



## Powerful Testimony of God's Faithfulness

Sunitha comes from a strong, Hindu background. It was not until after her marriage in 2011 that she started to experience spiritual warfare. For various reasons, her husband's family did not like Sunitha which caused a friction in the family dynamic. His family's harbored animosity toward Sunitha only grew over time. They began to plot ways for Sunitha to "get out" of the family; to send her away. Their hatred fueled them to action. Their solution – to send evil spirits onto Sunitha using witchcraft, and waited to see the affect. Slowly, Sunitha's life began to deteriorate both inside and out. Sunitha sunk into a lowly, weakly state of being. A physical change crept into her life leaving her unable to live a normal life. She began to stop eating, she lost her strength and she seemed mentally checked out. Sunitha became so weak, she had no choice but to quit her job. At home, while she was physically present, she was visibly absent mentally.

Her parent's concern for her daughter grew desperate. So weak from her spiritual attacks her parents sought Emmanuel Rebba to pray for her during that time. Through prayer, Sunitha felt the deliverance and spiritual oppression lessen after the phone call (she was in living in Bangalore – 12 hours away from Repalle). She felt a peace she had not felt in years. A breath of life filled her; she felt life again. One day as she was visiting her family in Repalle, she visited Emmanuel Rebba again for prayer as she still felt spiritually attacks. After being prayed for, the evil spirits oppressing her fully released her from spiritual bondage. Knowing the peace and freedom in Jesus' name, she gave her life to Christ that day.

It was India's lockdown that allowed Sunitha to seek the Lord with more dedication. She read the Bible more, she joined in a woman's Bible study, she renewed her faith in Jesus Christ. Yet again, she was met with opposition from her family as they kept pressure on her to "retain" her Hindu roots. They did not like her renewed commitment to Christ. This led to her begin to feel the same type of spiritual angst as when she was severely oppressed. She again sought prayer from Emmanuel Rebba via phone call. And again, she felt the freedom and power in Jesus' name.

On February 14, 2021 Sunitha gave her testimony in front of the IREF congregation, and said that she would leave her husband and his family and his beliefs before negotiating her faith and belief in Jesus Christ. Her voice and her words are the demonstration of God's power and His compassion to save those seeking Him and those who devote themselves to Him. Later that day, even as she stepped toward the Krishna River to be baptized, she felt the pull of darkness. She closed her eyes as the breeze and the sun hit her face and prayed knowing Jesus can keep her in the Light of Life. It was going to be a new day for Sunitha. A new life. With a smile knowing her life was going to change she made her way from the river bank into the water to be baptized. Sunitha was one of the seven to give their lives over to Jesus Christ publicly declaring Him as Lord and Savior of her life. We are thankful for Sunitha's testimony and her deliverance from bondage and spiritual oppression.

Continue to pray for Sunitha as she starts this new walk with Jesus Christ. We want to be pillar of hope and support for Sunitha as she continues on her lifelong journey with Jesus Christ.

There are countless stories like Sunita. Her life is one example of those who are under spiritual bondage. There are many who still need to be delivered and brought out of spiritual oppression into God's freedom.

Mark 1:39 says, "And He [Jesus] went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons." We are seeing Jesus' same work today. We are seeing demons casts out and many coming to spiritual freedom through the power of prayer and through the power of Jesus' name.

Jesus is working through the ministry of IREF to deliver those under spiritual oppression. Your prayers are a weapon to help many seeking freedom through the power of Jesus' name. Thank you for your part in bringing the Gospel to a spiritually dark area of India.



### India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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**IREF's Green Thumb** The Covid-19 pandemic gave IREF staff the opportunity to be innovative in many ways, and put plans into motion for many projects. During the months of lockdown, when food and market accessibility became scarce, IREF began to plant vegetables for the small number of IREF staff still on campus. It was then that IREF slowly expanded to grow the vegetable garden as more students were welcomed back to campus. Now, the garden is fully operational with school teachers maintaining it! We are planting okra, pepper, spinach, tomatoes, and eggplant with hopes to plant more vegetables!

Chinnaswamy, the 10th-grade physical science teacher at the English Medium School, has taken the charge of caring for the garden. His green thumb is giving life to these plants and feeding the IREF campus. Chinnaswamy says the garden is a reflection of his time at IREF. Looking back, he felt as though his life did not have a purpose. But after teaching at IREF for many years, discovering a relationship with Christ, and taking responsibility for the vegetable garden, he has found great joy and purpose.

Between the students on campus and the surrounding community, IREF distributes over one million meals per year. There are MANY mouths to feed throughout the campus and we want to be good stewards of what the Lord has given to us. The hope is that the IREF garden teaches the students responsibility and that it nourishes our campus and community.



## IREF TOGETHER

We invite you to our second virtual event as we celebrate 50 years of non-profit work in India!

Join us on Saturday, April 24 at 10am CST / 4pm GMT at [www.irefusa.org/together](http://www.irefusa.org/together)

Stay tuned for more information!



March 2021 continued...

India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

### 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 11.2 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 600 students have returned to school and everyone has remained healthy since schools opened back up in November. As more student return to campus each week, please keep IREF staff and students' health and safety in you prayers.
- 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.