



## India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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Dear IREF Family,

On the behalf of IREF India, we want to thank you all for your continued support and prayers for God's work in 2021. We are appreciative of your dedication to the ministry of IREF.

2021 was a year of difficulty as we lost family, pastors and staff members to COVID. It was also a year of adjustments for the ministry as IREF was forced to send students home based on government lockdowns. Yet, in the midst of challenges, God is still faithfully working on our behalf. Standing steady in God's mission in India, we were able to witness nearly 75 baptisms, an IREF village church re-dedication, and a campus full of students again - these are just some of the highlights for IREF India in 2021.

As a ministry, we look forward to serving the Lord faithfully through education, evangelism and community engagement in this upcoming year. We want to provide an education to the poorest of the poor so that they can break the cycle of poverty. We want to deliver the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who still have not heard the Gospel. We desire to be difference-makers in highly impoverished rural India through engaging in community development programs.

We ask that you continue to pray for the ministry and our family as we serve countless others through the ministry of IREF. We certainly cannot do the work that God has called us to do without you all.

God's blessings to you during this Christmas Season!

Sincerely,

Emmanuel and Dee Rebba  
*on behalf of IREF INDIA*



## 2021 IREF Gift Catalog is Online!



IREF's Gift Catalog gives you the power to decide how to bring hope, joy, and transformation to rural India through purchasing designated gifts such as bibles and school uniforms!

The projects and items listed provide tangible opportunities for you to make a difference. Please consider how you can support IREF through purchasing a gift from our catalog. Luke 6:38, "Give and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."



Visit [www.irefusa.org/gift](http://www.irefusa.org/gift)  
or SCAN THE QR CODE  
to make a difference today!

## Prayer & Praise

- Please pray for the upcoming Christmas season as IREF staff and students share the Gospel thru the message of the Christmas story. There are many new students at IREF this year, who will be experiencing the wonder of Christmas for the first time.
- We praise God for His grace upon IREF. Pray for protection and health, as well as wisdom to navigate changing guidelines and work hard to instill all preventative measures. Please also pray for the gaps in teaching staff this year to be filled as soon as possible.
- We ask that you join us in praying for a Christmas 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 during this holiday season.
- Thank you to everyone who helped us double our #GivingTuesday goal of \$3,000. With your support, IREF is able to provide small-scale sound systems for 10 IREF village churches!



**Testimonial Spotlight** My name is Y. Rathna Kumari. I have been a Bible Lady with IREF for the past 15 years, leading the IREF congregation and church of Nalluripallem when my father, Y. Koteswara Rao passed away. To share my testimony is a privilege and joy!

My father was born into a high-caste Hindu family. In 1955, he walked from Nalluripalem to Repalle (approximately a one hour trip by foot in those days due to no roads) to see a movie. He missed the first show, and decided to wait for the midnight showing since he had already gone that far. While he was waiting, he could hear singing from a distance and there was a light in the middle of the town that drew him in. My father spent the next two hours listening to Prasada Rao Rebba preach the Gospel. When it was time for the next showing of the movie, he went to the theatre, and walked home when the movie was done. Once he got home, he couldn't sleep. He kept hearing the words from the preaching over and over again. The next day, my father walked back to Repalle to hear Prasada Rao preach again, and immediately gave his life to Christ.

Being from a high-caste Hindu family, my father's conversion led to ostracization, and tremendous persecution from our extended family and village. But my parents stood firm in their faith.

There were 3 kids in our family at that time. My older sister, myself, our brother and then later, my parents had our youngest sister, who tragically passed away at the age of 14. In early 1982, my mother was diagnosed with Tuberculosis and passed away. A few years later, my brother passed away from Leukemia. Our struggles didn't pull us away from the Lord, in fact He drew us nearer to Him.



Prasada Rao, Koteswara Rao and Prakasha Rao - IREF's first elders.

Like Joshua was to Moses, my father was to Prasada Rao. They walked village to village sharing the Gospel; praying with people, baptizing and leading them to Christ. They followed God's call to bring Light into the darkest of rural villages. My father was a farmer. He owned 4 acres of rice fields and used what God had blessed him with, to further the Kingdom. He gave many pounds of rice to IREF every year to feed the thousands of people who attended the Gospel Meetings each February. He served diligently, prayed without ceasing until the day he die.



Koteswara Rao sharing the Gospel with a village woman.

The church in our village was built in over 30 years ago. Then fixed and rededicated almost 10 years ago by our kind friends from South Park Church in Illinois. Today, our congregation still meets regularly. Many young people who studied at IREF, now attend our church. It's a blessing to see the impact the Holy Spirit is making on our people thru IREF. The women in our village gather on Wednesdays and Saturdays to study the Word of God and to pray. Please join us in prayer. As I am getting older, I have a burden for the future generations. I know God will provide a good leader for our church. My father used to say that he had nothing to leave behind except for riches in Christ, I am thankful he did!



**Emmanuel Rebba ministered to pastors** at two different conferences on October 29th and November 11th. Emmanuel taught on restoration from the book of Nehemiah. Hundreds of pastors and church leaders attended each conference, which concluded with repentance and renewal. There was restoration for some who had considered pastorship a job. The conference showed them the commission to preach, teach and direct others to Christ is a true calling.

IREF's hope is that these pastors' conferences will spark a revival among Christ's body throughout the State of Andhra Pradesh. *"It is evident that God spoke to these pastors and they have committed their ministry back to the Bible."* - Lawrence (IREF Pastor)

Please join us in praying for these brothers and sisters who are proclaiming the Gospel each day throughout rural Southeast India.



December 2021  
continued...

India Rural  
Evangelical  
Fellowship

