



IREF (UK) News Letter ... February 2005

Thank you!

Let me begin this News Letter by saying a very big 'Thank you' to all of you who gave so generously to our Tsunami Appeal Fund. A magnificent total of almost **£2,000** has been received, which will provide rice, clothing, blankets, cooking pots, and fishing nets for over 50 families. The distribution of aid began within a few days of the disaster striking. A group of ten university students from the USA have been helping with its distribution.



Ullipalem CDC

Our last News Letter reported the opening ceremony of IREF's second Child Development Centre, in the village of Ullipalem. This exciting new venture is one that we have agreed to 'take under our wing' from the UK. The cost of the church building in which the CDC meets was raised by Airdrie Baptist Church in Scotland, a few years ago. They also support the resident Pastor and Bible lady for the village.

As from August 2004, 60 needy children are now receiving enhanced education through the CDC. The children attend a government-run Day School during normal school hours. But whilst their parents are working in the rice fields during the evenings and at weekends, the children will enjoy additional educational and recreational opportunities, plus health care and one nourishing meal a day, through the CDC. The government school is manned by only one teacher, who is expected to cover the whole age range from 5-11 years. But the CDC is being manned by two qualified teachers, plus two assistants.

As the trustees of IREF(UK), we have given our friends in India a commitment to seek to raise sponsorship funding for the 60 new children in the Ullipalem CDC. Sponsorship for IREF's CDC children has been set at **£2 a week**, half the level requested for IREF's full-time boarding-school children (since it costs less to care for a child at a CDC). We have also introduced a **50% co-sponsorship scheme** to bring the cost down to only **£1 a week** for those who would like to sponsor a child, but who would not be able to afford the full £100 a year.

So this is where we are asking for your help!

➤ Please join us in **praying** for sufficient sponsors to be found to support the 60 new children at Ullipalem. So far, we have found sponsors for 14 of the children. This means we are currently using undesignated gifts to meet the remaining costs of the CDC. But by the start of the next academic year (August 2005), we would like to have sufficient sponsors in place to meet all the running costs.



➤ Please use our special **publicity leaflets** to encourage others to take out sponsorship. We believe many may be prepared to help at our reduced rate of only £1 a week. A leaflet and explanatory letter are enclosed with this News Letter. Please let me know if you could make use of more.

Sponsoring IREF's Teachers

We are delighted to let you know that our 'Sponsor a Teacher' scheme has got off to a good start. So far, four teachers at the John's Elementary and High School in Repalle are being supported from the UK at £150pa. We even managed to meet someone's request to be linked up with an Art and Design teacher! Please let me know if you could use some of our

'Sponsor a Teacher' leaflets to pass on to potential sponsors.

Financial Update

We are also pleased to let you know that during 2004 we were able to remit over **£23,500** to India, bringing our total to over **£136,600** since IREF(UK) was founded nine years ago. So, on behalf of our Indian brothers and sisters in Christ, let me say a very big 'Thank you' to you all for your wonderful generosity! Our current levels of sponsorship are as follows:

- **Children:** 17 boys and 22 girls.
- **Evangelists:** 11 men and 6 women.
- **Others:** 4 Teachers and 14 CDC children.

This support is generating **£16,600 a year**.

Ian Leitch's visit, November 2004

Ian writes, "I had a good trip to Repalle via London, Madras and Chirala, arriving at Gospel Fields to an enthusiastic welcome from students, children, cooks, teachers, lecturers, pastors and wardens, with accompanying fireworks, loudspeakers and garlands. As the sun was setting, they began to sing their worship songs and I knew I was back in India with the children I love and the people I care for.

➤ **New Life Seminars**

74 registered for the five-day *New Life Seminars* in the Bible School. Two sessions were held in the morning and one in the afternoon. The *NLS* went very well with a good response from all who attended. On Friday afternoon, in true Indian fashion, the graduation ceremony took place with certificates, photos, speeches and lots of colour, followed by snacks and tea.

➤ **Schools and Colleges**

During my second week, I spoke at morning assemblies in the John's Elementary and High School, the Junior College, the Degree College, the Post-Graduate College, the Nursing College and the Bible School. I used Luke 2.52 as my text, "*Jesus grew in wisdom, in stature, in favour with God and with man,*" taking a different approach with the various groups to get across the need to feed the mind, care for the body, enjoy God, and serve others.

➤ **Villages visited**

In the evenings, I went with some of the Bible School students and evangelists to speak at various villages, Bobbarlanka, Ullipalem, Piratlanka and others. Usually it was an open-air meeting, with an hour of singing followed by the message. There were good turnouts for these events. Each village served a wonderful meal of rice and curried chicken, on a banana leaf! The Bible School students loved the week!

➤ **Friendships renewed**

I enjoyed making my annual visit to the Kumari family, in Vijayawada. We went through last year's photo album, which I had brought for them. They served a wonderful Indian meal. We then talked, took photos, and after reading Psalm 145 together, we prayed and committed them all to the Lord.

During my time in India, I reconnected with a number of other poor families, passing on photos I had taken on my last visit. I prayed with some and tried to help all of them in a small way.



The ministry of IREF is a light in a dark place and an oasis in the desert. I can't wait to go back next year, the Lord willing. Jesus is coming back!"

2005 Missions Follow up

Please remember all the follow-up work being undertaken in India currently, in response to this year's outreach initiatives. This time last year, thousands responded to Christ's call upon their lives. Pray for lasting fruit – to the glory of the Father.

India 2006

Once again, we have been asked to put together a team of Pastors and medical personnel from the UK, to visit in India in January/February 2006. *Please pray that we will be led to approach the right people, and let us know of anyone who might be interested in joining us.*

More News will follow

I began this letter with a big 'Thank you' to all of you, so let me end it with an apology! As trustees of IREF(UK), we realise we haven't kept our supporters as well-informed as we should have done about all the exciting work God is doing in India. For various reasons, our UK newsletters haven't come out as frequently as we would have wished over the last two or three years. So we have made a commitment to produce four News Letters a year (in February, May, September and November) to keep you better informed of the work. We know that fresh information will fuel your prayers for the work. In between our own issues, I would encourage you to read the monthly IREF(USA) bulletins, which are posted on their website (see below for details).

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]