



India Rural Evangelical Fellowship

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A Stroller. A Smile. A Spark of Hope



In a remote village just a few miles from IREF's campus, a young boy named John Wesley captured the heart of Dee Rebba during a medical clinic in January 2023. As the medical team and nursing students cared for patients, Dee wandered through the village's dusty paths and met John Wesley—a little boy living with cerebral palsy, unable to speak or walk, but radiating joy through his big, bright eyes and contagious smile.

Moved by his spirit, Dee carried him back to the clinic—not for treatment, but simply so others could meet the child who had touched her heart. And, just as she suspected, his smile and giggles softened every face he met.

John Wesley's family lives in extreme poverty. His father struggles with alcoholism. His mother works long hours as a day laborer to support four young sons. Their home is small and sparse, and they often sleep on cots or the floor. Life is about survival, with few signs of hope for a child like John Wesley.

Still, Dee couldn't forget him. Over the following months, she returned with IREF nursing students,

bringing clothes and checking in. But she wanted to do more—something that would bring comfort and dignity to both John Wesley and his mother. This spring, she brought a new stroller and a proper bed.

On the evening of the visit, the village was bathed in golden light. But nothing beat the way John's face lit up when he saw Dee. His giggles filled the air again as Dee presented the gifts—a stroller to help his mother transport him with ease, and a bed to offer him and his family restful nights.

"To give someone hope goes a long way," said Maneesha, an IREF nursing student who helped deliver the stroller. "A little bit of hope can help move them forward in life; with a little bit of hope anyone can move mountains."



These gifts may seem small to some, but to this family, they were monumental. More than physical comfort, they represented the love of Christ—a reminder that even in the hardest places, God's kindness is present.

A little act of kindness can impact a life for all of eternity. John Wesley may never become an IREF student, but he is now deeply connected to the IREF family. And more importantly, his story is a testament to the hope and healing that come through the love of Christ.



Students are Back on Campus



After a short summer break, students are back on campus for the 2025-2026 school year! For returning students, coming back to IREF often feels like coming home. IREF means safety, family, and love.

For new students, the adjustment to life at IREF can be a challenge. These students often miss home and wonder how they'll fit in with the nearly 1,000 students on campus.

As both start this new school year, will you join us in praising God for bringing each child through our gates? And will you pray for the new students who feel homesick. We have no doubt that as they adjust, they will encounter a loving family and an even greater God.

June 2025



June 2025
Continued

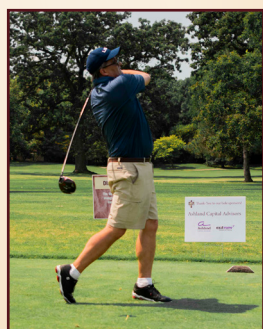
India Rural
Evangelical
Fellowship



Wednesday, September 3 at Village Church of Gurnee
Sunday, September 7 in Kalamazoo, Michigan

The much-anticipated Shine Banquet is just a few months away. Mark your calendars and join us as we celebrate all God is doing through IREF and through ministry partners just like you. For our friends in Illinois, join us Wednesday, September 3, at Village Church of Gurnee. And for our friends in Michigan, we'll see you Sunday, September 7, in Kalamazoo.

Looking for a way to introduce your friends and family to IREF? The Shine Banquet is the perfect way to see a full scope of this ministry, hear stories of impact, and step into opportunities to help transform lives too! So invite others to join you as we seek to build God's Kingdom in rural India. Learn more and register at irefusa.org/shine.



Calling all golfers! Join us for the annual IREF Golf Outing on Saturday, August 9 in Waukegan, Illinois. This is a great way to connect with others in the IREF Family and introduce friends to the life-changing work happening in rural India.

Register before June 30 to save 25% off your registration fee at irefusa.org/golf.