

November 2012



India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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Giving Children a Chance to Succeed...

IREF's beginnings trace back to helping children off the streets. There is an overwhelming need for a safe place for many children. IREF breaks the self-perpetuating cycle of poverty and despair by providing children with the basic necessities of life: food, clothing, shelter, health-care and an education.



IREF is educating generations of Indian kids to think differently about God, about themselves and about their place in this world. They are empowering lives, inside and outside the classroom.

The seeds of IREF were planted by Prasada Rao Rebba in 1950. And those seeds were from the tree of Life. He walked from rural village to rural village telling all who would listen about his newfound Hope. He was an evangelist in the purest sense. And he brought a message that was in stark contrast to the bigotry of the surrounding culture.

No longer did people have to be defined by the caste into which they were born. No longer did they have to resign themselves to their lowly lot in life, to their status as "bottom rungs" of the social ladder.

For "...in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith...there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor

free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:26,28)

This is a message of freedom, of unity and of hope to be told that all are equal in the eyes of God is a novel notion for so many here in India. That message Rev. Rebba took to villages over 60 years ago is the same message being brought to thousands more throughout the area by IREF pastors, evangelists and Bible ladies.

You can see the Light shining through the IREF kids' eyes. They are seeing the world in new and exciting ways. They have hope beyond the confines of the caste into which they were born. They have dreams that reach beyond a life of arduous labor that awaits so many others.

IREF is truly changing lives... these kids are being given something they couldn't get anywhere else...hope for a better future, opportunity for more and most importantly, a foundation of faith. IREF's mission of cultural change extends to those all around them – in the rural villages and overlooked places there in southern India. The presence of Christ changes lives, and IREF is doing all it can to bring that spirit of Christ to as many people as possible.



We could not do all of this without your support. As you consider your year-end gifts, please prayerfully consider how you can help with an additional gift offering of \$20 per child or \$40 per evangelist and family in coming months to make Christmas special for so many in India.

Motivating, Empowering and Encouraging

Thank you for your prayers for the pastors conferences throughout the year. The pastors are yearning to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a tremendous opportunity that the Lord has given to IREF to shine the light of Christ in the villages of Andhra Pradesh and to expand the Kingdom. One village in particular, Tirupati, is a place of enormous evil. Known for its sizable Hindu temples, it is a major stronghold of the enemy. It is miles and miles of temples and shrines dedicated to false deities. Many pastors are discouraged by such intense opposition. The IREF seminar in Tirupati was held at the end of October to encourage the local pastors to keep their heads high, and their eyes looking to Jesus, and guiding others to do the same. IREF evangelists, Bible ladies and pastors are working hard to bring the light of Christ to this village and provide a source of encouragement to their fellow pastors and friends in various villages and districts.

Many pastors from the Tirupati area recommitted their lives to Christ. Many came forward and shared their response to the seminar with tears. Many were encouraged and also went back to their villages heavy hearted and burdened to save souls for the kingdom of God. As IREF carries on this burden to reach out to pastors, please pray as we strengthen these pastors' ministries and provide encouragement in fulfilling their task for the kingdom. During these seminars it is emphasized to evangelists, Bible ladies and church elders that they must live in Christ and stand firm in spreading the word of God throughout their villages.

We ask that you join us in supporting and praying for so many evangelists and Bible ladies who have dedicated their lives to reach the lost and further His Kingdom in rural India. With your help of \$50 a month they can serve the Lord full time.



2013 New Year Events

For the past 26 years, teams of pastors, medical personnel and willing workers have been traveling from the US and UK to Repalle to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

A team of students from Trinity International University leave Chicago after Christmas each year to spend 2 weeks in Repalle



working with the young students at IREF in the classroom, building churches, and sharing the Gospel with their testimonies of faith in multiple villages.



Every January, IREF hosts a Youth Conference for 5 days. Thousands of young people attend each year and hundreds accept Christ as their Savior.

At the end of January, another team travels to India for the Gospel Meetings. Many more people come to a saving faith in Jesus. Thousands of people travel from far distances to hear the Gospel. Many poor and needy travel for medical care and assistance in the free clinic that is set up on the IREF campus. Please pray with us for the teams heading to IREF, pray that the Spirit will lead each team member through their journey to IREF, and please pray for safety and health.

Dear Ministry Partners,

I am writing you to let you know of a change at India Rural Evangelical Fellowship (IREF).

For more than fifteen years I have been serving IREF as the Financial Secretary – handling the donations you send to the remittance address (IREF PO Box). Earlier this year God provided a way for my family to relocate from northern Wisconsin back to the Chicago area.

After a time of discussion, the IREF USA Board has decided to relocate the remittance address back to the PO Box in Park Ridge, IL.

So effective immediately all gifts should be sent to the new remittance address:

India Rural Evangelical Fellowship
P.O. Box 1332
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We ask that you update your electronic giving to the new remittance address as soon as possible.

Do not be concerned if you have recently sent gifts to the old remittance address. IREF plans to maintain the previous PO Box for a period of time.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me. Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministry of IREF – reaching the needy people of Andhra Pradesh, India.

Bill Hampe, IREF Financial Secretary
847-220-4733 (phone) • bhampe@irefusa.org (email)

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for IREF staff as they prepare for celebrating Christmas at IREF. There is much that goes into planning for the holiday season in Repalle. Please prayerfully consider how you can help with an additional gift offering of \$20 per child or \$40 per evangelist and family in coming months to make Christmas special for so many in India.
- Pray for the students from Trinity International University - Deerfield, IL as they travel to Repalle on December 26th for 2 weeks. Pray for health and travel safety. And also pray that their time with the IREF children is blessed.
- Pray for the upcoming January Youth Conference and February Gospel meetings. Pray for the teams as they travel, preach the Gospel and provide medical care to those in spiritual and physical need.
- Praise God for the thousands of viewers who are hearing the Gospel through IREF TV each week. Many are saved each month and the ripples that IREF is making in India are traveling far, with God at the center of it all.

November 2012
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India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship