

September 2022



India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

PO Box 1332
Park Ridge, IL
60068-7332

IREF Info Line:
p 847.220.IREF (4733)
f 847.680.4270

Visit us on the web:
www.irefusa.org

Send us an email:
info@irefusa.org

In August, I had the privilege of traveling to the IREF

campus for the first time in my life. I have heard reports, read the newsletters, and hosted the leaders over the last ten years. Yet, I will never forget what I experienced in the town of Repalle.

Tre Moore, John Rebba, and Emmanuel Rebba invited me to join them in preaching at the Believer's Retreat. We encouraged the students and villagers to return to the Lord from Micah 3:7. By the end, after hours of praying, singing, and listening to God's Word, twenty-one students and villagers wanted to be baptized.

We drove some distance on a bumpy dirt road in a caravan of vehicles to the Krishna river. As the water buffalo watched and laborers gathered sand for sale, Hindus and one Muslim demonstrated that God heard our prayers as they took baptism. In their testimonies, some wept as they told us their parents didn't want them to take this step of faith. Yet they did. Those with Hindu names received Christian ones. All face government persecution and some will have to deal with family persecution.

Obedience to God is costly in India. Nevertheless, God is at work doing great things at IREF.

*Pastor Rob Nash
Sawyer Highlands Church
Sawyer, Michigan*



IREF's Annual Banquet Dinner, SHINE, is right around the corner!

This year an anonymous donor generously donated to cover the event fees, making this year's banquet free! At Shine, you will hear of persecution taking place in India and God's hand at work in unifying thousands of pastors through IREF. Dee Rebba will share the redemptive story of Sneha, a young woman whose life was transformed by the love of Christ.

Please consider joining us for Shine. The banquet dinner is a great opportunity to introduce your friends to the ministry. You will be greatly encouraged by the impact of your partnership with IREF.

Although the banquet dinner is FREE this year, registration is still required. For registration information, visit irefusa.org/shine or email us at info@irefusa.org.

Banquet Locations

Miramar Beach, Florida
Date: Wednesday, September 21
Register by: September 18

Gurnee, IL
Date: Wednesday, September 28
Register by: September 25

Kalamazoo, MI
Date: Wednesday, October 5
Register by: October 2

Shine





Independence Day Celebrations

The entire country of India celebrated its 75th Independence Day on August 15. The day is celebrated with high-level energy and enthusiasm across India. IREF remembered those Christian leaders who made a tremendous impact on India's fight for independence. Indian Christians played a significant role in India's freedom movement. They took on the challenge of implementing their beliefs, knowledge, education, ethics and principles to support the fight for freedom. Indian Christians actively propagated the idea of political independence. They championed a spirit of nationalism to support the struggle for freedom. The leaders at the forefront of India's independence had one common goal: Indian union, freedom and independence.

Patriotism was just as much a virtue for Indian Christians in a time of struggle for independence. It was their values and education that brought about India's plan of action for independence. Those Christian freedom fighters of yesteryear are the reason IREF fights so hard for the individuals whom IREF serves. Their legacy is continued through IREF's hope and work in breaking the cycle of poverty in rural India.



Teacher's Day Celebrated at IREF

September 5th marked the celebration of Teacher's Day in India. The nation of India has been celebrating Teacher's Day since 1962 – 60 years. It commemorates a day to honor teachers who play an important role in shaping the next generation. Teachers are one of the most irreplaceable parts of life. Their contribution to society is immense and beyond any measurement.

IREF gathered together to honor the staff and faculty in a campus-wide assembly. The program was filled with songs, dances and speech in acknowledging the teachers' impact of the students at IREF. Each institution gave recognition to its staff for their hard work, care and influence with a shawl and a small gift.

Nelson Mandela once said *"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."* Teachers give the ammo to that weapon.

Our IREF staff and faculty give their lives for the Lord in their service to IREF. We cannot thank them enough for their hard work and dedication as they serve IREF each and every day.



Above: Teacher's gather at IREF and are recognized for their efforts and burden for the students.

Right: IREF students joyfully celebrate their teachers.



Left: students thank their teacher and honor her for the sacrifice she has made to ensure the children of IREF have an opportunity for a bright future.

September 2022
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India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship

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.