

# Update

December 2011



## What's In A Name?

October 2nd was an exciting day for nearly 300 Indian girls in the state of Maharashtra. These young ladies each received a



certificate for an official name change. All these girls had been given the same name in Hindi, Nakusa or Nakushi. The meaning of this identity ... unwanted! One fifteen year old said her grandfather was so disappointed at her birth he demanded the name Nakusa for her.

The plight of girls this past year became more urgent as India's census revealed the nation's sex ratio had tumbled over the decade. Today, for every 1,000 boys there are 914 girls, representing an alarming decline in girls to boys. These ratios reflect an ongoing attitude of discrimination toward India's females. Sex selective abortions and often sheer neglect have lead to higher death rates among girls.

So serious is the problem Indian hospitals legally banned gender identity of the unborn.

Male favoritism stems in part from the sizable expense of marrying off girls. Families are often shackled into debt arranging marriages and paying out weighty dowries. A male, however, brings in a dowry with his bride and males are entrusted with special family privileges.

This Christmas season, we at IREF thank you for allowing us to embrace countless young girls, lovingly accepting them, affirming their dignity as creations of a gracious heavenly Father, and educating them for their future. It is our hope that many of these girls will see their identity in the person whose name signifies his greatness and purpose this season, "She will bear son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

(Matthew 1:21) "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means God with us)." (Matt. 1:23)

Thank you for your partnership in making the name of Jesus known among the peoples!

Sincerely,  
*Craig Darling U.S. Director*

## There's Still Time Before Christmas

There's still time to give the children, evangelists and Bible ladies at IREF a Christmas gift and dinner too! To deliver your Christmas gift to India sooner, consider donating online using JustGive or PayPal. Go to [www.irefusa.org](http://www.irefusa.org) and simply click "How to Help". From there, click "Online Donation" to easily give today! See more projects and ways to help on the enclosed Capital Project list or by clicking on our "Current Major Projects" under "How to Help". We need the help of our ministry partners in order to touch the lives of so many in rural India. Please prayerfully consider how you can help.

*We would like to extend the warmest thanks to you,  
the faithful supporters who make a Christmas celebration possible each year!*

## Prayer & Praise

- Please pray for IREF as we prepare to celebrate Christmas with students and staff. Prayerfully consider how you can help with an additional gift to make Christmas special for so many.
- Praise God for the thousands of viewers who are hearing the Gospel through IREF TV each week.
- Pray for the upcoming January/February Youth Conference and Gospel meetings.
- Pray for the the US and UK teams as they travel to India for the conferences in January and reach so many with the message of Salvation .

## Contact Us:

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