

October 2021



Golf Outing Returns! On Saturday, October 9, India Rural Evangelical Fellowship held its 9th annual golf outing. The theme for the evening was "Light Shines in the Darkness". After being apart for a few years, it was a joy to come together.

IREF has experienced pain and darkness in 2021. We have lost loved ones and pastors to COVID, churches in India continue to experience persecution, and children in Andhra Pradesh are more susceptible to trafficking, child labor, and home abuse than ever before. This has been a challenging year to say the least! But 2021 has also been a year of great light. IREF has received more calls for salvation from the IREF broadcast this year than any other year, averaging nearly 400 calls per month! And joy is coming back to the Repalle campus in the form of returning students.

The fundraising goal for the IREF Golf Outing is \$50,000. Giving for this event ends on November 1st. A generous donor has offered a bonus gift of \$20,000 if IREF can hit the 50k fundraising goal. Please consider making a one-time donation towards this unique opportunity.

We hope to see IREF Golf Outings in Michigan and Florida in the coming years!



**India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship**

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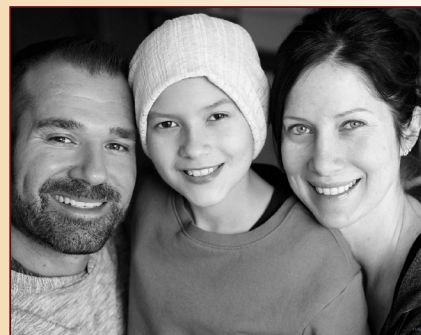
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Love You More Bracelets

This year, IREF was thrilled to welcome Mike and Michele Coletta, founders of *Love You More Bracelets* to this year's Golf Outing. *Love You More Bracelets* was launched to honor the Coletta's late daughter, Makayla. She was a young girl that exemplified generosity and selflessness. Makayla loved making bracelets for the students at IREF and hearing their stories. When Makayla passed away, her parents created a non-profit to create bracelets for the students at IREF. This year they have sent over 1,000 bracelets to India and the children at IREF wear *Love You More Bracelets* with pride!

Amidst tragic loss and darkness, God has shined through Mike and Michele. Since launching, they have sold over 250 kits and raised nearly \$10,000 for India!

To find out more about Love You More Bracelets and their story, visit facebook.com/loveyoumorebracelets.





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As October 9th drew closer, my excitement grew for the 9th Annual Golf Outing! Admittedly not knowing much about golf but one thing I did know was there were going to be guests attending from near and far who were coming to support IREF & many who were going to be hearing about this ministry for the first time. My heart was thrilled to be a part of this event. Tre Moore and I arrived right before the golfers on the morning of the 9th at Bonnie Brook Golf Course. It was a beautiful day for golfing, sunny, blue skies, and cool weather. Each golfer arrived 10 minutes apart for their tee time, which was a great opportunity to meet everyone. Serving IREF from the panhandle of Florida, I haven't had the opportunity to meet many of our Illinois & Michigan IREF supporters in person. It was nice to see the many faces behind the names I see on our donor list, along with those I have talked to over the phone concerning their children's sponsorships. The guests came with excitement and with their full support!



The evening banquet was a rich time, filled with testimonies and stories about how God shines His Light in the dark places of people's lives in India, along with those here in the States. I was in "awe" hearing how so many of the guests have been affected by the ministry of IREF, including Makayla, whose parents founded "Love You More" bracelets. Before she passed Makayla caught the vision of IREF and wanted to be a part of what God was doing by sending bracelets over to the children. There wasn't a dry eye in the room as her parents shared her story and love for those in rural India. Makayla has left a legacy and her bracelets are still impacting Rural India. I heard story after story from several of the guests who attended the banquet who have been lifelong partners with the ministry, some who have since 1971 when IREF was first founded. It was a night where God was Glorified for all He has done in India along with an excitement for all He is still yet to do. New friendships were formed, and new partners were made for the ministry of IREF to continue to see rural India reached for the Gospel!

Testimonial Spotlight Hi, my name is Jyosthana Rani. I came to IREF to attend John's English Medium School when I was in 10th grade during the 2019-2020 academic year. The Covid lockdown and sudden rush to send us students all to our home villages, was a scary and unsettling time. My mom was really sick (we didn't know enough about Covid at that time to know whether or not she actually had it) but she began having seizures. Eventually after seeking medical care, it was determined that my mom had several blood clots in her brain. With the proper medicine, she has been healthy ever since. By God's grace, we survived the first wave of Covid.



Once schools were open again, I was so relieved to go back to IREF. But then the 2nd wave hit in the spring of 2021, leading to another lockdown. My family experienced one heartache after the other. My grandfather passed away first, after testing positive for Covid. A few months later, my grandmother passed away (also due to Covid and a lack of oxygen supply). My father (very quickly upon burying my grandmother) contracted the virus. He was sent to a facility outside of our town to quarantine for 14 days. On the 13th day, his oxygen levels dropped and he was rushed to a hospital. My mom went to be with him, leaving myself and 3 younger sisters home to care for ourselves. My father was bed-ridden for a month, with his health deteriorating each day. On June 10th, my dad died. Due to the conditions of our country at that time, the hospital staff took my dad's body directly to a burial ground and did his funeral. It was a very hard summer for our family. But God has shown His grace upon us. I am now back at IREF, my safe-haven, studying 1st year of junior college. I am so thankful that God is with me each day, shining His light upon me.

Prayer & Praise

- Many students have returned to IREF with hearts full of praise for being back in a safe and stable environment. Yet many of these students have experienced grave losses in their families. 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 450K deaths to date. Pray that God would bring healing to India.