

July 2023



India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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IREF Baptism Testimony - Bhagya Lakshmi

I come from a single-parent home. Because of my father's severe alcoholism, my father left our family. My mother works hard to support and provide for us.

Recently, I began to hear God speak to me about having a special purpose for my life. One day, I felt God telling me that I needed to change my life and come into His plan for my life. I realized that I needed to be saved and that I needed the Salvation of Christ.



On the day I was baptized, my anxiety was overwhelming. When I got into the water, I shivered with fear. For one minute I was silent with tears. I closed my eyes and took in the setting around me. Confessing Jesus as Lord and Saviour of my life, I was dipped into the water. I felt overjoyed and I felt complete in Jesus after I was baptized. My tears of fear turned into tears of joy after I was baptized!

I had the feeling of my sin being washed away and a new life with Christ beginning in me. My name was also changed from Bhagya Lakshmi to Esther which means "star." I truly felt the light of Christ shine from within me.



What would schools be like without notebooks, pencils, or backpacks?

Unfortunately, in Southeast India, many children do not have adequate school supplies. Parents must decide between putting food on the table or buying books and school supplies. The more pressing need of food/survival rightly wins over.

The sad consequence of this is that the children go to school with inadequate or no supplies. Some of them are not able to perform simple tasks like reading from a textbook, taking notes with a pencil, or writing in their notebooks.

"Even the best teachers are hindered if children do not have the necessary supplies or resources." -UNICEF

Please help IREF provide books, backpacks, and school supplies to children. Through a small \$25 donation, you are helping to increase the quality of the education that the children receive. This will have a long-lasting impact on their lives. At IREF, we believe that better supplies and a supportive environment will result in a higher quality education!

We believe that children everywhere deserve the best education. Please visit irefusa.org/backtoschool to donate now.



SCAN HERE TO DONATE.

The 11th annual IREF Illinois Golf Outing is on Saturday, August 12th at Bonnie Brook Golf Course. The Golf Outing is scramble format and shotgun tee times. Register online at irefusa.org/golf or by emailing golfouting@irefusa.org. Tee times are filling up so register today!

The Hole-in-One contest will be back this year! The first golfer to get a hole-in-one on the specified par 3 hole will win a \$25,000 cash prize.

The event on August 12th will be golf only. Details regarding the Shine Dinner event will be released soon.





Back in September 2022, IREF introduced the National Cadet Corp (NCC) program, which is an introductory program of the Indian Army. The main values of the NCC program is unity and discipline. Throughout this past academic school year, students (boys and girls) at the high school level engaged in drills, marches, and activities. They have grown in being disciplined and come united as a class group.

Just before the start of this new school year June, the 9th and 10th class students attended a NCC camp where they learned exercises, drill and march practices and other army-related activities. They were taught disciplines pertaining to good behavior, emergency response situations, and other life skills that help their growth and development as a leader. Despite the heat, by God's grace they were kept safe and did well in each of their competitions.

They returned from camp and it was clear that the NCC training had a positive effect on them; their way of talking, posture, initiative has changed. Our hope is that these students will apply the same principles of NCC to IREF's values of education, prayer and discipline.

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

IREF staff and schools celebrated the 44 NCC students who completed the NCC camp and training. During the assembly, one student urged all the 9th and 10th grade students to join the NCC program because of the impact NCC has had on him.

"I learned a lot from NCC camp. There were different life lessons and practical skills they taught us that will help us inside and outside of the classroom; lesson that will especially help us in society and in our future." - Santhosh (10th grade).

The NCC program provides opportunities to the youth of the country for the purpose of developing discipline and values so that they become able leaders in society. IREF wants to see these young students developed into the next leaders of India.



**July 2023
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Prayer & Praise

- Please pray for IREF staff and students as they opened the 2023-24 academic year in June. Pray for the existing staff as they recruit new students for the school year. Pray for dedicated staff members to join the IREF team.
- Praise God for the new students who have come to IREF and hear the Gospel for the first time this year! May they come to know our Savior throughout the academic year and allow the Holy Spirit to move within their hearts.
- Please pray for the strength and prosperity of our supporting churches, businesses and sponsors.
- Recruitment for the 2024 Missions team is underway. If you are interested in joining the pastoral/medical team and serve the ministry of IREF in January, please contact tmooore@irefusa.org.
- 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 in the new year.
- Please pray that believers in Repalle would have opportunities to show the light and hope of Christ to their neighbors.

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