



YOU can Encourage Persecuted Pastors in India

Persecution in India

Persecution is on the rise in India. In fact, attacks against Christians have risen 630% in just 10 years, and pastors throughout the country are left to grapple with a multitude of challenges. Not only are they striving to shepherd congregations struggling against this persecution, but they're also seeking to safeguard their own families. On top of this, the church in India is strongly divided along denominational lines. So pastors are left feeling burnt out, divided, and discouraged.

Persecution Over Time



IREF's Vision

Recently, the Lord has given IREF a vision to host Pastors Meetings throughout southeast India to encourage, equip, and unify pastors. Each meeting consists of two to three sessions, a few meals together, and a time for ministry for those experiencing persecution and burnout. Last year, these meetings were incredibly fruitful. Today, IREF is seeking partners who want to help fund these meetings so more pastors, churches, and believers throughout India can be equipped and strengthened.

Encourage: At the Pastors Meeting, pastors find encouragement through fellowship with like-minded believers.

Equip: Pastors learn the Word and leave better equipped to teach their congregation.

Unify: Pastors from different denominations come together in unity.

Desired Impact

- 12** Pastors Meetings Across Southeast India
- 400** Average Attendees per Pastors Meeting
- 125** Average Congregation Size
- 4,800** Pastors Impacted from Meetings
- 600,000** Christians in India Impacted by these Meetings

The Need



Each of the Pastors Meetings cost roughly \$5,000. A few IREF partners have already generously donated \$39,000, leaving just \$21,000 needed to hold these events. The largest cost is the convention center rental. The other major expenses include food for the pastors and travel expenses for the IREF staff to attend the meetings. Will you help us encourage, equip, and unify pastors facing great persecution in southeast India?

Funds for the meetings must be secured by July 1, 2024.

CURRENT NEED= \$21,000

Scan to give to the Pastors Meetings



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As Tim Pappageorge taught educational strategies to IREF teachers, it seemed like they were “getting it,” until one teacher bravely raised his hand and said, “None of what you’re teaching us will work here. We cannot teach students to be creative. We need to teach them to pass a test.” This very real challenge was an eye-opening statement to Tim—showing him how to inspire those at the conference. And since then, IREF’s teaching strategies have never been the same, and our school is better for it!



As a teacher himself, Tim knows how challenging this profession can be, and as someone who has known about IREF for over 27 years, he also gets the extra burden IREF teachers carry as followers of Christ. This is what inspired him to travel to IREF for the first time in 2018. Not only did he train IREF’s teachers, but he also got to experience the ministry firsthand through daily devotions, evangelism, and the students’ studies. As he said later, “Jesus is present in the quiet moments, the loud moments, and the day-to-day learning at IREF.” Apart from this trip, Tim has been a faithful supporter of the ministry, even helping to lead our annual Golf Outing. We’ve seen this event grow and bring more people into the IREF family because of his efforts. Like so many IREF partners, we’re so grateful for the ways Tim has used his gifts and abilities to make a real Kingdom impact in rural India!

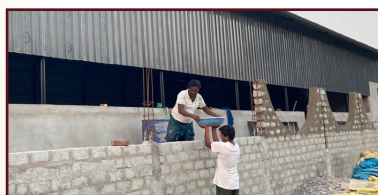


IREF Golf Outing

Join us for our 12th annual Illinois Golf Outing on **Saturday, August 3, 2024** at Bonnie Brook Golf Course. Save 20% with the early bird discount until July 1. Last year, the Golf Outing sold out, so don’t miss your chance to join us!

Register today at irefusa.org/golf.

At the end of 2023 we broke ground on our Parent’s Pavilion, and it’s nearly complete. All that’s left is the electrical! This space was created to serve our students and their parents when they come to visit their children at IREF. In past years, families have spread out on campus, leaving a bit of a mess for our staff to clean up. With the Parent’s Pavilion, over 1,000 parents and kids can gather in one space with shade, fans, tables, and trash cans.



We are especially excited as this space has been constructed in honor of the late Art Gay, IREF’s founding chairman. Art was an incredible champion of students and IREF’s ministry. It seems fitting that a place that seeks to serve families bears his name. Thank you to all our IREF partners who have helped to make this project possible. We have no doubt students will enjoy it when they return to campus in June.

IREF Sundays

This month we had the opportunity to celebrate IREF Sundays with two long-time partners Sawyer Highlands Church and South Park Church. So many people sponsored IREF students, and it’s been a joy to watch people connect with the Rebbas. We’ll make one more stop at Coastline Church in Destin, Florida on June 30. If you’re in the area, we’d love to see you! Thank you to everyone who has made these IREF Sundays so special.

