

April 2022



IREF TOGETHER

On Saturday April 2, the global IREF family tuned into IREF Together – an online event celebrating hope and generosity. IREF Together is an example of what is possible when people come together to make a difference. During the 45-minute event, viewers heard captivating testimonies from IREF staff and students. Pastors shared about the needs of their village churches and over \$68,000 was raised to restore and rebuild 23 village churches.

A total of 26 village churches are in need restoration. The total cost to rebuild all the churches is \$75,000. Please consider donating towards the IREF Together Campaign to ensure every village church receives concrete work, painting, lighting, and for some—a new pastor. Giving towards this campaign is open until Saturday, April 30.

To donate or watch a replay of IREF Together, please visit irefusa.org/together



IREF students were able to live stream and watch the IREF Together event in the Repalle church.

Thank you to the team at Sardis Media for all of their efforts in creating such a successful online event for IREF!

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“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Every year on Palm Sunday, IREF gathers to commemorate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The Bible tells us the crowd with Jesus waved palm branches ahead of Him. At IREF the campus is full of shouts, flowers, smiles and decorated palm branches. This year is no different. The students sang a song based on Zechariah 9:9 and Matthew 22:5 - “Behold, your King is coming oh daughter of Zion” from campus to church.

The students were led by the IREF choir as they marched through the neighborhood, onto the main road and into church with branches in hand proclaiming Jesus had arrived; honoring Jesus as our King.

Wishing you all a blessed Easter!



Pastors Conference The main thread of IREF is to spread the Gospel and Good News of Jesus Christ. Just recently, in early April, IREF held a pastors conference in an area roughly 4 hours from IREF's main campus. It was an encouragement to the IREF staff for about 500 pastors to attend. Many church leaders in this area have felt the effect of lockdowns and isolation due to COVID; some even felt discouraged about continuing in ministry as COVID has disturbed their work in the church. Emmanuel Rebba said, "I did not realize this many pastors were going to attend the conference. I was surprised to see so many come. The pastors conference went really well."



Emmanuel used the story of Nehemiah to embolden the church leaders so they can continue their mission in being Christian leaders in a religiously tense society. After the conference, pastors gave good feedback regarding how much they learned and how much this IREF pastors conference will change their ministry. IREF also used media as a platform to broadcast this pastors program for those who could not attend. Not only were those in attendance moved to endure in ministry, pastors who did not attend even called to schedule a pastors conference in their areas as well. Overall, there was a viewership of 400 on IREF's online YouTube channel.

In attendance were also 2 former IREF Nursing students who graduated in 2021. Listening to their testimony of their time at IREF was a blessing to the IREF staff at the pastors conference. When former IREF students give their witness to their experience at IREF, it encourages and motivates IREF staff to remain faithful in serving the ministry of IREF.

Our hope is that this pastors conference will inspire church leaders to be spiritually renewed and to continue to be beacons of light in the spiritual darkness of rural India. We pray that Biblical teaching from Emmanuel Rebba will be the catalysis in sparking true Gospel revival amongst church leaders and the Indian church at large.

Power of Baptism Conversion and baptism are all too commonly seen as part of a movement of 'denationalization.' In some Indian states, anti-conversion laws criminalize converting someone from one faith to another. Failure to send notices or seek permission from local governments before converting or participating in a church service where conversions happen, can result in fines or imprisonment.

We praise God that law has not yet come into effect in Andhra Pradesh or near IREF but many government officials are working hard to push this law into effect. The Holy Spirit is moving in and through IREF. Many students are coming forward each week and giving their lives to Christ. God is good! Please pray for these new believers and for them to continue to be bold for the Kingdom.



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 that believers in Repalle would have opportunities to show the light and hope of Christ to their neighbors.

April 2022
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India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship

