

September 2021



“Teaching is more than imparting knowledge; it is inspiring change.”

Sept 5th marks India's Teachers Day - a day that celebrates teachers. It is observed to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan - 2nd President of India, philosopher and scholar. His work has contributed to the advancement of academics and has had a lasting impact in the field of education.

IREF paid tribute to its own teaching staff through a gathered assembly full of dances, skits and speeches to recognize the influence and the importance of teachers. Teachers nourish and foster knowledge and wisdom; they create the opportunities for students to have a education and a future. At IREF, teachers fill numerous roles that demonstrate their sacrifice and commitment to their students and to the ministry of IREF.

We thank God for sending the current teaching staff to IREF. Please be praying that God will send more experienced teachers to IREF. We want to continue to inspire our students through the knowledge and wisdom of our teachers!



Vaccinations in Rural India Increase Amid Supply

COVID tests were administered in Repalle in conjunction with the local medical staff as more vaccines were distributed locally. Partnered with IREF, local medical workers arrived to IREF's campus ready to administer vaccines to those who met the proper age requirement (those 18 years and older). Presently, the government has permitted a younger demographic to receive the vaccine in its next phase of vaccine administration. At the same time, according to government notice, from September 1st onwards students will not be allowed to participate in college activities without a vaccine. It is required that students are to have the vaccine to attend classes.

Over 100 vaccines were given to the IREF Nursing students and Degree students. Some sat in the “vaccine chair” with grace and some were petrified. Students were given two days to rest and recuperate.

God is the ultimate Protector of our health and is sovereign above all else. As we continue to operate and admit new students to campus for education, please pray for the health and safety of all the entire IREF family in India.



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Annual Golf Outing Returns!

India Rural Evangelical Fellowship is thrilled to announce that the IREF Golf Outing is returning to Bonnie Brook Golf Course this fall on Saturday, October 9! This year's Golf Outing is shotgun format. Package includes green fees, cart, lunch on the go, and dinner at the clubhouse. Registration begins at 9:30am with a 10:00am tee time.

Register today at www.irefgolfouting.eventbrite.com
Questions? Email us at info@irefusa.org





**September 2021
continued...**

**India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship**

The IREF Industrial Training Institution (ITI)

is a program with a purpose to equip young men with the training to build better futures. IREF's vision is to provide impoverished young men with employment opportunities in various trade sectors. Since it's opening in 2004, the ITI has educated and trained students in the electrician, fitter (tooling) and diesel mechanic fields.

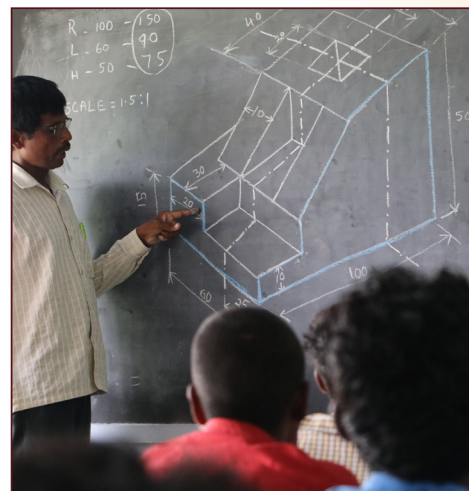
During India's 2020 lockdown, IREF staff participated in massive cleaning, landscaping and painting projects. And this way of ministry continued even during India's 2nd lockdown April, May and June of 2021 at the ITI facility. Located a short motorcycle ride from IREF's main campus, the IREF staff worked tirelessly on massive renovation project that included heavy cleanup, landscaping the grounds and painting the ITI building. The desire is not only to make the area neat and clean but to improve the integrity of the actual building and the educational opportunities it currently holds by adding more staff and applying for new industrial training courses.

Each day, the staff risked their health and safety for the development of the ITI program during the high peak of India's 2nd COVID wave in the months of April, May and June. Every morning under the hot Indian summer sun the staff did a complete inventory of equipment and tools, cleaned the campus, improved landscaping and painted the building. Late nights and early mornings were called for as the staff also painted the roof under the cool of the mornings and nights.

With Josh Rebba's leadership, the ITI is a completely different place. It now resembles an established educational facility with so much more potential to offer. It does not look remotely the same. Students that came back from the lockdown were shocked to see the transformation of their college. We hope the new changes will given them a stronger desire to grow and learn in their training.

This is not just a feel-good, make-over project. IREF plans to renovate the ITI program in 3-phases. Phase one is to update through cleaning, repair, landscaping and painting projects. Phase two will consist of the purchase of needed equipment and tools that will elevate students' hands-on-training. The vision of phase three is to construct a neighboring building that will house staff offices, labs and classrooms as we plan and prepare to expand the ITI course initiatives.

IREF and the ITI program is dedicated to equipping young men with industrial education and training to build a better India for today and tomorrow - but it starts with creating an atmosphere of learning. Our desire is to see these students reach their full potential in their ITI training.



Prayer & Praise

- Please be praying for the students as they are returning to IREF - more specially that God would bring them into a spiritually-centered place with Him after so much time away from IREF. Pray for the hearts of these students as many have experienced grave losses in their families. Also, please pray for the IREF teachers as they counsel and support the students returning.
- Covid-19 continues to spread at a rapid rate in India, with over 33 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.