



## How Much Blessing Can a Gospel Team Contribute in 10 Days?

When I went to serve with an IREF Gospel Team back in February 2012, I went to India thinking that I'd serve mostly by preaching and teaching alongside our team of pastors. But it was a huge blessing for me to experience the Lord using us all to be a blessing in many, many other ways! Whether it's through praying for people, playing with kids, or even just giving a smile and a wave to someone you see...there are no limits to the number of ways the Lord uses our team members.

It's not just about serving through specialized gifts and skills, like preaching or medical care. The most important thing to have is a willing heart...make yourself available to serve in whatever ways the Lord sees fit! You'll be amazed at all the different ways He uses you - and you'll be amazed at how He blesses your life in the process!

*Brandon Smith, Pastor*  
Village Church of Gurnee



**The Power of the Gospel Team** It always amazes me the way God orchestrates our team members' lives to have an impact on people in India. I remember speaking at a large open field meeting (where the Repalle IREF church now resides), I had spoken on Jesus' healing of the man full of leprosy and closed my message saying we all are covered with a spiritual leprosy called sin- we are in need of Jesus' cleansing touch of forgiveness. At the meeting's end, a college age girl came up on our makeshift stage and threw herself down on a bale of hay, wailing and crying out repeatedly, "I'm more unclean than the leper!" In tearful repentance she received the forgiveness that could only come through the touch of the Master - she believed! She had come to Repalle just for the day to visit a friend who ended up at our meeting.

One of our medical teams attended to an elderly woman at the conference who had walked miles with a large open, grossly infected sore that extended from her knee down her calf to her ankle. She had packed coffee grounds in the infected area. When our medical team assessed her condition, they concluded the infection was so severe, she would need her leg amputated to save her life. We were not equipped for that procedure, therefore we cleaned her wound, gave her antibiotics and additional bandaging material for the infection, prayed over her and sent her back to her village never expecting to see her alive again. The next year she returned to our meetings, her leg ... totally healed!!

Many of our team members spend time getting to know the children of IREF. One young IREF girl had been selected to help our teams 2-3 years in a row. She was an outgoing girl who loved being among our outreach teams, often talking and sharing with individual members. When our team arrived she came up to one of our returning nurses, whom she knew, holding up one finger and boldly proclaiming, "Auntie, Auntie! Only one God Only one God!" She had come to believe, not in the many deities of Hinduism, but in the one true living God!

*Craig Darling,*  
IREF USA Director



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**God's Power to Provide** Matthew 6:25-34 speaks directly of God's command for his children to avoid worrying about tomorrow and encourages us to place our confidence in God's ability to provide for our every need. For over 60 years, IREF has counted on this promise from God to sustain the ministry and ensure that thousands of children are not only fed and clothed, but educated to receive the blessing of a better life. Praise God for the active and ongoing support that has consistently blessed the ministry of IREF for over six decades.

As we conclude our final months of 2013, IREF is asking that you would keep the ministry in your prayers for financial obligations to be met to provide Christmas gifts and also for God's guidance to establish ministry and medical teams for January Youth Conferences and February Gospel Meetings.

Funding IREF through monetary gifts and gifts of time and skills is meant to be an ongoing and active process. God has called us to facilitate this process through prayer, meditation on His word and obedience to it. We ask that

you will join us in this process. IREF is faithful to this calling and will continue the ministry in Andhra Pradesh with confidence God will provide for the means to sustain His organization. God's blessing on this ministry becomes more evident each year as the number of children continue to grow and the needs of the ministry continue to be met. IREF will be faithful until the end and we pray for our loyal partners every day, who follow the calling of the Holy Spirit to make this ministry possible!



*Young boys gathered for a Sunday morning photo after service in the IREF Repalle Church.*

**IREF Annual Progress** As the holiday season is rapidly approaching, we hope that you can join us in preparing to remember the children in our IREF schools at Christmas. We strongly discourage sponsors from sending individual gifts as that invariably causes hard feeling in the dorms, but please feel free to send a contribution marked Child Christmas Gifts, and we will pool all the money received to present each child with something of equal value.

They are thrilled to get something new, often for the first time in their lives, and to know that someone they have never even met loves them enough to care. As you prepare for your own celebrations, we hope that you have warm thoughts of the joy you bring these lovely children.

*Jim Kueck,*  
IREF Board Chairman

## Prayer Requests and Praise

- Praise God for the 2014 mission teams that have been created year to date from the US and UK. God's guiding hand has turned many last minute changes into a perfect plan to bless the people of India. As team members are preparing for their journey to Repalle, please pray for their health, safety and their time of ministry to be a blessing to IREF.
- Praise God for the many loyal sponsors who have given faithfully to provide Christmas gifts for the children of IREF. We have raised enough for 68 children's gifts and 24 evangelists gifts. Please pray that we will be able to raise enough for the remaining children and evangelists this Christmas.
- Praise God for the Holy Spirit moving among young people on the IREF campus. Prayer teams are thriving throughout the student body. These prayer groups have seen many children becoming closer in their relationship with God on a daily basis. And many making public professions of faith each week.
- Please pray for strength, direction and safety of IREF leaders and the Rebba family as travel plans and campus preparations are being made to guide 2014 mission teams to Repalle, India.
- Please pray for the health of Roberta Berggren, a loyal member of the IREF team that ensures that the IREF monthly newsletter is assembled and mailed each month. She was recently hospitalized and is recovering.

November 2013  
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India Rural  
Evangelical  
Fellowship