

July 2016

5TH ANNUAL IREF GOLF OUTING REGISTER TODAY!



SAT 2016
AUG 20 9

NEW LOCATION!
HIGHLAND PARK
COUNTRY CLUB
ILLINOIS



JOIN US FOR GOLF, FUN AND A MINISTRY UPDATE!

IREF Believers' Retreat is held every year in late June/early July 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 "Waiting for the Savior".

Emmanuel Rebba also aims to refocus the IREF community before the start of the 2016-17 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.

Many attendees at the conference heard the Gospel for the first time due to being new students at IREF. The hope is that these students will build a foundation in Christ during their time of studies.

Please pray the Lord keeps these students and staff always growing in Christ. Please also 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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Emmanuel Rebba (right) and John Rebba (top center) share the hope we have in our Savior to those in attendance at the Believer's Retreat.

IREF college students (left) lead praise and worship during the retreat.



Equipping Leaders in Bringing Christian Hope to Rural India

IREF pastors and staff members were recently invited to The Langham Preaching Conference along with churches and organizations around Andhra Pradesh. The objective of the conference was to learn how to train rural pastors on preaching Biblical, expository, and relevant sermons. The five-day seminar was led by Dr. Paul Windsor, Director of Langham Preaching.

The Langham Preaching Conference was started by John Stott who was an English Christian leader of the worldwide Evangelical movement; with the goal of growing the church with mature preaching. Not only is the conference about building a preaching movement, it is about training in a way that builds and sustains an indigenous movement of biblical preachers, which would change the culture of preaching throughout the world starting at a local, grassroots level. The hope is that as transformation in preaching takes place, it would lead to the transformation of the church.

India Rural Evangelical Fellowship takes responsibility to go, pray and tell all who will hear about Jesus Christ in Andhra Pradesh. Over 500 full-time evangelists and Bible ladies travel miles, often by foot or bicycle throughout rural villages in India boldly proclaiming the Gospel. Their mission is to reach everyone and anyone who will hear the Good News of Jesus Christ by covering more than a thousand towns and villages within a 200-mile radius of Repalle. *"...open your eyes and see the fields! They are ripe for harvest," John 4:35.*

With this as the central and most vital ministry of IREF, seminars and conferences like the Langham Preaching Conference are critical in equipping our leaders with the skills and tools needed to teach and preach God's Word. IREF Repalle Pastor Lawrence Kodali shared, "it was a privilege to attend the Langham Preaching Conference and be part of a movement that will help strengthen the church in Southeast India. I pray that God will use me through what I learned at the conference to bear fruit for His Kingdom. Thank you to the IREF UK Board for giving me the opportunity to attend this conference!"



IREF staff with Dr. Paul Windsor (center) during the conference in Hyderabad.



Dr. Paul Windsor teaching during The Langham Preaching Conference with the help of a Telugu translator.



Break-out sessions during the conference given attendees the chance to learn from each other.

Prayer Requests and Praise

- 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.
- The 2016-17 academic year is in full swing. Many children have returned to continue their education at IREF. Parents and families have shared their confidence in the ministry and the school system to give their children positive opportunities to succeed in life and break the cycle of poverty.
- We praise God for answered prayers during difficult times at IREF. Persecution from local authorities was suppressed by political leaders at higher/state levels who believe in IREF's mission. Thank you for your prayers!
- Please pray as IREF is recruiting team members to join the 2017 missions team. If you are interested in traveling to IREF to serve, please contact US Director, Craig Darling at cdarling@irefusa.org.



July 2016
continued...

India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship

