

November 2024



## You can Make this Christmas Special

Christmas is always a special time for our IREF students. So many of them have never understood the true meaning of Christmas or received a gift from someone they love. At IREF, we have the opportunity to share the gospel with them and show them Christ's love through a present this Christmas season. Over the years, partners just like you have helped make this possible. This year, we're excited to see how God uses His church to show His love to IREF students.

Through your gift of \$25, a student receives a gift just for them.



*Total Need*

**\$25 x 900 students = \$22,500**



### A Custom Jersey Just for Students

What will students receive? This year, we're excited to give each student a custom IREF jersey. Every jersey will have a specific school logo and unique colors to that school. So students in each school will proudly represent their program and can wear these jerseys to gym class and beyond.



### How can you help give gifts?



You can help make this Christmas special by donating at [irefusa.org/christmas](http://irefusa.org/christmas) or simply scan the QR code and give today.

Thank you for showing the love of Christ this Christmas season. Your partnership is planting seeds of the gospel in students' hearts that we pray grow into true and lasting transformation.

### Handmade Christmas Ornaments



Not long ago, our IREF students got into the Christmas spirit and created a handmade gift for their sponsors—Christmas ornaments. These ornaments have travelled all the way from India and will arrive to the homes of 362 sponsors in the coming weeks. It's a simple way to say thank you to our students' sponsors who help make it possible for children to receive a high quality, faith-based education. Sponsors, be on the lookout for your handmade ornament in the coming weeks. If you'd like to learn more about sponsoring a student, send us a message at [info@irefusa.org](mailto:info@irefusa.org).

**India Rural  
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**It's always amazing** to see the power of prayer at work in the many IREF churches. Recently, Josh, Lawrence, IREF staff, and some nursing students joined one of these churches as they finished a month of praying together. Every year around this time, IREF churches spend intentional time fasting and praying as a congregation, and people are hungry to see God move! Over the years, we have seen miraculous answers to prayer like in the lives of two women who

longed to be mothers. They brought their desire to the church, the entire church fasted and prayed for them, and today, both women are moms to healthy boys. Praise the Lord!

We are so grateful to see the faith and spiritual strengthening of the church bodies in rural India. Despite challenges they face, they long to see God move. No matter where you live, may their faith and hunger for the Lord encourage you in your own prayer life.



**When Greg Thompson** first heard about a missions trip to IREF at Lakeland Church, he didn't give it much thought. After all, his list of reasons not to go was long—he'd never been on a missions trip or had special skills; he didn't know how he'd get the time off work or pay for the trip, and on and on. But as hard as he tried, he couldn't forget India. Finally, the Holy Spirit reminded him, "God doesn't require your abilities. He can provide you with what you need. He needs your availability and obedience." All the excuses melted away, and Greg committed to travel to IREF.

this trip. As a photographer, Greg has seen the world through a camera lens since the 90s, and many have been blessed by his gift. One morning before the day took off, Greg grabbed his camera and walked to the other side of campus. The boys eagerly met him with big smiles and a "secret handshake" only for him. Greg later recounted, "What was so special or exciting about shaking MY hand? They have no idea what that experience meant for me, how they blessed me that day." Throughout his time in India, the Lord moved in remarkable ways, showing Greg more about Himself, and Greg left us with a remarkable gift as well—beautiful photos of the people we love so much.

As it turns out, he had exactly the skills needed for



### Prayer Requests

- **Dee's Return to India:** Dee returned to India on November 11, so please join us in praying as she adjusts back to life at IREF.
- **Medical Team Prep:** In just a few months, the medical team will arrive in India for their annual trip. Please pray for their hearts as they prepare for this trip and for the many details that make this trip possible..
- **Gospel Seeds Planted at Christmas:** The Christmas season is a wonderful time to share the gospel with students. Please pray for soft hearts that are ready to hear and receive the Good News of Jesus Christ.

### 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.

