

March 2023



## IREF TOGETHER

YOU are invited to join us for IREF Together, an online global event celebrating hope and generosity. Families and churches from the United States, United Kingdom, and India will come together online for this riveting global gathering.

You will be inspired as you hear testimonies from the IREF Staff, as you interact with the students, and as you see the impact of IREF in Repalle. We believe that together, we will make a multi-generational impact!

**You do not want to miss this inspiring event. Watch the event live at [www.irefusa.org/together](http://www.irefusa.org/together) on March 25th at 10am CST.**

*\*There is no registration needed for this event.*



## 2023 Gospel Meetings Brings Light to Repalle

IREF evangelists, Bible ladies, staff and students started the month of February preparing for the annual Gospel Meetings, which were held on February 2nd-5th. Many hours were spent setting up the grounds, stage, lighting and in prayer for the hearts of the lost to be open to hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thousands attended each night with the final evening count topping over 20,000!

We praise God that so many people in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh came to hear the Good News. Many came forward and accepted Christ as their Savior during the Gospel Meetings. As these new believers go about their daily lives, we pray that they will keep their eyes on Christ.

IREF will now turn its evangelism focus and efforts to strengthening the tribal villages that surround Repalle, during the summer months of April and May. These small rural farming and fishing villages are crying out for any hope of prosperity for their families and what a better way to feed their soul than with the message of Christ's love.



## India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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**IREF Science Day Expo** The IREF students eagerly participated on February 28th in their annual Science Day Expo. They had the opportunity to display and share their projects with their classmates and the IREF community. This is an exciting event on IREF's campus - the staff worked hard to support the students, and the students worked hard on their experiments and projects.

Each year the students create more complicated, complex projects. Some of the science experiments included a volcano, modes of electricity models, plant and water habitats, and more. The children brought their talents, knowledge, and creativity. They were very joyful and crafty! For example, some students were able to make their projects out of water bottles, boxes and a battery.

IREF's school staff were impressed by the effort put forth by each participant. Seeing such creative science projects and experiments is an encouragement to the staff to know their hard work is paying off and students are retaining the information they are learning in school. Dee Rebba was amazed at the gifts and talents of these kids, it's events like these that she sees the impact IREF is making in their lives.







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continued...

India Rural  
Evangelical  
Fellowship

## Testimony Spotlight Meet Gopi.

Gopi's childhood is similar to many students at IREF. When he was three years old, his father died of a heart attack. Soon after, his mother found a job at a factory to care for Gopi and his older sister. Gopi's family is uneducated. They have never had the luxury of choosing what they'd like to do for work, rather, they live with a "survival mentality" working whatever daily wage jobs they can find.

Early on, Gopi's mother noticed the importance of education. Her two children were educated at a local government school, but as Gopi recalls, "The facilities were bad. Teachers at the school didn't care about me and the meals were only rice, nothing else."

Eight grade was a critical year for Gopi. When his sister finished eighth grade, she dropped out of school because of an arranged marriage. But Gopi transferred to IREF in eighth grade. He says this transition made a change in his life, "When I arrived at IREF, I noticed that these teachers and staff care about me. They spend one on one time with us. They ask us about our future and our plans. They remind us of the importance of self-discipline in our studies and in our life."

Gopi is now in tenth grade. He currently holds the highest grades in his class! He has dreams and a vision for his life that includes two years of Junior College at IREF before he enrolls in the Indian Army. Through education, discipline, and encouragement from IREF staff, Gopi is re-writing a story that seemed to already have been written!

Across the United States, families help cover the cost of education for students like Gopi through child sponsorship. Currently, 81 students like Gopi need a child sponsor.



Scan the QR code or visit [irefusa.org/sponsor-a-child](https://irefusa.org/sponsor-a-child) to help a child in need for only \$35/month.



## Prayer & Praise

- 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.
- Please continue praying for a movement that results in great unity among the global Christian community.
- During this season of Lent, IREF staff and students are praying for revival and a great movement of the Holy Spirit in the dark villages of Southeast India. Please join us in praying for those desperately seeking the Light of our Lord.
- Did you know that the world's least-evangelized peoples are concentrated in India? When evaluating the Unreached population of India, of 159 people groups of over 1 million people, 133 are unreached. Hundreds more groups of fewer than 1 million are unreached.
- Persecution is rapidly increasing in India. The United Christian Forum (UCF) in a press note on November 26 said the growth in recorded incidents is increasing "not just year-to-year, but it is rising month-to-month". In the past seven years, India has risen from 31st to 10th on Open Doors' World Watch List for persecuted Christians. Please pray that God would give strength and resilience to Christians throughout India.
- Training for Christian workers at IREF is an urgent need. The life and health of the Church in India depends on pastors, teachers, evangelists, and Bible ladies. Pray for the IREF's training seminars led by Emmanuel Rebba - that a revival among Christian workers would grow.