



Cyclone Hudhud Challenges God's Plan for IREF Relief Work

IREF staff and students were challenged with an act of charity that they could only trust God to handle. On Tuesday October 14th as Cyclone Hudhud pounded villages in India to the north of the IREF campus (by approx. 6 hours), it destroyed close to 80,000 mud homes, leaving many people without food. 25 people died as the result of Cyclone Hudhud and were the direct result of fallen trees, collapsing buildings and power lines. IREF staff members immediately felt a strong need to help and geared up to help in any way God would allow them.

However, with a lack of disaster relief funding through IREF in 2014, there was no direct means to provide food to those most impacted in Andhra Pradesh. IREF staff still felt compassion on the victims and felt something must be done to help them according to Emmanuel Rebba, President of IREF India. "Staff and college students mobilized almost immediately after the storm subsided. Staff members offered to give up one day's pay to ensure that IREF could do something for the victims," said Emmanuel. College students also quickly mobilized on bicycles and road around Repalle asking for any donation locals could give to help buy food for the families. The results were entrusted to God and He provided fifty 2lb. bags of rice that IREF delivered to the most impacted areas.

Emmanuel Rebba stated further that people who have very little (including IREF staff) have a strong sense of charity and conviction to help others in need. The Cyclone Hudhud relief efforts are a great testament to how God used ordinary people to do extraordinary things. God continues to use IREF along with staff and students to serve as a point of refuge for impoverished areas of Andhra Pradesh, India. How wonderful God is to provide funding for relief efforts in light of funding challenges in 2014 and allow IREF to continue its mission in serving the poor! 2 Corinthians 12:9, "My Grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."



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

Christmas for India

We are now collecting Christmas gifts for children, evangelists and their families. A considerable amount of planning by the IREF board and staff is required to arrange gifts and we thank you in advance for your stewardship.

Any support received now will ensure that Christmas will arrive on time. Please consider:

- \$25 for children's Christmas Gift (new clothes)
- \$45 for Evangelists and Bible Ladies Christmas Gift (new clothing and food for their family)

To deliver your Christmas gift to India sooner, donate online at irefusa.org and simply click "How to Help" and "Make a Donation".

We extend our warmest thanks to you, the faithful supporters of IREF who make Christmas in Repalle possible each year!






Financial Accountability

The IREF board would like to encourage a gift of \$25 dollars for children and \$45 dollars for evangelist to cover the cost of their annual Christmas gift. IREF has many unsponsored children this year, so your generosity comes greatly appreciated. Please designate your donation for Christmas Gift-Child or Christmas Gift-Evangelist when you mail your response envelope or give online at www.irefusa.org.

The Christmas gifts are presented to each child and evangelist at our Christmas celebration at the Repalle Church on Christmas Eve. Many children come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior during the Christmas events each year so please pray that God uses this time for his glory. Thank you for supporting the mission of IREF.

Emmanuel Rebba, President IREF India



IREF Children Working to Send Christmas Blessings to Sponsors

Currently at IREF, the students are starting to hear bits and pieces about Christmas as we are working with each of them to complete the annual sponsor Christmas cards. Our goal through this process is to help the children envision the blessing their words bring to sponsors during the holiday season and also help them to truly understand the blessing they receive from this relationship. I want each child to know that this sponsor-child relationship is the result of God's love for them, which is something they can think about over and over throughout the IREF Christmas events and messages.

This is not an exercise that most children understand fully so it takes a lot of explanation on my part and from the teachers to help them see the blessing that they give when they create their Christmas card. My blessing is seeing a child start to ask questions about their sponsor and I get the privilege of telling them little pieces of information I know about that sponsor. For example, I worked with Kiran Kumar whose sponsor is Brett and Kiri Carlson from Grand Rapids, Michigan and are expecting a new baby soon. He loved hearing about the Carlsons having a baby boy and decided to tell his sponsor that he is praying for them during this exciting time.

God's plan is more perfect than just providing money for these children. Each year it becomes more clear to me that the gift of hope that comes from sponsors and the joy these children bring to my friends back in the US and UK is the real reason the IREF child sponsorship program even exists. Thank you to all the sponsors that bring hope each year to these children. My only wish is that you could see the children's hard work to create these cards firsthand so that you would experience their joy to the fullest.

Dee Rebba



November 2014
continued...

India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship

Prayer Requests and Praise

- Praise God for the 2014 matching grant and the encouragement it has been to IREF leaders to raise funds to replace the lost European funding.
- Please pray that IREF will be able to fully attain the generous \$100,000 matching grant to provide for IREF children as the calendar year comes to a close. The grant will expire on December 31st, so we ask that you continue to share with friends, family and small groups about the need we have.
- Please pray for the continued support of IREF children that are waiting for a new sponsor to step up to partner with them. May God have mercy and grace upon their education, family and spirituality.
- Please pray for the upcoming Christmas season and that IREF would be able to promote Christianity to children and locals with the message of the Christmas story. Preparations are underway for all child and evangelist gifts. IREF is counting on God to provide the funding for this impactful time of the year for the people of Southeast India.
- IREF is preparing for the 2015 missions trip. Please pray for those signed up and for IREF USA Director, Craig Darling, as they serve in Repalle this coming January. Please also pray that travels will be smooth and God will use them according to His will.