

December 2013



India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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I feel blessed...as I always feel after returning from an IREF visit. 2 Corinthians 9:8 - And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

How could I possibly know the full weight of this verse on my first IREF visit in 1986? It was my privilege to be a part of the first U.S. team to visit the ministry. We arrived in Repalle to see two thatch-roofed huts, serving as a church, a school and home to six orphans. Today, with over 4,000 students, and over 600 church plants, the ministry of IREF has affected thousands of lives. Giving hope, and bringing the light of Jesus to an area that previously had little or no Christian witness.

The reason for my recent visit was to bring video equipment and provide training so that IREF can continue to broadcast their Sunday morning service across India. The response to the broadcast thus far has been very encouraging- with many decisions to follow Christ. My excitement on this trip was even greater in bringing my two youngest kids. Seeing them participate in the ministry, my daughter Tessa through teaching, and my son Tim through producing a film for IREF, really encouraged my heart. And seeing them experience the ministry and the country of India for the first time brought me back to my first visit.



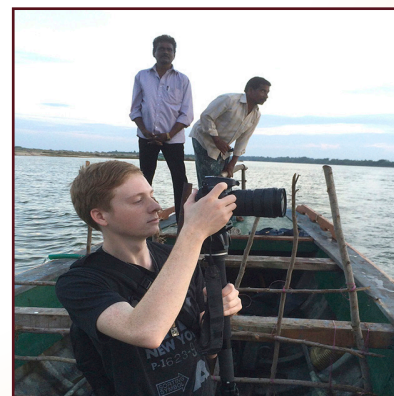
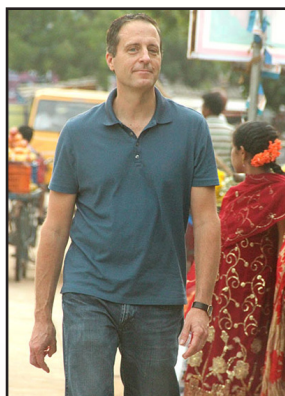
While we were there we heard many testimonies of people whose lives were affected by this vital ministry. One day we were in Repalle buying fruit, and a woman came up to Dee Rebba and told her how IREF had changed her life. She was a student in both the high school and the nursing college. Today she is married and working at a local hospital. She said that coming from her family's poor background, she would have never had the opportunity she has been given were it not for IREF. We heard many other stories like hers during our trip, and after so many years of working with IREF it was so encouraging.

One day, I had the opportunity to speak at IREF's technical school. About 200 young college-age men have the opportunity there to learn an electrical, engine, or tool shop trade. This school gives them job opportunities in fields where they can earn a decent wage. I was very impressed with the facility, teachers and students - all very eager to learn and progress in their skills.

I am so impressed when I see the way IREF not only shares the gospel, but loves people at their point of need. Whether it is relief help in the aftermath of a monsoon, education, housing and care for orphans, or church planting in remote villages, the people of IREF have built a community of caring and love. They have a reputation in the area of selfless support and honesty- a shining light.

As I look back over 27 years of partnering with this ministry, I can truly say it has been one of the best investments of my life.

Chip Moore





Resolution 2014: To Build Your Legacy through Sacrifice

Charity finds its way into many hearts each year to those who support IREF with not only their talents, but with their financial gifts as well. For just 35 dollars a month, you have the opportunity to not only feed and clothe a child stricken with poverty, but you are giving them a life changing tool, an education. Child sponsorship is a commitment that ensures that your sacrifice is blessed through knowing you touched a life with the gift that builds self-esteem, integrity and respect. Graduates of IREF have played strong roles in communities over the last 20 years and have used their gifts, talents and education to change a state that is plagued with poverty and religious oppression.

When you make the decision to commit to changing a life in 2014, IREF will provide you with a picture of the child you will be partnered with along with annual progress reports of the student's education. You will have the opportunity to write and encourage your sponsor child during the school year and offer them the same words of affirmation you needed while completing your education. Every year, many children make a tough decision to finish their Degree and Post Graduate work and many do it through the strength provided by their loving sponsor.

Each year many children apply for the chance to attend IREF and the poorest of the poor are selected first and foremost. "100% of all proceeds for the IREF Child Sponsorship Program go toward feeding, clothing and educating the children of Andhra Pradesh. This is why we need your help!" Jim Kueck, IREF Board Chairman.

If you are interested in partnering with a child at IREF, please email us at info@irefusa.org and we will work with you to select a child that you feel led to help.



Young boys gathered for prayer before Sunday morning church service at Lydia Children's Home in Repalle.

Financial Accountability It is with great sadness that we start to say goodbye to one of our blessed Institutional partners as they reduce child sponsorship for over 200 hundred children for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. Due to continued conflicts with the India Government, this partner of over 20 years has made a tough decision to phase out support for IREF by 2016. Religious oppression is real in India and working aggressively from a Government level to intimidate those who try to promote Christianity in a predominantly hindu country. In light of this change, I ask that you will keep IREF in your prayers for decisions that will be made that impact the ministry's ability to obtain new child sponsors to replace this funding partner. I truly believe that God has a perfect plan and his only request is for us to meditate on the His Word and remain obedient. I know the Holy Spirit is working through many disciple's hearts to provide sponsorship for the children previously supported by our loyal partner. I have hope in Christ that the children who lost their sponsor for 2014-2015 will find sponsorship so they can continue their studies at IREF.

Emmanuel Rebba, IREF Director

Prayer Requests and Praise

- Praise God for the many members of IREF family that have used their talents and abilities to support the children and staff in Repalle. We praise God for their commitment to travel the long distance to bless IREF.
- Please pray for strength, direction and safety of IREF board members, staff and teams as they prepare to touch lives through the Christmas Celebration, Youth Conferences and Gospel Meetings.
- Please pray for the continued support of IREF children in light of a faithful sponsor leaving. Ask that IREF leaders will seek God through upcoming decisions regarding the ministry's ability to serve the children. In light of celebrating Christ's birth this year, please pray that God will continue to bless the ministry of IREF.

**December 2013
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**India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship**