



India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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Giving a Life that Matters Young adults that have been given the gift of Christian education through IREF start reaping the benefits of a better life almost immediately. The fears they had as a young girl or boy, growing up in Andhra Pradesh start to become replaced with experiences that they dreamed of: to have a family and use the skills they learned at IREF to provide for that family. Thoughts of forced child labor or prostitution only enter their mind when praying for other children now growing up in Andhra Pradesh. For many women at this young adult age, they realize they have broken the “curse” that their families perceived them to be when born. Also for many former students, they are no longer considered an “untouchable”, which is a common name given to low caste families.

Currently, the IREF graduation rate is above 95% for children that start a degree program and approximately 200 young adults attain a degree in a professional study each year. Educating young women has been

a focus for IREF due to the harmful alternatives for uneducated women in Andhra Pradesh. The IREF Nursing program is dedicated to a 100% graduation rate of its students, who are mostly women. These students are trained in real-life skills, which are taken back to home villages and help in the progression of their communities. With the help of loyal sponsors like you, IREF is achieving its mission to break the cycle of poverty in Andhra Pradesh through Christian education.



IREF 2nd - 4th grade children sing during Sunday service.

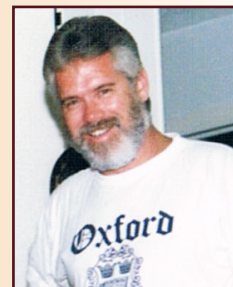
Child Sponsorship Achieving Mission In 1986, at the age of 5 Prabhavathi was brought to IREF by a pastor named Samuel from Guntur after both of her parents died and she had no one to care for her. IREF accepted her into the primary education program and she stayed at the Lydia Children's Home in Repalle.



Little did Prabhavathi know that in light of losing her parents, she would still have a chance to fulfill her dreams. IREF's child sponsorship program linked her with a charitable sponsor from the U.S. who gave her the chance at a Christian education along with food, clothing and a home.

Prabhavathi spent 10 years at IREF and attained a professional degree in science and theology. She and her husband now work as evangelists in North India and they have two sons. God has not only blessed Prabhavathi with a “life that matters” but now she has a life which is based on a constant relationship with Jesus Christ.

The proud sponsor that made a difference in Prabhavathi's life was Pastor Dave Moorhead and his late wife Roz. Dave has served on several mission teams to IREF over the last 20 years and has provided spiritual leadership to the people of Andhra Pradesh. Dave mentions, “on my first trip to Repalle, Emmanuel Rebba told me Prabhavathi was a child without a sponsor and I thought she had a beautiful smile. I decided on the spot I was going to sponsor her and through travels to the IREF campus I got to see her every couple of years, which was a blessing to see her grow up.”



Dave is thrilled to know that Prabhavathi and her husband Sudhakar have dedicated their lives to furthering the Gospel in India. “For her to be in the ministry is the icing on the cake for me and how gracious God is to allow the cycle of ministry to continue in their lives,” adds Dave. His faithfulness to God's calling allowed Prabhavathi a chance **to gain a life that matters** and to help change her community through evangelism.

IREF's Child Sponsorship Program is only made possible because of faithful stewards. **\$35 per month makes a life-changing difference in a child today.** However God is touching your heart, please respond today and help by sponsoring a child or help with any offering given in faith.



Remembering a Dear Friend - Howard Eklind



IREF is very saddened to share with you the loss of a loyal brother in Christ, Howard Eklind. We celebrate that he is now with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (as well as with his wife, Lois) and we will never forget the impact Howard's faith had on the IREF ministry in Andhra Pradesh.

In celebration of Howard's ascent to Heaven, IREF truly thanks him for his years of love, prayers and support to see lives changed in a part of the world that he vowed to support through his unveiling trust in Jesus Christ.



(above) Repalle Evangelical Church - Sunday congregation
(right) Eklind Boy's Dormitory



Although he did not have the opportunity to visit India, that did not stop him from faithfully envisioning the construction of a boy's dormitory at IREF, which now houses over one thousand young boys – a shelter that most would not have otherwise. Also, Howard played a role in building the largest Christian Church, in the district and is located on the IREF campus. The Repalle Evangelical Church sees thousands come to Christ each year and has been a blessing to the children, staff and family of IREF, and also to the newfound Christians and citizens of Repalle.

IREF News & Events on Facebook

We invite you to find us on Facebook! Simply, search India Rural Evangelical Fellowship and click on "Join Group". We will add you to this closed group where about 200 members already get live updates and news feeds on events occurring at the IREF campus and surrounding villages.

We encourage current members of the IREF Facebook Group to add friends, family and acquaintances that may be interested in getting updates and news feeds about the organization.



August 2013
continued...

India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship

Prayer Requests and Praise

- Please pray for the construction process of the Pesarlanka CDC is quick and without further delay. Also for the smooth construction of the elderly care home being built for aging IREF evangelists and Bible ladies.
- Pray that hearts are opened to sponsorship of children, Bible ladies and evangelists to ensure operational costs are met for the IREF campus and surrounding Child Development Centers.
- Please continue to pray for children to respond to the good news of Christ and act as change agents for their family and community. Also, that baptism numbers continue to increase for students accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- Please pray for strength and direction of IREF leaders as teams are being created and staff are preparing for the 2014 Youth Conference and Gospel Meetings.