

November 2022



The 2022 Gift Catalog is available!

Make an impact this Christmas season through the 2022 Gift Catalog. In this gift catalog, we've included various tools that IREF uses to practically care for the students on campus. Please consider donating towards items such as a Telugu Bible, a hygiene kit for a child, or a disaster relief kit for a family in need!

One gift this season can have a far-reaching impact, touching children and families, and rippling out to transform entire communities.



Visit www.irefusa.org/gift
or SCAN THE QR CODE
to make a difference today!



IREF Annual Lamp Lighting Ceremony

IREF celebrated the initiation of the 1st and 2nd year Nursing students with a capping ceremony earlier this month. Because of the disruption of COVID, the 2nd year students never had an official capping ceremony. Combined, over 50 students were initiated into the Nursing program! Students, families, staff and friends gathered to watch a new class of students be officially welcomed into the vocation of nursing.



The ceremony officially initiates their pledge of being a caretaker as a nursing student and a registered nurse thereafter. The capping and pinning is a proud moment for the students as they are welcomed into a Florence Nightingale pledge led by Dee Rebba and the IREF Nursing college staff. The Nightingale Pledge is a statement of the ethics and principles of the nursing profession. At IREF, this practice is a symbolic transition for incoming nursing students as they begin their studies. Giving the pledge publicly before peers, family and friends signifies the importance of the role and how seriously graduates will take their job as a nurse.

Dee shared "as a nurse for so many years myself, it is always a joy for me to see new nurses pledging to care for those in need. Their education at IREF has given them a background of faith to protect them in this role."

You all are contributing to these Nursing students' success and we are thankful for you! Please pray for these students as they go out into local villages to serve and spread the Gospel through their profession and help those in need.



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During the month of October, IREF village churches conduct fasting prayer meetings each year. While Dee Rebba is certainly the mother-figure on campus, her heart is heavy for the people who attend these local churches. In a village twenty minutes from IREF's main campus, Dee and Pastor Lawrence were invited to speak at the last day of service to celebrate and encourage the church. They prayed with those in attendance to seek the Lord, to open their hearts to the Holy Spirit (as often times there are many who do not know Jesus as Lord).

As Dee was addressing the congregation, one man began to cause a disruption outside of the church. He argued that the sound system was too loud and complained that the prayer session was causing noise pollution and disturbance to the other villagers. So, the church leaders lowered the volume of the external-facing speaker and continued the service.

Towards the end of the fasting prayer service, this same man who shouted against the church and the congregation brought a monetary offering before the Lord. Listening from the outside of the church, the Lord gripped this man's heart! It is in these small instances that we know that God is working in rural India - Christ's Light is breaking through the darkness and the Holy Spirit is moving!



IREF pastor receives an offering from a local villager who once harassed the congregation.

In another evening prayer gathering, Dee and the congregation of a similar IREF village church in Piratlanka were met with the same type of opposition. As the congregation of the IREF church gathered for their fasting prayer service, so had the locals at a neighboring Hindu temple. With the church service in full swing, a few Hindu followers came to the church causing a raucous. They forcefully and aggressively demanded the speaker volume be lowered. After a few minutes of confrontation, the volume was lowered and Dee continued her address to the congregation. As she delivered a message, Dee noticed that Pastor Timothy's daughter, Sandhya was no longer sitting in the church. Sandhya attended IREF schools and studied Nursing - Dee knows her well.



It was later shared that the Hindu priest at the neighboring temple had fainted and needed medical assistance. The same people that had tried to stop the fasting prayer service called upon the IREF pastor's family for help and prayer. Sandhya was able to provide the care this priest needed, and also show him the love of Christ. The atmosphere in the neighborhood changed from anger to thankfulness.

God teaches us in His Word that trouble will come to those who follow Christ, but God also promises that He watches over His people and cares for His children. Even in times of persecution, God is protecting His children. This was a great witness for not only the Hindu who had gathered at the temple but it was a testimony to the church in how the Lord can take a bad situation and use it for His good!

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 ask that you join us in praying for a spiritual 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.
- The persecution of Christians is intensifying in many parts of India as Hindu extremists aim to cleanse India of the presence and influence of believers. Your prayers are needed as IREF evangelists and Bible ladies continue to stand for Jesus in the land of countless false idols and gods. Pray that the Lord will protect the ministry of IREF.

November 2022 continued...

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