

September 2023



India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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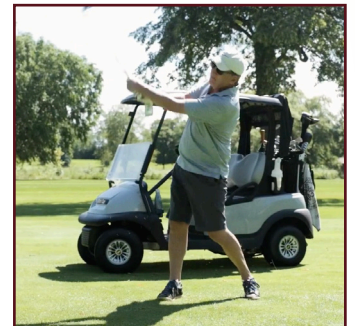
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A Golf Outing to Remember!

On August 12, we held our 11th annual golf outing at Bonnie Brook Golf Course in Illinois. Rain pounded the ground on the drive to the course, but when it was time to tee off, the skies were clear. It was a beautiful day for this sold-out event! 100 people golfed with us, competing in contests, shooting golf balls out of an air canon, and hitting balls toward a 30-foot inflatable monster guarding hole #10.

The golf outing has always been a wonderful time of fellowship and seeing the Lord's faithfulness, and this year, we experienced the same. This year's event was sponsored by James Moyna of JMM CPA (www.jmoynacpa.com). Through the generosity of other business sponsorships and donations from our golfers, we reached our fundraising goal of \$25,000!

Because of your generosity and support, more students will receive education, the gospel will spread through villages, and lives will be transformed through Jesus Christ. Thank you to everyone who came out to golf and support IREF!



Let's Stay Connected

Have you struggled to find us on social media? Due to persecution in India, our Facebook and Instagram pages are private, but we would love to connect with you. There you will find updates and ways you can pray for the ministry happening in India. Scan the QR code to the right to find our pages.



Shine Banquet

It's one of the best times of the year—our annual Shine banquet. On September 9, our Florida friends gathered with Dee Rebba and the IREF team for an evening of inspiring stories, changed lives, and the restorative work that is only made possible through the power of Christ. Thank you to everyone who joined us for Shine Florida. Now, we look forward to gathering with our friends in Illinois. Due to schedule conflicts with a few of our church partnerships, Shine Illinois will be on October 24. We're sorry for any inconvenience this causes, but the date change means there's still time for you to register!



There are still seats left, so join us for an incredible evening full of stories of impact. God is doing amazing things in rural India. Come be part of it. Register on our website irefusa.org/shine before all the seats are gone.



September 2023
continued...

**India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship**

Spotlight on Students Pavan and Nikhil fidgeted as they sat down to share their story with Dee Rebba and IREF-USA director, Tre Moore. As Dee asked about their family, Pavan looked away and scratched at his knee. Nikhil couldn't meet Dee or Tre's eyes either, so Dee quickly moved to the couch, squeezing between the two brothers. "You don't need to tell us your story," she said, "We care about you. We love you both."

Looking at Tre, she said, "Many times, students come from such difficult, heart-wrenching backgrounds. They leave what happened in the past, and they focus on the oasis of hope they've found at IREF."



She then turned to the brothers, changed the subject, and spoke only in Telugu. The boys giggled as they told stories about their time at IREF. They love the food, and they told Dee about their best friends and favorite subjects. Then, almost out of nowhere, Pavan slowly shared their story.

They were raised by their mother since their parents were divorced, but unfortunately, she was abusive. When the boys disobeyed, she put chili powder in their eyes, and to this day, Nikhil still has eyesight problems. After three years of mistreatment from their mother, they begged their father to help. He took them from her, and the brothers finally felt safe.

Last year, though, their father fell in love with a woman who didn't want Pavan and Nikhil. She told their father, "It's the two boys or me; you can't have both." Tears fell down his cheek as Pavan confessed, "My father chose her over us." Their father visits them at IREF every few months, but his decision cut deep into their soft hearts.

As the boys talked with Dee, they called her "Amma", which is Telugu for mom. And at the end of the conversation, their Amma gave them 40 rupees (50 cents) to buy a special treat. Pavan and Nikhil are grateful for IREF's hospitality and for things like three meals each day, new friends, non-abusive discipline, and an Amma.

Because of your generosity, children like Pavan and Nikhil experience a reality full of love and belonging. Many experience paternal love and care for the first time from Emmanuel and Dee Rebba. Please keep these precious boys and others in your prayers as they continue their education at IREF. Pavan and Nikhil can stay at IREF because of the generosity of their sponsors Larry W. and Lori B. If you would like to sponsor a student, please visit irefusa.org/sponsor.



What does a textbook mean to you? To our nursing students, each textbook represents another key to breaking the cycle of poverty. It means they successfully have completed another semester of schooling, and they're one step closer to a future filled with more opportunities than ever before.

IREF staff gave each student a new set of biochemistry, nutrition, and nursing foundation textbooks for the second semester. The semester system is new the IREF colleges, but with the encouragement of our staff, these students are seeking to be the best nursing students they can be today and the best nursing professionals tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued support that makes it possible to give simple but profound things like new textbooks!

Prayer & Praise

- Praise God for the wonderful Shine banquet in Florida. The Lord always blesses abundantly, and He used so many people to support and encourage the ministry of IREF.
- Please pray for the 10 students who were baptized just a few weeks ago. Choosing to follow Jesus means a lot of sacrifice for them. Pray that they would remain faithful to Jesus.
- Praise God for the new students who are hearing the gospel for the first time. Pray that their lives would be transformed by Jesus Christ.
- Please pray for Devasahayam, longtime IREF pastor of the Chennupallivaripalem church. He recently suffered from a stroke, and we are praying for his full recovery.