



Honoring Devasahayam—A Faithful Servant of Christ

We are saddened to learn that Devasahayam, one of IREF’s core pastors in India, has passed away. Please read below to learn about Devasahayam and his story.

In the 1980s, a young man from one of the lowest Hindu castes showed up at an IREF gospel meeting. This young man was desperate. His wife suffered under the oppression of an evil spirit, and nothing helped. So, he came to a gathering unlike any he’d ever experienced, and here Devasahayam encountered God. His wife was completely healed, and their family was introduced to the Rebbas. Over the years, Devasahayam sent his children to IREF and even came himself to be disciplined by Prasada Rao (founder of IREF).



When Devasahayam accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior, there was no stopping him. This man—who could hardly read and write—took the gospel to his village, and through him, many people came to Jesus, both inside and outside his village. He has been one of IREF’s greatest supporters, and a strong encourager and partner in ministry to Emmanuel over the years.

Last August, Devasahayam suffered a stroke, and after a difficult year, Devasahayam went to be with the Lord a few weeks ago. Our team is heartbroken, but we don’t

grieve as those without hope. We celebrate all God did through this one man and the legacy he has left through his son who continues to pastor the church his father started all those years ago. To those who knew Devasahayam, they will miss his infectious smile and joyful spirit, and we pray God sends IREF more ministry partners who carry his same passion for the gospel and for those who are far from Christ in rural India.



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July 2024



Registration is now open for our annual Shine Banquets! Join us September 11 in Gurnee, Illinois or September 15 in Kalamazoo, Michigan for an evening of inspirational stories, fellowship around the table, and opportunities to partner with the transformational work happening in rural India.

This banquet is a wonderful chance to share what God is doing in India with friends who may not know IREF. In fact, last year, many people at our banquets were new to the ministry, and they were there because people just like you invited them. So, come to be encouraged and to partner with the Kingdom work happening in India, but also bring a friend or two who shares your passion for the gospel.

Reserve your seats at irefusa.org/shine.



Students are Back on Campus

Students are slowly trickling back to campus after summer vacation. We are happy to welcome new faces and see old ones. Unlike the U.S., India doesn't have a strict start date for all students. We expect a few hundred more to enroll in the coming weeks. For new students, IREF is a completely new environment. Many come to IREF from the lowest poverty levels. They live in thatched roof homes without running water, indoor plumbing, any idea of where their new meal will come, and more. You can only imagine how overwhelming it can be to come from a small home to a big campus.

There is a bit of an adjustment as new values, principles, and disciplines are instilled in students. And yet, after adjusting to life at IREF, so many students thrive. So,



will you join us in praying for the new school year at IREF, especially for those new students who feel overwhelmed? Pray they experience the peace of Christ, encounter Jesus in an unmistakable way, and understand the importance of a good education.



July 2024
Continued

India Rural
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IREF Golf Outing

Have you registered for our Golf Outing on **Saturday, August 3, 2024** at Bonnie Brook Golf Course? This event is always an exciting day of competition, fellowship, and partnership in the ministry happening in rural India. Plus, this year, we'll hear stories from Dee Rebba herself. So, bring a few friends and golf with us! Register today at irefusa.org/golf.