

February 2023

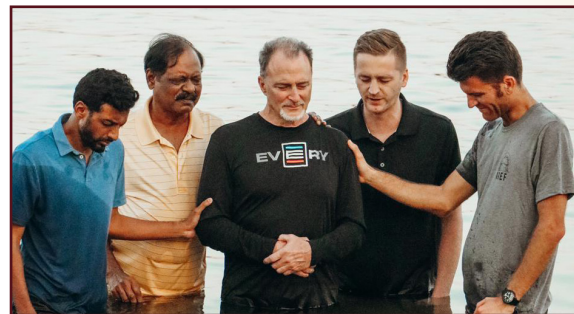
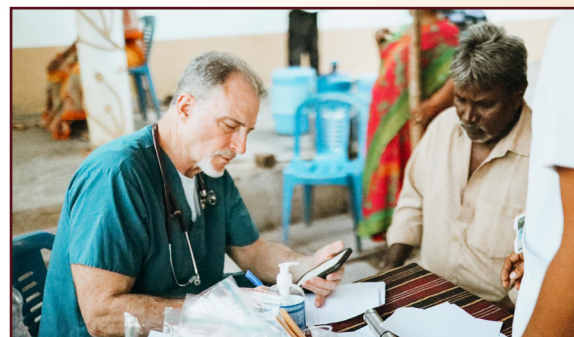


Every time a team journeys to IREF, lives are changed. As one team member recently said, *"It's impossible to return from IREF unchanged."* This month, we'd like to highlight an individual that was transformed during the 2023 Medical and Youth Conference trip.

Dr. Chris Fish has been a longtime friend and partner of IREF. He first came to IREF in 2006 and has returned for 8 medical missions trips. Chris says that God uses IREF to grow and mature his faith, *"each time I come to IREF, my spiritual 'rubber meets the road'. They take a different approach when it comes to the importance of prayer, faith, evangelism, and trust in God. I'm challenged and changed by the way they serve and pursue Jesus."*

This past month, at the IREF Youth Conference, Chris Fish was baptized alongside 27 IREF students. His parents baptized him as a young child to dedicate him to the Lord. Chris Fish felt it was time to be baptized as an adult, *"Taking baptism at IREF was my way of saying, 'I'm ready'. I'm ready to surrender to God. Not on the will of my parents or friends. This is a public act to declare, 'I am ready to surrender and follow'."*

We celebrate Dr. Fish's public declaration of surrender through baptism, and we look forward to all that God has in store for him! God continues to use IREF to change lives in India and across the world.



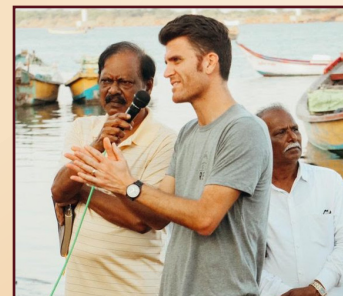
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Medical Team Returns! It has been three years since a medical team came to IREF. But last month, fifteen medical professionals from Scotland and the United States traveled to IREF to provide medical care for IREF students and villagers. The clinic ran simultaneously with the IREF Youth Conference.

The medical clinic included a health examination from licensed doctors and nurses, pharmacy, skin care, and dental care. Overall, the team provided quality medical care for 500+ IREF students and 284 villagers!

The medical team did a great job of educating and encouraging the students. The clinic is the highlight of the year for the IREF students! It provides hands on training to practice English, ask questions, and help patients.

The nursing students play a big role in the clinic as they translate and communicate needs between the patient and medical professional.

"This medical clinic is not possible without collaboration. The nursing students couldn't do it without us and we couldn't do it without the IREF nursing students."

- Jennifer, Pharmacy

IREF wants to thank every member of the 2023 medical missions team and the hard work that they provided to see so many children, staff and community members. They are truly a blessing from God and thank them for their faithfulness to support God's ministry.



February 2023
continued...

India Rural
Evangelical
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Prayer & Praise

- Praise God for each individual who accepted Christ as their Savior at the 2023 Youth Conference in Repalle. Please pray with us for each new believer as they learn to live a new life following Christ.
- Praise God for the health and safety of the US and UK teams. We thank God and are so grateful to each team member who dedicated their time and talents to serve the people of Southeast India. Please be praying that God will open the doors for more teams to travel to Repalle to share the Gospel.
- Please pray for IREF staff and students as they prepare to close the 2022-23 academic year this spring. Many of these young people return to idol-worshipping families for the summer holiday and need your prayers as they stand firm for Christ.
- Evangelists and Bible Ladies will be gearing up for summer (April and May) Gospel meetings in over 100 villages to encourage IREF congregations and also spread the Good News throughout rural Southeast India. Please pray for lives to change, and the staff as they often face much persecution during this time.

SAVE THE DATE for the annual **IREF TOGETHER** virtual event.

Join us on Saturday, March 25th at 10am CST/ 4pm GMT at www.irefusa.org/together.

Stay tuned for more information!