knowledge, inside and outside the classroom. They're getting an education that is a crucial component in breaking the cycle of poverty that has afflicted their families for generation. The presence of Christ changes lives, and IREF is doing all it can to bring that spirit of Christ to as many people as possible.



The children at IREF are being empowered by the education they receive. They're being given hope for a new pattern, for aspirations they never knew were possible.



Dee Rebba is now the closest to a mother that Divya Chandana and her brother Preetham have.



Dee took her sister to an eye clinic to have a cataract removed and found Sai working there in the clinic.



Parvathi (far right) with her classmates were prayer leaders at IREF during their final year of college.

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Craig Darling, IREF USA Director, speaks at an IREF banquet in Cadillac, MI.



Emmanuel and Dee Rebba share a ministry update with guests at the banquet.

Anchored in Action Psalm 18:49 "For this I will praise you, O Lord; among the nations and sing to your name." IREF's core mission is to serve the impoverished souls of Southeast India in hope of providing them with the good news of Salvation in Jesus Christ. The direction that God has chosen for the ministry is to work to change lives and provide them with a hope and a future. That is exactly what He has done for 65 years!

However there is also a strong mission to provide the good news of what God is accomplishing through IREF to the people right here in the United States. God's work through IREF is a blessing in itself as He has orchestrated hundreds of people from many different regions of the world including the U.S. over the last 30 years to help reach the people of Andhra Pradesh and they need to share in that blessing. Without God's divine intervention to connect leaders from the U.S. and India spanning over 8,000 miles, the work of IREF would not have been possible to the extent it is today. Looking back at how God has provided people of the United States need to see that their efforts were not in vain and that God has truly accomplished what He promised! IREF would love the opportunity to share what God is doing right now for the people of India.

If you, your church or small group would be interested in hearing more about how you can serve through the mission of IREF, please contact IREF U.S. Director, Craig Darling at cdarling@gmail.com or by phone at 269.806.8324.

SAVE THE DATE! 4TH ANNUAL IREF GOLF OUTING

SAT 2015
AUG 15

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IREFUSA.org
Invite a Friend!

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Prayer Requests and Praise

- Please be praying for the 4th annual golf outing as we celebrate 65 years of serving the people of Southeast India.
- Please pray for IREF staff and students as the new 2015-16 academic school year begins in early June. Many new students will be hearing the Gospel for the first time. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to move within their hearts. Pray that staff members will be an encouragement to these new students.
- Please pray for our U.S. Director & Chief Fundraiser, Craig Darling as he is connecting with churches, small groups and Sunday School classes to recruit medical and ministry teams members for 2016.
- Please pray for IREF as 325 children will be dropped from sponsorship from our European Partner in 2015. Many of these children attend IREF CDC and have hopes of attending IREF schools in Repalle.
- Pray for John Rebba as he prepares to return to IREF in June to participate in the annual Pastor's conference and also prepare progress reports for IREF Child Sponsors.
- We praise God for His protection upon IREF staff members who are from the Nepal area and were not affected by the recent earthquakes.
- Praise God for opening doors to present the ministry of IREF to new institutions and the welcome that IREF leaders have received thus far.

June 2015
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India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship

