

August 2016



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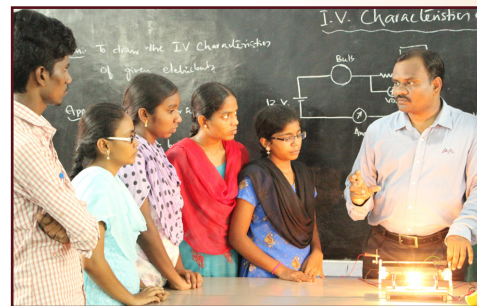
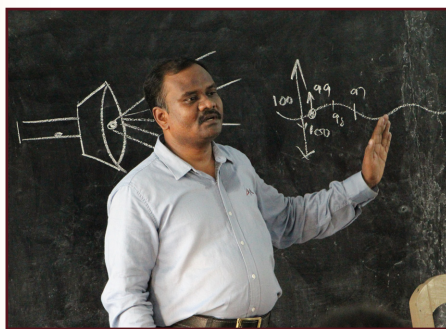
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A New School Year is Underway Many staff members (administrators), professors and teachers work around the clock at IREF to ensure that the students who come to be educated through IREF's educational institutes are receiving a biblically based education with real-world skills, which is designed to help them learn, grow and find a lifelong career and vocation. The goal is to provide the children from destitute and broken homes with education that has the power to break the cycle of poverty and in turn allow these students to serve as agents of change to root their families in Christ's love.

One particular individual has been working at IREF for over 20 years and has seen thousands of students progress and move their families out of desperate poverty. Mr. Z. Ratna Prasad started working at IREF in 1994 as a Chemistry professor when IREF first started the Repalle Christian College.

He has seen IREF grow over the decades from conducting classes in a renovated chicken shed to a three-story building generously funded and provided by a European donor.

Ratna Prasad is now the principal of Repalle Christian College. He has made it his personal mission to "give the children who come to IREF a chance to succeed in life. The reality is that each child who comes here is coming from desperately poor situations. Our mission at IREF is not only to provide care and refuge to the poor, but also to provide compassion, dignity and equality."



Principal, Mr. Z. Ratna Prasad teaching during a chemistry lab session at Repalle Christian College.

Repalle Christian College ranked 4th best college/university in the Guntur district (out of 395 total). And Ratna Prasad attributes this success to a few key factors: "our complete dependence upon God has helped us overcome every challenge and empower thousands of children over the years. We make the well-being of these young people our priority. We care about their education and also about each student's well-being spiritually, physically and emotionally. This is a safe place for them, especially when often times these students have no where else to turn. And a very crucial key to our success is

the dedicated staff members of IREF". Every staff member is assigned to a group of students to mentor and guide during their college journey. Approximate 90% of Repalle Christian College students graduate with what is equivalent to a 3.0 grade point average!

As a new school year has started at IREF, there are many young people who have come to IREF for the first time in search of hope for a better future. Many do not realize that God has placed them at IREF for His purpose. Providing these young people with Christian education is providing them with the tools that will expand the kingdom of God in a region of India where less than 5% of the population are Christian.

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5TH ANNUAL IREF GOLF OUTING IT'S NOT TOO LATE...REGISTER TODAY AT IREFUSA.ORG!

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The students awake at 5:30am for devotions and study hour, and each class is started with prayer. Their day also ends with an hour of evening devotions and study hour monitored by professors. These kids are being given every tool available to make their lives (and the lives of those around them) better in countless ways.

"I want my students to earn a college education so that they will in turn become worthy citizens of India, and of the Kingdom. God has really blessed me through my work here at IREF. I get to see many students uplifted from their lives of poverty. It is only by the grace of God!" A young person attending school at IREF is given hope through education that will empower him/her for a lifetime, given an opportunity for more than they can even imagine and most importantly, a foundation of faith.

We praise God for the great things He has done through Repalle Christian College and ask for your continued prayers for staff members like Ratna Prasad plant the seeds of possibilities in so many young people on a daily basis at IREF. "There are so many people who have prayed for our students and staff from all around the world for many years and I would like to personally thank you all for supporting us in the way that you do," shares Ratna Prasad.



Young eager students learning.



A student takes notes in his bible during devotions before the school day begins.

August 2016
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The Holy Spirit is Moving at IREF. Many young people are coming forward each week and giving their lives to Christ. Baptism is a public confession of faith that some are afraid to make in fear of the persecution and ostracism that comes from this decision to follow Christ. Yet each week, an average of 15 young people are being baptized!

We praise God for the decision so many are making to follow Christ! Please pray for the many new believers as they face opposition from family members and communities. Please pray that they will find peace and strength in Christ.



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.
- Please pray for Emmanuel Rebba and evangelists/ Bible ladies to have the strength and good health to continue ministering to congregations throughout IREF's span.
- Praise God for His graciousness to this ministry and His sovereignty to provide for every need.
- 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.
- Praise God for His graciousness to this ministry and His sovereignty to provide for every need.
- Please pray for IREF teachers and staff as they work diligently each day to make a positive impact in the lives of the children at IREF.

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