

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Galatians 6:9-10 “So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.”

I was blessed to be able to visit IREF in January, 2017. I was sitting next to Dee Rebba at the youth conference as she translated the testimonies of former IREF students...

“I came to IREF as a boy when there were only 50 kids here. I accepted Christ as my Savior here, and it changed my whole life. My parents were poor farm laborers, and they wanted a better life for me. So they dropped me off at IREF. Today I am a university professor, with two Master’s degrees. I am working on my doctorate now. I teach 2,000 students a week, and lead Bible studies at the school. I have a wife and two children, and we are involved in a new ministry in the city.” I turned to Dee and said, “that puts the fuel in your tank to go a few more laps”.

Dee and Emmanuel Rebba and their dedicated staff have faithfully served the poor their whole lives. Sometimes it’s easy to get discouraged, or wonder, “Are we really making a difference?”. At other times persecution comes, and you think, “I am trying to faithfully serve the Lord and help people, yet the government and others come against us.”

2016 was a difficult year for IREF, and yet the staff continued to faithfully serve, share the gospel, and provide for the poor. And God’s hand of protection covered the ministry. During the year, some local officials did not like the fact that we were Christians, and starting giving the ministry a hard time.

One of our high school students came down with a terrible headache. When it would not go away, we took her to the nearest hospital where she had a brain hemorrhage and died. The doctor performed an autopsy and determined that this was a condition she had her whole life, and there was nothing IREF could have done. The local officials saw it as an opportunity to stir up trouble against IREF, making all sorts of false claims. They threatened to close down our schools and charge Emmanuel. The threat was very real. We were lucky to have the hospital report, and a friend in the state government who told the local officials to back down. Since that time, the local officials who were stirring up trouble against IREF have been removed from their offices and transferred to another area. God is our strength and protection.

Then later in the year, the Indian Federal government, in an attempt to curtail the black market and collect more taxes, decided to void two of the most popular currency bills in circulation. Everyone had one month to turn in their old bills for new ones. The problem was they were not able to print enough of the new bills. Long lines formed daily at banks, who would close after a few hours because they ran out of the new currency. In a society that functions mostly in cash, it was a disaster for the poor. Most of which don’t even have bank accounts. The government also put limits on how much cash you can withdraw each day from your account. Since IREF pays staff and vendors in cash, it was a huge hardship for the ministry. The currency problem has eased up a bit, and the limits on daily withdrawals will be back to normal in April, but it has been a hardship on the ministry for many months.

In 2016, the government stated that all organizations that receive funds from countries outside of India would need to register with the government. The registration has been necessary in the past, but now the government has said until the registration is approved, no funds would be allowed from outside the country to be wire transferred in. The ministry has needed to barely get by with groups coming to IREF bringing cash. But the legal limit allowed for each person to carry in cash has again restrained the ministry as we await approval of our registration.

So these concerns can easily weigh down the IREF staff. But they have not stopped what the Lord has called them to. On my trip, I found them to be as dedicated as ever to preach, teach, and help serve the poor. IREF has gone through many struggles over its history, and the Lord has always come through. As Paul encouraged the Galatians to not get tired of what was good so that they would reap a harvest of blessing, so the staff at IREF presses on. And when we heard the testimonies of former students and new believers during the youth conference, we were blessed to consider all that the Lord has accomplished through this ministry.

Will you continue to pray for us during these difficult times? Pray that the banking situation would ease up, and that our registration would come through. There is still so much to be done, and we are confident of the Lord’s provision and protection through it all.

Chip Moore,
IREF USA Board Chairman



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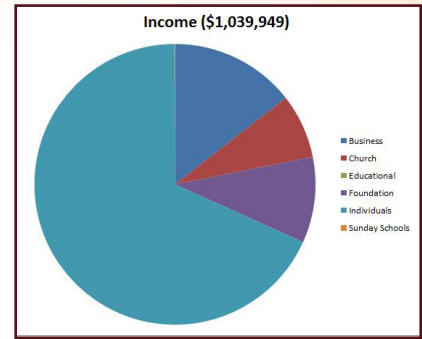




2016 GIVING RESULTS:

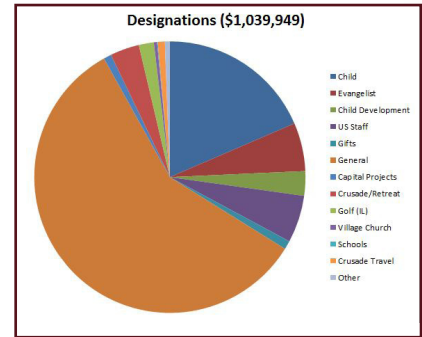
The income chart displays the source of the funds received. As can be seen the primary source of funds continues to be:

- Individual donors
- Churches
- Foundations



The Designations chart displays the donor designations - the largest percentages are:

- Child support includes meals, schooling, and medical for the almost 1,500 children in the care of IREF
- Evangelist support includes support of pastors and ministry workers (and their families) in the more than 600 rural churches
- Child Development refers to the nine Child Development Centers operated by IREF
- General gifts are used for the US expenses and directed by the IREF Board to needed ministry areas



IREF received an unrestricted one-time estate gift of about \$400K in 2016. We would like to thank all of the 2016 IREF donors for helping us reach the people of South India with the Gospel message.

2016 GIVING LEVELS:

After reviewing the 2015 income and expenses, the IREF Board has decided to maintain the suggested monthly support amounts at the same level:

- Child - \$35 per month or \$420 per year.
- Evangelist - \$75 per month or \$900 per year.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Please contact us at info@irefusa.org if you are interested in receiving more information regarding:

- How to sponsor an orphan.
- How to sponsor an Evangelist or Bible Lady.
- Joining a medical or evangelism team to Repalle (usually two week trips).
- Current projects and how to get involved.
- To be added to the IREF mailing list.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your partnership, support and dedication to the call to help break the cycle of poverty in rural Southeast India. Without you, none of this work would be possible. I hope you will join us in our efforts to make a lasting impact for the Kingdom in reaching those in need and changing the world for Christ.

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**India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship**

