

August 2022



Thank you to everyone who attended the 10th Annual IREF Golf Outing!

Seventy-one golfers embraced warm weather with positive attitudes to make a difference for the marginalized in southeast India. This year was unique in that the winning team was not a foursome, but a duo. Congratulations to the father/son team of Steve Lentz and John Lentz! The Lentz's were -1 after the front nine, but they caught fire on the back nine for a winning score of -7!

The Golf Outing and Banquet will be separate events this year. Please mark your calendar for the IREF Banquet, "Shine"!

Shine is a national event that will include banquet dinners held in Florida, Illinois, and Michigan. The theme for shine comes from Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." The banquet is one of IREF's favorite times of year because it gives us an opportunity to share with you the impact YOUR support has made on the marginalized in rural India.

At Shine, you will hear inspiring stories of rebuilt churches, changed lives, and restorative work that is only made possible through the power of Christ. The banquet dinner is complimentary with an invitation to give generously at the event. Registration is required.

Register NOW for Shine at irefusa.org/shine.



EVENT LOCATIONS

Miramar Beach, Florida
Wednesday, September 21st

Gurnee, IL
Wednesday, September 28th

Kalamazoo, MI
Wednesday, October 5th

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A New School Year is Underway

After weeks of being at home for summer holidays, students are back! Despite the heavy rains due to monsoon season, parents and students have come from near and far to join at IREF's schools. Registration for the new school year has brought the campus back to life. School grounds are filling up once again with children's laughter and excitement.

To date, nearly 400 students have enrolled in the elementary and high schools alone. This is an answer to prayer that God would bring more students in need of an education to IREF. As the school year progresses, we ask you to pray for health and safety (both physically and spiritually) for the IREF students and staff.

The impact of your prayers are felt as students become acclimated to IREF and its mission of breaking the cycle of poverty in rural India.





Remembering a Dear Partner in Ministry, Ian Leitch

As messengers of the Gospel, IREF's devoted team of evangelists and Bible ladies dedicate their lives full time to living and sharing ministry. IREF has more than 100 evangelists and Bible ladies who travel by bicycle or foot into remote villages in India, sharing the life-changing story of Jesus. They offer Bibles, education and the message of Christianity with villagers, helping them grow in God's love and plant churches.



This is not possible without our faithful partners. For several decades, former IREF(UK) Trustee, Ian Leitch, did an outstanding job delivering his traveling Bible School training called 'New Life Seminar' to many IREF pastors, evangelists and Bible Ladies. Ian focused his message to be a blessing to Pastors and Bible Ladies and to encourage Christian leadership amongst a spiritually deprived people of Andhra Pradesh. Year after year, he held workshops to promote spiritually healthy communities. Ian recently shared, "IREF is one of my favourite places in the world. IREF is light in the darkness, truth in the errors and life in the deadness."

Emmanuel Rebba saw the Lord moving through Ian's leadership and when health concerns restricted Ian from traveling to India, Emmanuel took over on this need to minister to the ministers through the regional Pastors Conferences, carrying the torch to bring light to the dark.

Ian recently entered into the arms of Jesus, and there is no doubt that he was celebrated as a good and faithful servant. His life verse was John 9:4-5 "As long as it is day, we must do the works of Him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work." Throughout his life, Ian Leitch preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to hundreds of thousands of people, believing that everyone had the right to hear the Good News - that Jesus loves him/her. IREF evangelists and Bible ladies are among those thousands who have been blessed by Ian's ministry.

We are grateful for Ian's impact, love and generosity upon IREF and the people he served in Southeast India. His legacy for the sake of the gospel, is one that we will always cherish at IREF. While we are sad of his passing, we rejoice in knowing that he is with OUR Lord and Savior - the One whom Ian loved and lived for each day.



Ian with long time IREF evangelist Simon, with Prasada Rao Rebba in the background.



Ian taught many people how to grow deeper in their walk with God through studying the Word.



Ian handing our certificates to all who completed the New Life Seminar.

Prayer & Praise

- Many students are returning to the IREF campus for the next academic year. Please pray for the Lord's protection upon the spiritual, mental and physical health of the staff, students and the Rebba family.
- Please pray that believers in Repalle would have opportunities to show the light and hope of Christ to their neighbors.
- 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.
- Please pray for IREF staff and students as they opened the new academic year. Pray for the staff as they guide and educate new students.

August 2022
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India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship