

## IREF Christmas Wishes Come True in October!

October is the month that IREF board members start planning for year end Christmas gifts for the children enrolled in the child sponsorship program at IREF. Everyone young and old knows how exciting Christmas time can be with the anticipation of receiving a gift that wouldn't have been a possibility without the help from someone that cared for you. Many of these children come to IREF from homes where their parents live off of less than one dollar a day and cannot afford to feed or educate them. The blessing of a Christmas gift serves to provide clothes for these children and helps confirm the true meaning of Christmas that come from non-Christian homes. Because of the generous hearts of hundreds of loyal IREF sponsors, the IREF campus has seen the faces of so many unfortunate children glow during this time of the year and it is all to the glory of God!

Please prayerfully consider a tax-free donation to help your child or evangelist receive a year-end Christmas gift. The cost to purchase a gift for 2013 is \$25 dollars for children and \$45 for an evangelist and his family. The sacrifice that you make to deliver this special act of kindness to a less fortunate child in India will be a decision that will impact their lives for years to come!



*(Above) Dee Rebba leads the childrens choir on Chrismas morning 2012. (Left) John Rebba distributes Christmas gifts to children at the Arumbaka IREF Lydia Children's Home.*

## How Christmas Impacts Children: A Letter from Jeremy Thompson

I came to Repalle this October with plans to specifically listen to some of the children's stories and hear their background histories, which ultimately brought them to IREF. In the U.S. the stories are always told and they have impact, but I felt there was a life lesson for me in hearing it directly from the students.

I asked my mother in law, Dee, to take me to the IREF-John's Elementary School and talk to three to five children so I could hear first hand the challenges that these children are facing each day. Dee had two children (siblings) in mind that she thought I should listen to first. Their names are Chandana (age 8) and Preetham (age 6). Chandana was shy, but she is the oldest sibling so she did most of the talking for herself and her brother. The story was tragic as the father was an abusive alcoholic and the mother died of tuberculosis. After the mother died, the father abandoned them. The children were brought to the IREF campus by a neighbor who noticed the children had not been cared for in the days following their mother's death. No relatives were willing to care for them either.

Lydia Children's Home became a new home for Chandana and Preetham. Evangeline Rebba (Emmanuel's sister) has paid especially close attention to these two children because they are struggling with their loss. To see the strong emotion each child was feeling during this conversation was heartbreaking for me. I realized that I could never feel the magnitude of their loss because I grew up with so much and I didn't have a life experience to compare.



My one breakthrough moment with these children was when I was able to ask Chandana and Preetham these two questions: *Are you looking forward to Christmas this year and what did you get for Christmas last year?* Immediately, a large smile came across their faces. Preetham looked up for the first time in our conversation and said, "I got new clothes!" For that moment such a small thing as a Christmas gift broke the stream of emotions each child was feeling and it changed the direction of our conversation from extremely sad to smiles of joy.

It made me realize how perfect God's plan is to provide these children with joy that overshadows their loss. God touched my heart and I will never forget this conversation. Chandana and Preetham will be in my daily prayers and I look forward to watching them grown up here at IREF.





## New IREF Website Creates Mission Impact

Praise God! The newly updated IREF website is complete and ready to aid many in spreading the good news happening at IREF today! Our board has diligently been praying for a way to link new and current sponsors of the ministry with a more convenient and cost effective way to make an impact in India. In many situations, a website is the main point of contact for anyone researching and considering a donation in a ministry and it is an industry standard for success.

The functional changes that were made have been an ongoing process undertaken over the last year and God's plan for this new ministry tool is nothing shy of perfect! The new updates have provided IREF with the ability to take online donations via credit card and check, which makes giving more convenient and cost effective without the cost of a stamp.

Please pray that God will work through the website to call new partners to support the ministry to make change occur in Andhra Pradesh, India. We praise God for the loyal partners of IREF that made these changes possible and ask God to bless them for their loyal stewardship. Please help IREF maximize the opportunity to let the new website be a blessing to many people by talking about IREF to your friends, small group, or co-workers.



**Financial Accountability** To insure financial accountability, the IREF Board is committed to measures that guide the ministry of IREF in a capacity that is pleasing to the Lord. Further, we recognize that partners in the ministry of IREF, that work to impact the mission in India each year, have a need to be updated on current financial regulation that IREF participates to be good stewards of donations received.

- 1) An outside CPA firm audits our books annually. We have done this continuously for twenty five (25) years. These audits are available to any donor at request.
- 2) As a US 501©3 non-profit charitable organization, we annually file an IRS Form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax) with the IRS, which is available on the IRS website. We also file the Illinois Form 990 with the Illinois Attorney General.
- 3) We are members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). ECFA Accreditation entitles a ministry to use the ECFA seal, but this requires us to maintain the ministry's good faith compliance with the ECFA Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship ([www.ecfa.org/Content/Standards](http://www.ecfa.org/Content/Standards)).

We do these measures to insure that donors are allowed the appropriate tax deductions. We want every donor to know that we operate at the highest level of financial accountability and integrity.

*Elliot Johnson*  
Treasurer, IREF

## Prayer Requests

- Pray that God will provide the funding to provide the children of IREF with the joy of celebrating Christmas.
- Please pray for strength and direction of IREF leaders as teams are being created and staff are preparing for the 2014 Youth Conference, Gospel Meetings and UK Medical Mission.
- Pray for the State of Andhra Pradesh as political battles have created potential problems in railway travel and electricity to power the IREF campus.
- Pray that the mission of IREF is shared among new partners to ensure more individuals have the opportunity to share in God's blessing to reach the people of Andhra Pradesh.

## India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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