

# India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

## 2013 Annual Ministry Report

The beginning of a New Year is always a great time to reflect on the past year, to see what the Lord is teaching us that can help us navigate the yet unknown challenges of the coming year. This past year, like all the years before, was full of circumstances and events that seemed to threaten our ministry, but, like all the years before, our loving Father was stronger and brought us through with increasing impact on the world around us.

We were able to send teams of pastors and doctors to conduct two weeks of teaching and medical clinics, along with a team from Trinity International University to assist at the youth conference. Even though the local officials have become very confrontational in enforcing the official prohibition on foreign involvement in Christian ministry...scores of young people lined up for baptism on the last day.

We were able to admit dozens of new students to the Child Development Centers, Schools and Repalle Christian College, and graduate classes of well-prepared young men and women, ready to make their mark in the community armed with the gospel. All this is the face of a deteriorating economic situation where government controlled prices on our lifeblood, rice and cooking fuel, have gone up by 50 to 100%.

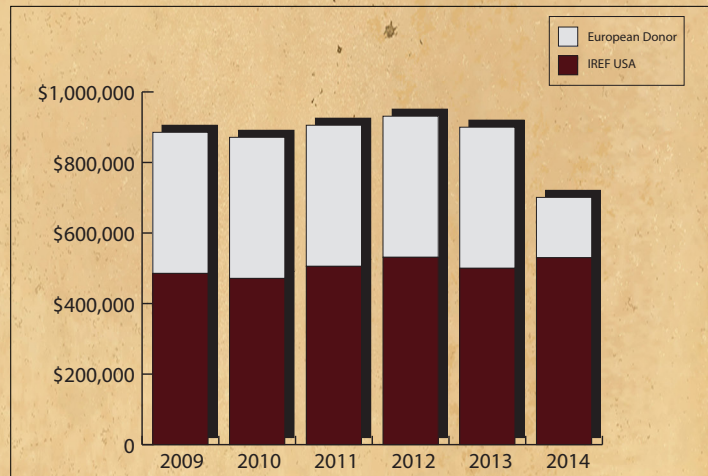
We were able to complete the school year with full instructional time and exams, even though the political unrest caused by legislation to split our state into two states caused demonstrations and general strikes that virtually shut down commerce and turned off electricity for several days at a time.

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## 2013 Annual Ministry Report ...continued

The challenge of 2014 and beyond has already taken shape and it is a huge challenge, indeed. As mentioned in this month's newsletter, a European foundation that has been a large and faithful child support sponsor for many years has decided to ramp down and then eliminate any involvement in India due to political conflicts with the Indian government. They have given us advance notice, and now we must fill a huge gap that will develop over the next two to three years. The graph to the right shows that even with steadily growing support from our US donors, we must find another \$200,000 in contributions to maintain the same level of programs that we operated in 2013.



At first, this seems like an impossible task. But when we stop to realize that IREF USA is not just one paid staff member and a group of dedicated volunteers, but is really a community of people dedicated to the cause of Christ in a very difficult part of the world, it suddenly seems possible.

If everyone who supports IREF presently could recruit two friends to sponsor children or evangelists, the problem could be more than solved overnight.

Why not accept the challenge? It may be easier than you thought to invite a few people over for a meal and share what attracted you to getting involved in the Lord's work in India. The new website [irefusa.org](http://irefusa.org) will give you all the tools you need, and will even allow people to sign up right online for more information or for child sponsorship. Let us know if you need more information, or would like one of us to come to your home or church to speak.

My family will commit to finding two new sponsors this month. We'll keep you posted on our collective success in the coming months. Are we really able to do all of this? Of course not. It is our risen Lord, working through the hearts of our loyal donors. We, and you, are just instruments of His grace.

None of us know what other challenges will arise in 2014, but He will be sufficient, and we are proud to be your partners in doing His will in the place where He has given us the opportunity to serve.

*Jim Kueck, Chairman*

