

September 2016



Golf Outing Success The 5th IREF Annual Golf Outing was such a wonderful blessing and great success this year. Participants traveled from all over the U.S. to be a part of this event and support the fundraising efforts for the ministry of IREF. The IREF board members would like to extend their appreciation to everyone who contributed silent auction items, time to set up for the event and all who financially contributed to this event to support the mission of IREF. May the Glory be to God for allowing this event to be such a blessing of fun and fellowship for all who attended and may God bless everyone who sacrificed in order to ensure this event happened.



India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

PO Box 1332
Park Ridge, IL
60068-7332

IREF Info Line:
p 847.220.IREF (4733)
f 847.680.4270

Visit us on the web:
www.irefusa.org

Send us an email:
info@irefusa.org



The success of this event is completely reliant on God's grace and loyal supporters who have a passion for IREF.



Stories of IREF Children - How You are Making a Difference

IREF was started by Prasada Rao Rebba, who had a momentous conversion experience in 1950. After dedicating his life to God, he felt compelled to start walking from village to village in rural India sharing his faith with anyone who would listen. Soon, the seeds he planted began to grow. Others joined him in the Cause, and small flocks of believers began to form in some of the surrounding villages.

By the early 1980's, Prasada Rao and his wife Lydia had brought five orphans to live under their roof. They educated them spiritually and academically. As the children reached middle-school age, they could not let the kids go onto government schooling, where Hinduism is still taught. So they decided to start their own school.

What started as a small school for a handful of unfortunate children has turned into an entire school system for thousands. Over 40% of that population is still without mother or father. While many may not have biological parents, they have found family at IREF. Each child's story is one of tragedy and brokenness.

Meet Babitha, Akitha and their brother Abinash:

"Our father was an alcoholic. Because of his heavy drinking, he became very sick and was taken to several hospitals for treatment. Although he was told to stop drinking; he didn't and finally his kidneys stopped functioning and he died. My mom worked odd jobs to try to make ends meet. Someone from our village, who knew of our struggles, had attended IREF's Youth Conference and told our mom about what a great place IREF is. My mom wanted us to get a good education and to be cared for in the best way possible. So she brought my sister and I to IREF. We have been at IREF for 6 years and we are so happy here. I am thankful that God has kept us safe. Our brother is now studying at IREF too and we are thankful that the three of us have opportunities that we never imagined possible."

The "odd jobs" that Babitha references is in fact prostitution. Their mother was diagnosed with HIV in recent months and has shared her concerns over her children's futures with IREF. Please pray for this family as they have a long road ahead of them.

Knowing that seeds take time to grow, Prasada Rao and Lydia focused on building a foundation of faith. Emmanuel and Dee Rebba have carried on that vision. Today, the children at IREF are given every tool available to make their lives (and the lives of those around them) better in countless ways.

Through your support of IREF, children who would otherwise be destined to a life of poverty are being given the tools to change the pattern. They're being given a foundation of faith and a mind of knowledge, inside and outside the classroom. You are helping educate generations of Indian children to think differently about God, about themselves and about their place in this world. You can see the Light shining through in these children's eyes. They have hope beyond the confines of the caste and desperation into which they were born. They have dreams that reach beyond a life of arduous labor that awaits so many others.

You are empowering lives - You are making a difference!

Prayer Requests and Praise

- Thank you to all our friends for joining us at our 5th Annual IREF Golf Outing. We are especially grateful to all who prayed for a successful day!
- 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.
- Praise God for His graciousness to this ministry and His sovereignty to provide for every need.
- Please pray as IREF staff and students prepare for the 2017 Youth Conference January 11-15 and Gospel Meetings February 1-5.



Chandayya is one of seven children. His mother died during a c-section gone wrong while delivering her 7th child.



Priyanka was brought to IREF when she was in the 3rd grade. Her parents and brother were killed in a auto rickshaw accident. Today she is in 10th grade and thriving!



Top: Akitha (left) and Babitha (right) with Dee Rebba. Bottom: Akitha, Babitha, and Abinash with their mother when she dropped them off at IREF for the new school year in June.



September 2016
continued...

India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship