

June 2016



India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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5TH ANNUAL IREF GOLF OUTING REGISTER TODAY!

SAT 2016
AUG 20

NEW LOCATION!
HIGHLAND PARK
COUNTRY CLUB
ILLINOIS

Its official, Saturday August 20, marks the **5th Annual IREF Golf Outing**! Many supporters, with their family and friends, come out every year to experience a round of golf, dinner and a ministry update. We know how to have fun together and we hope you will join us!

This year IREF has secured the beautiful **Highland Park Country Club** in Illinois to host our event. This Kemper Sports-managed course is celebrating 51 years of professionally hosting successful golf tournaments. The staff of PGA professionals pride themselves on providing a golf experience that exceeds participant expectations. The Highland Park food for our banquet has come highly recommended in a dining room with a panoramic view of the beautiful course.

Why an IREF golf outing? In recent years, IREF has experienced the withdrawal of funding from a long-time European ministry partner for child funding and sponsorship. Operating relief efforts from outside India has been made increasingly difficult for many foundations and groups who want to give. Sadly, this is a common occurrence for organizations around the globe who have reluctantly felt the need to step away from funding ministries and the people they love in India. This funding shortfall has been a substantial hardship for IREF and the young people in our care. The golf outing idea truly was a leap of faith by the US board to make up that shortfall in a fun, but very effective way. Just last year's golf outing brought in over \$21,000 in net income!

We need your help. It's that simple. The IREF Annual Golf Outing has become a tremendous blessing and major source of our funding in a way no one could have envisioned five years ago. The needs are numerous for the many lives touched by our Lord through the ministry of IREF. Fortunately, the ways you can help are numerous as well!

You can: Get a foursome (or two) together to golf with us, which includes lunch and dinner, or come to the dinner banquet to hear a ministry update. Participating in the event this way helps raise funds, but this is just a small part.

You can: Become a sponsor! We have Event, Dinner and Lunch sponsorships available that have proven to be a huge part of the fundraising success of this event. We provide signage for all who bless us with this kind of sponsorship. See the enclosed flyer for details.

You can: Be a hole sponsor! Do you have a business? Do your friends or family members have a business? What a great way to advertise with a sign with your logo. One year a family sponsored a hole and requested we made a sign for them with pictures of their grandkids!

You can: Donate items for our silent auction. The auction is a very successful part of our fundraising. Do you have a time-share or cabin you could offer? Could you offer up a tour of your interesting workplace? Do you have season tickets for sports teams, opera, or theater? Did you receive a gift or gift card that you won't use? Re-gifting here is welcome and raises funds! One donor used his credit card points to "purchase" items that sold very well. Be creative! Anything goes!

You can: Invite your friends and introduce them to IREF. Write a check, even if you can't attend. Volunteer to help with set-up for the big day!

Finally, whatever you are able to do to make the IREF Golf Outing a success, **please pray for the event and hold this ministry you love up in prayer!**



Spreading the Hope of Jesus Christ in Rural India

The central and most vital ministry of IREF is spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Over 500 Evangelists and Bible Ladies travel by bicycle, motorcycle, or more often on foot to remote villages around Repalle, boldly presenting the Gospel message. Telugu Bibles are distributed and villagers are invited to open-air evangelistic meetings in efforts to plant churches. The fruit of the Evangelists' work is seen in the churches they have planted in villages throughout the state of Andhra Pradesh. Some meet 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.



Throughout the summer months of March, April and May; IREF Evangelists and Bible ladies conduct Gospel Meetings in their villages to bring new believers to Christ and grow church communities to believe and rely on the grace of God as they face their day-to-day struggles.



Meetings in the village of Peserlanka were held towards the end of April. Second generation evangelist, David Bejjam testified that **"the mighty Spirit of God has done great things during our meetings. Many came forward to accept Christ, there was a huge wave of confession among the people of my village. Though I have been a pastor in this village for many, many years it is a blessing to see my congregation renewed and now new believers attending our services each week. God is so faithful!"**



In a village called Nalluripalem (where IREF also has a school and Child Development Center), there are many tribal people who face struggles that pose threats to their families (such as alcoholism), their health and their ability to serve one true God. The caste system still operates in this village, presents fewer opportunities for lower caste and poorer individuals to find jobs and provide for their families. The church community couldn't play a more important role in serving to comfort these families. IREF Evangelist, a Muslim convert named Daniel Shaik, said **"IREF has been doing great works for the Lord for over 65 years. I was able to see the change first-hand in my village. There are people who came forward for prayer whom I never expected!"**



Christian communities provide strength and unity through God's love while providing individuals with peace in knowing where to go for support and encouragement. Please continue to pray for the many IREF village leaders and pastors that deliver the message of Salvation to these village members 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.

Prayer Requests and Praise

- Please pray for IREF administrative and education staff members who are spreading information about IREF and its educational opportunities. Pray for the preparation and planning of the next academic year. May new students and staff members be guided by the Holy Spirit to open their hearts to the Gospel and to serve Him faithfully.
- Please be praying for the 5th annual golf outing. Pray that it will be a successful event and a day of great fellowship and celebrating all that God is doing through IREF.
- Please continue to pray to the ministry and its leaders in light of persecution from political leaders in Andhra Pradesh.

June 2016
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India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship

