

October 2020

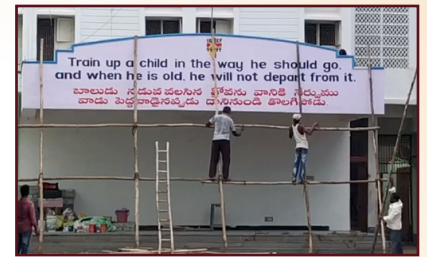


Reopening Updates The Indian government is expected to re-open schools starting Monday, November 2nd. However, we are also aware that this date might be pushed to a later date. Until that time, IREF continues to make the schools and the campus ready for students. We are committed to child safety by instituting safety protocols, abiding by safety policies the government mandates for each school such as classroom seating arrangements, installing hand-washing stations throughout the campus, and providing mandatory masks for each student to name a few. Because of the fluidity of information regarding re-openings, we will uphold guidelines provided to us by government, as well as doing our part to make the students and staff remain as safe as possible with our own policies.

Please remember the students of IREF in your prayers during this time. Below are a few prayer requests:

- The students long to return to IREF and continue their education. Many of the students miss their friends and the stability that IREF offers them.
- For the Christian students, they are surrounded by Hinduism in their villages. Pray that God would give them strength to stand for Christ.
- Some of the students are at risk for child labor, poor living conditions, and home abuse. Pray God's protection over them.

Our IREF-India staff call the students weekly. During these calls, the staff check in with the student, encourages them, and provides over the phone tutoring. We are thankful for the staff's dedication to the students, and pray that the students will be soon returning to IREF. Please pray with us as we navigate this pandemic once students return to campus that we learn to adapt so that we can provide quality education to students.



Painters update the Bible verses on campus.



Dee works with staff to implement cleaning and hygiene efforts throughout the IREF campus.



John and Josh Rebba have been painting the buildings in preparation for students to return.

India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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Visit us on the web:
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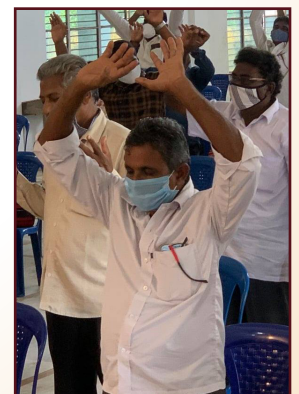
Send us an email:
info@irefusa.org

Covid Testimonial "My brother and father both tested positive for Covid in late July. My sister in-law also got it shortly after. We were all so worried. I live in Vijayawada about 2hrs away from my brother, Lawrence (*IREF Pastor*). We couldn't even go visit or help them due to the shut-down. During the same time my husband, who works in a bank also contracted the virus along with a few of his collegues. My husband was picked up by our health department and taken to a quarantine facility. My children and I also ended up with mild symptoms and had to strictly quarantine in our home for two weeks. Our neighbors were afraid to come near us, the stigma of Covid was overwhelming. My only help in time of need, came due to PRAYER. I started praying like Daniel did three times a day. Joshua 1:6-9 guided me through the difficult time. God sent us help through friends who showed compassion and bought us milk, water and a few groceries. I am thankful to the IREF family, who diligently called us over the phone everyday to pray for us through our recovery. Praise be to God!" - *K. Vanjana*



Pastors Conferences Resume After some time of prayer and discussion, IREF-India felt it was time to step out to begin ministering again. For months, IREF has been on hiatus from in-person evangelism, using Sunday service and electronic media for primary forms of sharing the Gospel. With precaution, IREF gathered Pastors from a region 3 hours away on October 7th, to hold its first pastors conference since March. Masks, sanitizer, temperature checks and individualized napkins were a few of the safety measures were followed.

Emmanuel's message was based on the theme of spiritual awakening; reviving local pastors and rebuilding their call to lead others to Christ. We pray that the 120 pastors in attendance were encouraged and that there would be a spiritual awakening for the pastors in this area. We pray that God would bring revival to the congregations in this region of India!



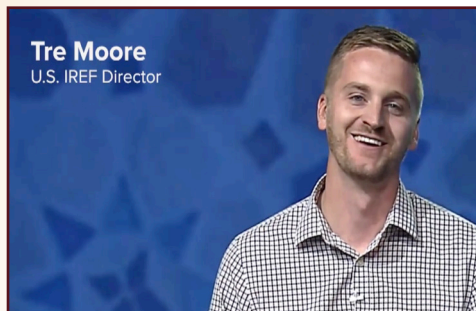


TOGETHER WE DID IT!

On August 22nd, IREF hosted an online event called, "IREF Together". People from Asia, Europe, and North America tuned in to make a difference and be conduits of hope for the people of rural Andhra Pradesh. During the live event we were able to raise \$91,600 of our \$150,000 goal. And this month, we are thrilled to share with you that since the live event, we were able to reach our \$150,000 goal! Thank you! This would not be possible without you.

IREF Together is a testimony of what is possible when people come together to help those in need. Through IREF Together, thousands will be fed, educated, and given the good news of the gospel!

If you are interested in watching IREF Together, you can find it on our website at www.irefusa.org/together



October 2020
continued...

Thank you

to everyone who joined us for our first IREF Together Virtual Event. We had viewers tune in from across the globe! God moved through IREF Together, and we praise God for the donations that were received.



Prayer & Praise

- Rural hospitals in India are struggling to provide enough oxygen for the rising number of patients. The lockdown devastated the economy, leaving millions of migrant workers without income and further marginalizing India's poorest people. Please pray for the people of rural India.
- Covid-19 continues to spread at a rapid rate in India, with over 4 million confirmed cases. Proper treatment has remained a consistent concern for many due to minimal access to healthcare. Please continue to pray as IREF moves to address urgent needs in surrounding villages.
- Please pray for Emmanuel, Dee and John Rebba who have been in India for almost a year and have not been able to travel back to the US. Pray for their protection and health.
- Please continue to pray for IREF evangelists and Bible ladies as they minister in rural villages. Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ is so vital during such uncertain times. Pray for their safety and health as they stand firm to God's call in sharing the Gospel during this pandemic.

India Rural
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