

JULY 2015



IREF Believers' Retreat serves up hope to students, staff and pastors in 2015. This retreat is held every year in June to encourage and cultivate the Word among those who have become new believers during the January and February Youth Conference and Gospel Meetings. IREF evangelists, Bible ladies, and staff prayed and fasted for the Believer's Retreat every week during the summer (March-May) leading up to the retreat.

The Believer's Retreat is a small little seed that was sown over 20 years ago to bring all of the new believers back to IREF after the January Youth Conference and Gospel meetings and also to invite many people from the village meetings that IREF pastors hold in their local areas. This time is meant to encourage them in their new found faith. It's amazing to see how God has continued to be faithful in bringing more and more people to Him each year.

Emmanuel and John Rebba were the keynote speakers at this event this year. The theme of the Believers' Retreat was "Spiritual Renewal". John has traveled to India from the U.S. each year specifically to be a part of the Believers' Retreat and also facilitate the progress reports and photos for the IREF child sponsorship program.

Emmanuel Rebba also aims to refocus the IREF community before the start of the 2015-2016 school year during the time of the retreat. His goal is to instill

a message of hope in each student, staff member and evangelist/Bible lady to rely on God to provide sustaining grace through many of the struggles they will face with the new academic year.

During this time each year many students find hope that God will prosper them through their schoolwork and provide them with a future. Staff members find strength to educate and mentor a student body comprised of many poor and orphaned pupils who require higher levels of encouragement to succeed. Evangelists support the Believers' Retreat event and take the message back to their communities they serve locally.

Some attendees at the conference heard the Gospel for the first time including a couple of young students who got baptized as a result - seven people gave their lives to Christ taking baptism! They were also provided with their own Bible to begin building a lasting relationship with the one true God. Evening devotions are filled with the testimonies of many students on what they learned throughout the retreat. Please pray the Lord keeps these students and staff always growing in Christ.

Please keep the new believers in your prayers as they continue their walk with Christ. Many are often persecuted by family members or even thrown out of their homes/villages for their new faith. Thank you to everyone who prayed diligently for this event to provide hope and IREF is truly grateful for your support.

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New students and old students pour into the IREF Repalle Evangelical Church to kick off the annual Believers' Retreat.



IREF evangelists lead praise and worship during the Believers' Retreat.



John Rebba shared the Gospel with the help of a translator.



Seven new believers made the commitment of faith through baptism at the end of the Believers' Retreat.



Students are Back, Ready to Succeed in 2015

Students at IREF come from long distances and locally to attend IREF schools. This year many returning students have made the decision to continue their education at IREF due to the quality of education and the Christian principles that are integrated into everyday life at IREF. The 2015-2016 academic year for IREF will include extending its already successful English Medium School to include grades 1st through 7th. Students are given the option to stay on campus in an IREF dormitory or IREF provides a bus service to the local communities to reach children that may not have the resources to accommodate transportation to Repalle. God continues to bless the IREF schools and provide children who would not have an opportunity to be educated a great option to establishing a future. IREF gives priority to the poorest of students during the enrollment time, which can be financially or family-need based. God continues to be gracious to these children and IREF will be obedient to follow God's direction.



School is back in session for the new 2015-16 academic year.



A parent helps his son carry his belongings back to the dorm.



Friends catch up and reunite after being away from IREF for the summer.



Children play at the playground and enjoy being at IREF after the summer holiday.

REGISTER TODAY! 4TH ANNUAL IREF GOLF OUTING

July 2015 continued...

SAT 2015
AUG 15

Register at
IREFUSA.org
Invite a Friend!

DEERFIELD GOLF CLUB • 1201 Saunders Road • Riverwoods, IL 60015

India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship

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 is now in session. 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 as IREF is recruiting team members to join the 2016 missions team. If you are interested in traveling to IREF to serve, please contact US Director, Craig Darling at cdarling@irefusa.org.
- Please pray for IREF as 325 children have been 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.

