

May 2023



## 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](http://www.irefusa.org)

Send us an email:  
[info@irefusa.org](mailto:info@irefusa.org)

**School is Out!** Summer holidays have begun for the elementary and high school students. They have been eagerly waiting for time off, especially the past few weeks as the students finished up their year end exams. We are so thankful for God's guidance upon these students and staff throughout the school year.

Please pray for God's guidance as they go home to the harsh conditions of rural India. Many of these kids come from broken homes, financial hardships and a completely different village culture than that of IREF. We were fortunate to hold Vacation Bible School for these students before they packed up for summer break. We hope the influence of IREF will keep them grounded and that they be the Good News of Jesus in their homes, to their families and their communities.

Please pray these students will continue to stay steady in their walk with Christ during their summer holidays.

Without you all, we cannot be the hands and feet of Jesus to children who would not have the opportunities otherwise. Thank you for joining us in providing education and care for the children of rural India. Please know that your partnership and prayer is having an lasting impact in the ministry of IREF.



**IREF village meetings** are ongoing in various villages where IREF has a church presence. It is a time to gather to encourage the local church body in their walk with Christ Jesus as individuals and as a community. Some meetings are held inside the church, some are held outside. While small, this particular church congregation gathered outside to hear the Gospel Message for two nights. The IREF team made a short trip to support Pastor Swamidas who has been a faithful servant with the desire to see his entire village saved by Jesus. This village church was dedicated in 2014. Swamidas is remaining faithful to the vision of why the church was built.

John Rebba shared the Gospel Message from Luke 24 - The Recognition of Jesus. There was a mighty response from the church to recognize Jesus no matter where they are in their faith journeys. We praise God for their response to the Word and we pray for their encouragement from it.

Please join us in praying for all the IREF Pastors and village Gospel Meetings as they continue to take place throughout the summer months. Please know your involvement in IREF is helping the Gospel spread to the unreached in rural India.



## Prayer & Praise

- Please pray for IREF staff and students as they prepare to close the 2022-23 academic year. Many of these young people returned to idol-worshipping families for the summer holiday and need your prayers as they stand firm for Christ.
- 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.





**May 2023  
continued...**

**India Rural  
Evangelical  
Fellowship**

**Bible Lady Testimony** In the early 1950s, Prasada Rao Rebba and his father-in-law, John, travelled from village to village bringing the Light of Christ to the darkest corners of rural Southeast India. They travelled by foot with little resources, determined to follow their call to spread the Gospel.

They held a revival prayer meeting in Eepurulanka, a village 8 miles away from Repalle located near the Krishna River. A young woman named Suvaratnam heard the Gospel and clung deeply to the hope and salvation that was shared with her. She opened the door for Prasada Rao and John to continue preaching in her village despite painful objections from local neighbors.

The Good News started to spread like a wildfire. In spite of efforts to outcast Suvaratnam and other new believers from their village, the Holy Spirit was powerful and created a massive revival in Eepurlanka. Very quickly, the entire village accepted Jesus Christ and denied their Hindu backgrounds.

Ever since that year, Suvaratnam has been a faithful servant and IREF Bible lady. She has seen hundreds of high caste Hindus profess that Jesus Christ is Lord. At 90 years old, Suvaratnam lights up as she shares how incredibly blessed she is to have witnessed the Holy Spirit moving first hand.

Ten years ago, Suvaratnam had a stroke, which left her with physical limitations but her memory has remained in tact. IREF staff, Evangelists and Bible ladies visit with Suvaratnam once a month. They asked her how they could be praying for her, and she said "there are just a few things that I'd like you to remember:

- 1) Never stop praying that people will be saved, that they will hear the joyful news that we have a God who loves us.
- 2) Pray that the hearts of our people will be set on fire by the Holy Spirit. Pray that congregations will grow and continue to spread the Gospel for generations to come.
- 3) When I was younger and the ministry of IREF was just beginning, we focused our prayers on salvation for the lost. But as the ministry has grown, I have seen with my own weak and old eyes that young people are desperately seeking for hope. Through IREF, they're being fed with the truth and giving their lives to the One True God. Pray that God will continue to use the IREF schools and teachers to create the revival that our world and young people need."

And lastly, Suvaratnam asked the Evangelists and Bible ladies to pray that God will call her to Home soon. She said, "because of my physical ailments, I cannot do much more than pray. My time in prayer is so sacred to me, but I am ready to meet Jesus and be in His presence."

IREF's devoted team of evangelists and Bible ladies dedicate their lives full-time to living and sharing the life-changing story of Jesus. They offer Bibles, education and the message of Christianity with villagers, helping them grow in God's love and plant churches.

**With your help of \$75 a month they can serve the Lord full time.** We ask that you join us in supporting and praying for the IREF Evangelists and Bible ladies who have dedicated their lives to reach the lost and further His Kingdom in rural India.



*Prasada Rao praying for people in Eepurulanka.*



*Suvaratnam after she made the decision to follow Christ and serve as an IREF Bible lady.*



*IREF Evangelists and Bible ladies in the late 1980s.*



*Dee Rebba with Suvaratnam in April.*

