

October 2024



After months of planning, we got to share Shine with so many of you! From the food catered by IREF's very own Karen Gray to the stories shared by Dee, Emmanuel, and John Rebba, both Shine Illinois and Michigan were nights to remember.



Why do we love the Shine Banquets so much? Easy. These events bring long-time friends and new partners into the transformational work God is doing in rural India. This year at Shine:

- ✦ 250+ people attended in Illinois and Michigan!
- ✦ 17 families became new partners!
- ✦ 5 students received sponsorship for the very first time!
- ✦ We raised over \$80,000!



We are so grateful for the IREF family's dedication to spreading this ministry. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Shine Banquets so special, from the Rebbas who traveled all the way from India to IREF board member Dave McMahon who reminded us of the urgency the gospel carries, to those who spent an evening with us. You help us do more than we could ever accomplish on our own.

We'd love to bring Shine to you! If you would like to bring a Shine Banquet in your city, please send us an email at info@irefusa.org.

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Pastors Meetings



As Emmanuel shared at Shine, we praise the Lord for his grace and goodness over the pastors meetings. Each meeting consisted of two to three sessions, a few meals together, and a time for ministry for those experiencing persecution and burnout. In a place like India, it's easy to feel discouraged, especially when religious persecution and caste prejudice are so intense. These pastors are truly on the frontlines of ministry, caring for their congregations, their villages, and their families.

This is exactly why these Pastors Meetings are vital! At the beginning of the summer, we shared the financial need to host roughly 10 gatherings, and YOU responded! By God's grace and your generosity, every meeting was fully funded. You helped encourage, equip, and unify pastors across Andhra Pradesh. Many pastors told us they came to the meetings discouraged and ready to quit. Over just a few sessions, the Lord reminded them of their calling and reignited the fire in their hearts. Praise the Lord! Thank you for your partnership that makes this ministry possible.





Imagine running for your life as flood waters sweep through your home from every direction. Or climbing to the roof of a church only to watch those who couldn't reach safety be washed away into the sea. Or knowing that your very few possessions, your crops, and your livelihood have been destroyed. This is what our brothers and sisters are experiencing in parts of southeast India. Although Repalle and the IREF campus have not experienced this devastating flooding, many of our churches and congregations have.



In fact, 3 IREF churches are completely underwater, and many others still have mud knee high in their buildings. In the villages and cities, the water was as high as 8-10 feet, and hundreds remain missing. Although the government gave every family a bag of rice, the needs are still so great, and IREF's leadership is praying and discerning how we can help. When natural disasters have struck in the past, the generous support of IREF partners has allowed us to serve those in rural India. Today, would you pray for those who are suffering and for our ministry as we discern how to help the many needs.

Jake Vermillion had a camera hanging around his neck the first time he encountered poverty. With the hot India sun beating on him, he watched a man and a little boy forming bricks by hand and laying them on a crinkly blue tarp. No one could have blamed him for having his camera. After all, he was 11 years old and eager to capture every moment, but when Jake locked eyes with the little boy, he didn't want to take a photo. He wanted to take him to IREF's gates.



At such a young age, Jake experienced the eye-opening reality of life in India, and it was a far cry from his life in the U.S. Since this moment in 2003, he hasn't forgotten the little boy forming bricks by hand in India. In fact, he's traveled back to IREF six more times, each trip remembering this experience. Today, he is a husband, dad, and faithful partner of IREF who seeks to instill the mission and ministry of Christ in the next generation. We are so grateful for Jake's heart, his love for the people in rural India, and his partnership in impacting the lives of thousands of children just like the little boy making bricks.

CAFO



Last month, our team enjoyed the CAFO 2024 Summit in Nashville. CAFO, Christian Alliance for Orphans, is an organization doing amazing work throughout the world as they serve, equip, and partner with nonprofits who care for vulnerable children. For the last few years, the CAFO summit has been a highlight for our team, and we're excited for the ideas it sparked, the conversation it brought, and the ways this training will help us serve the people of rural India better than before.

Stay Connected

Do you struggle to find us on social media? Due to persecution in India, our Facebook and Instagram pages are private. Join our group or follow us for updates, ways you can pray for the ministry, and events occurring in India. Scan the QR code to the right to stay connected.

