



Christmas at IREF Evangelism is one of the pillars that the ministry of IREF is built on. The Pastors and Bible Ladies were presented with Christmas gifts of new clothing material to get tailored to size. The Pastors received materials for pants and a shirt while the Bible Ladies received a new sari. Many of the Pastors and Bible Ladies have not seen each other in months so the time spent together was dedicated to prayer for their congregations and for each other.

It was a smaller Christmas gathering than usual but it was nonetheless filled with joy and smiles. We are grateful for God's protective hand on these servants and their congregations as their churches are in rural areas where COVID scarcely reached their communities.

John Rebba gave a message based on Jesus being the Light of the world and bringing people from darkness into His Light using the scriptures from John 1:4-5,9; Isaiah 9:2; Colossians 1:13-14; John 8:12; John 12:46. Emmanuel Rebba also gave a word of encouragement to strengthen them during this Christmas season.

Please pray for these men and women as they bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to their families, villages, and communities in such harsh, rural conditions and culture.



John Rebba presents Bible Lady Mariamma Galli with her Christmas gift. She has been sharing the Gospel in the village of Cherukupalli for over 35 years.



Emmanuel presents Evangelist David Bejjam with his Christmas gift. NOTE: MASKS WERE TAKEN OFF ONLY FOR THE PHOTO OP

Happy New Year! IREF celebrated the New Year in the IREF church with testimonies, songs, cake-cutting, prayer, and a message from Emmanuel Rebba. Each testimony voiced hardships but ended with individuals thanking God for His mercy and presence in their lives. In the midst of celebrating, the IREF community almost forgot to look at the clock, nearly missing the turn of the new year!

Every year, promise cards are given to each individual of IREF family. These cards have specific Scripture based on God's promises. As students came up to the center table, you could see them go back to their seats praying and thanking God for His promise to them. For some this promise is what encourages and keeps them standing (spiritually, emotionally, physically) throughout the year.

A New Years Day church service called everyone back to the church to once again celebrate. The New Year's Eve and the New Years Day services are a commitment to God - to end the year and begin the year in church by dedicating the ministry of IREF and ourselves to God. John Rebba shared a message on Rev. 3:20 urging the church to open their hearts to Jesus as we begin a new year.

From all of us at IREF, we wish you a Happy New Year and God's blessings on each of you this year!



India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

PO Box 1332
Park Ridge, IL
60068-7332

IREF Info Line:
p 847.220.IREF (4733)
f 847.680.4270

Visit us on the web:
www.irefusa.org

Send us an email:
info@irefusa.org





Ministering Through Covid



Daniel Shaik is a Muslim convert, who has been working in an extremely segregated (due to caste) village called Nalluripalem (where IREF also has a church and Child Development Center) for the past twenty years. *“The tribal people of my village face struggles that pose threats to their families (such as alcoholism), their health and their ability to serve one true God. The caste system still operates in this village, and presents fewer opportunities for lower caste and poorer individuals to find jobs. This time of Covid has proved extremely challenging for my congregation but God has been faithful. Despite having to keep our church closed for so many months, God made a way for me to continue ministering. I set up a loud speaker at the top of our IREF church and conducted times of worship and prayer to ensure that everyone in our village could still hear the Gospel despite not being able to gather in our building. This is the time that they need to hear the Truth. Please pray for me, my congregation and the Lord’s protection upon us as we work hard to expand the Kingdom.”*

Daniel Shaik, Nalluripalem

Thank-You For Your Generosity

In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.
2 Corinthians 8:2

In this verse, the Macedonian churches were commended for giving in the midst of severe trials. Paul said they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. I am humbled to report that our IREF partners had the same spirit in 2020. In the midst of Covid-19, our partners gave sacrificially. In fact, we had a record year in giving. We have been running at a deficit for many years, and 2020 marks the first year our income has exceed our expenses.

This will allow us to do some urgently needed repairs to our buildings and re-start our schools as students are now returning. We were also able to continue to pay our staff during this crisis. May the Lord richly bless you for your faithfulness to this ministry. Look for our annual report in the next month that will detail more stories of this amazing year.

Chip Moore
IREF USA Board Chairman



Prayer & Praise

- 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.
- Covid-19 continues to spread at a rapid rate in India, with over 10.5 million confirmed cases. Christians in India are often last in line for essential Covid-19 food and aid because of their faith. 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.
- We praise God for His grace upon IREF. Roughly 300 students have returned to school and everyone has remained healthy since schools opened back up in November.
- Please continue praying for a movement that results in great unity among the global Christian community. Pray as IREF evangelists and Bible ladies concentrate their efforts on spreading the Good News in the new year.
- Please pray that believers in Repalle would have opportunities to show the light and hope of Christ to their neighbors.

January 2021
continued...

India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship

