

April 2023



Stepping foot on the IREF campus after four years...

January of this year was my first time being back in India since my last mission trip to IREF in 2018. I came on staff at the end of 2019 to oversee the Children Sponsorship program, which I absolutely love. Seeing the streets line up with over 800 IREF students and staff who greeted us as we approached the Oasis of Hope IREF gate with flower pedals and beautiful lays reminded me of the reason why I do what I get to do. I loved looking in each of their eyes, seeing the hope, joy, security, and love IREF has given them. It also made me grateful for all our US and UK sponsors who make it possible for these precious children to receive an education, safe housing, nutritious food, medical care and most importantly to not only hear the Gospel but also see the Gospel lived out. And this is only made possible through hundreds upon hundreds of you who have said “yes” to sponsoring a child at IREF.

Every time I’ve visited the IREF campus, I am hit with the same memories of my visits in the years past. The strong presence of the Lord resides on that campus. The Holy Spirit has invaded that space and you instantly feel His peace overwhelm you.

Fourteen of us traveled from Scotland and the U.S. to be a part of the medical clinics and the youth conference that we have every year. This was my first time to be a part of the medical clinics, going into remote villages to serve the precious people that IREF now calls family. One tribal village that was once unreachable for the Gospel is now being reached through a pastor and his family who have planted themselves there for the sole purpose of winning souls for Christ. We set up a medical clinic in this very poor, humble village. These villagers were some of the most grateful, kind, humble, welcoming people I have ever met.



The medical professionals who were a part of our team amazed me as they used their gifts to help this community, consisting of villagers who live in 80 huts. Not being a medical professional, I wasn't sure what to expect as I was simply there to serve in whatever capacity they needed. They put me in post-op. Which if you knew me you would know I get very queasy at the sight of blood. God truly equips us for what He calls us to do. I got to take care of the patients after they received dental care and although blood was involved, God sustained, and I didn't get queasy or faint once. God is good!



One of my favorite things about IREF is waking up on campus every morning to hear drums and hundreds of children in the courtyard singing praises to the King of Kings, lifting their voices to the One who has rescued them, Jesus Christ.

Tears fill my eyes as I witness Dee and Emmanuel Rebba discipling all these children day after day. I also loved hearing the impact the youth conference had on the students' lives as they would come and share with me what they learned about “The God who Sees”. I can't wait to go back!



Please continue to pray for the IREF staff and the students. We need over 100 more sponsors to say “yes!” to being a part of our sponsorship family. If you are interested in sponsoring a child at IREF please go to www.irefusa.org/sponsor.

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Shara Atkinson

IREF Sponsorship Coordinator, USA



The Fourth Annual IREF Together was the best one yet! This year, viewers learned about the IREF kitchen that provides over 700,000 meals per year. We heard Natalie Rebba's inspiring story of raising her four daughters at IREF and serving through VBS and Sunday school. And we saw the life-changing impact IREF has made on students like Sneha and Priya Darshini.

During the live event, in just forty-five minutes, the IREF community donated \$68,230! Since the live event, the \$75,000 event goal has been reached. Thank you for making a difference! If you didn't have the chance to watch IREF Together, you can watch a replay of the event at irefusa.org/together



"Events like IREF Together remind us of what is possible when people come together to make a difference. We hope you were encouraged as you watched IREF Together. Thank you for believing in this ministry and for trusting IREF to make an impact on your behalf. Each donation will bring positive change to India."

— Tre Moore, U.S. Director



Village Meetings Season at IREF

Pastors arrange Gospel Meetings amongst their congregations and villages to encourage new and seasoned believers with the Hope of Jesus Christ. Some of these villages range up to 45 mins to an hour from IREF's campus. And this was the case for the most recent IREF village Gospel meetings held in Pastor Devasayaham's village. Devashayam has been a faithful servant of IREF for over 30 years. In January, IREF conducted a medical camp in this village US & UK medical team. It was a great success providing free medical care to church members and the community. That fellowship continued with the Gospel meetings on March 28th and 29th.

When the larger IREF community gathers together, it is a joyous occasion and time of worship. Devasayaham praised the Lord for movement of the Holy Spirit in his village.

Dee inspired the village congregation to stay committed to having the mind of Christ as it says in Philippians 2:5. Emmanuel encourage the church to carry those in need of the Gospel Message to Jesus.

What made these village Gospel Meetings special is the number of former IREF students that attended. We thank God this village; His faithfulness and for the faithfulness of Devashayam and the church.



You all play a vital role in the Good News being spread in rural India. Your prayer and support is what is allowing IREF to witness more staying committed to Christ and more entering the family of Christ.

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.
- 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.

April 2023
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India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship

