

January 2022



India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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Happy New Year! Each year, IREF INDIA celebrates the New Year with a New Year's Eve church gathering that transitions into the new year. The service composed of songs of thankfulness. Testimonies were shared about how God had worked in their lives in 2021. God had healed the sick, provided in times of need and opened hearts in 2021 on IREF's campus. Each New Year's Eve always us to witness the reality of our God throughout 2021. It is easy to forget how faithful God is but hearing the testimonies are a reminder of His continued work.

As the New Year drew closer, Emmanuel Rebba also shared a message from Joshua 1:1-10 illustrating God's commission of Joshua and the Israelites' crossing into the Promised Land with 3 points: 1) God has a plan for your life; 2) Be ready and 3) Step out in faith.

Scripture bookmarks (or Promise Cards) are made available to everyone to signify God's promise for the new year. Students one-by-one "blindly" selected a card, walked back to their seats, prayed and excitedly read what God's promise was over them for 2022. Throughout the year, students re-read this promise as a way to remind themselves of God's guidance in their lives.

New Year's Day, IREF INDIA gathered again for a New Years Day church service to start 2022 with God's Word and His leading. Moses said in Exodus 33:15, "If Your presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here."(NIV) This is our hope and our prayer in this 2022 - that God's presence would go before us and with us in this new year.

Prayer is what holds IREF together. Prayer is how we celebrate the New Year. Without God's guidance, we cannot move forward in 2022. Thank you for your support, prayer and love for IREF in 2021. We look forward to continuing to share how God is working through IREF in 2022.

God bless you all in this new year!

Letter from the IREF Chairman

IREF has experienced pain and darkness in 2021. We have lost loved ones, staff 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. 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! People were baptized EVERY week at the Krishna for 4 consecutive weeks back in January and February and joy is coming back to the Repalle campus in the form of over 600 returning students.



IREF students pick their Promise Cards for 2022.



Many IREF staff and students shared their testimonies of God's faithfulness through the year.

Thanks to all of you, the financial support for 2021 was incredible. U.S. Director Tre Moore and Assistant Director Shara Atkinson have done a wonderful job. IREF-USA added over one hundred new partners and our total revenue exceeded one million dollars for the second consecutive year. India Rural Evangelical Fellowship is an organization worth investing in. For over fifty years, IREF has shared the love of Christ with marginalized children and unreached people groups in rural India. This would not be possible without your support. Thank you!

As we enter 2022, please know that we are praying for you. The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Chip Moore,
Chairman of IREF-USA board



Alumni Testimony My name is Mariamma. I came from a Hindu family from a rural fishing village near the sea, called Kothapalem. My mother had died when my four sisters and I were really young. When Prasada Rao Rebba preached the Gospel in our village in 1997, my father knew that IREF would be a safe place for me and my sister, Drakshavalli to study. I studied at IREF for six years, first grade through seventh grade.

I studied hard and learned the Bible. God had moved in my life and showed me His faithfulness at a young age. After I finished 7th grade, my dad arranged my marriage into a Hindu family in 2003. I fell into idol worship as directed by my husband and inlaws. With each “pooja” (which is a worship ritual performed by Hindus to their idols) and sacrifice I did, I would quietly pray to Jesus and ask for forgiveness as I went through the motions.

In 2014, I came to Repalle with my sister to run some errands. While we were there, we heard Emmanuel Rebba preaching at the annual IREF Gospel meetings. The Holy Spirit grabbed a hold of my heart again. I sat through the whole meeting and felt convicted. When the meeting was over, I started to head home. But I felt the Holy Spirit nudging me to go back to IREF. I stopped at the IREF book stall and bought myself a Bible. The young student at the stall gave me a promise card that said “God loves you.” It was what I needed to hear, the reassurance that the Lord was still with me despite my many failures to stay faithful to Him.

I went home and let my husband and inlaws know that I was giving my life to the Lord. I have not stepped into a temple ever since. I attend church in my village every Sunday. In 2015, I came back to IREF to be baptized. The Lord has been drawing me nearer and nearer to Him each day. I am thankful for my salvation and the foundation of faith that I was given as a young child while studying at IREF.

I have two daughters. Last year, I brought them to IREF so they two will grow in the Lord, hear the Gospel and give their lives to Christ. It is my prayer that while they’re both at IREF, that they will learn the Bible and the power of prayer. Please keep my family in your prayers.



Mariamma (center) with her two daughters, who are currently studying at IREF.

Prayer & Praise

- Pray for IREF staff and leaders. Pray for protection and health, as well as wisdom as they 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. Roughly 600 students have returned to school and everyone has remained healthy since schools opened back up.
- 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 for all who attend the 2022 Youth Conference on January 13-16. Pray that many will come to know Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Pray for the pastors and speakers who share the Gospel, may the Lord use each one to further His kingdom.
- Please pray that believers in Repalle would have opportunities to show the light and hope of Christ to their neighbors.
- Please continue to pray for IREF evangelists and Bible ladies as they minister in rural villages. Many have faced incredible losses in their families and congregations. Pray that God would provide comfort and shine His light in, with and through IREF’s evangelists and Bible ladies who are diligently working to spread the Gospel.

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India Rural
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