

India 2010 – a big ‘thank you!’

On behalf of the UK India 2010 team, let me say a huge ‘Thank you’ to all of you who supported us both before and during our recent visit to Repalle.

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of your giving for the trip. Over £36,000 was given by our UK supporters. So, after deducting the cost of our airfares and a few other costs, we were able to present Emmanuel Rebbha with a cheque for £30,000 to help cover the cost of the annual Bible Conference and provide for other on-going needs that IREF has. Ian Leitch was right when he shared Eph 3.20-21 with us at our Trustees’ meeting last November.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Bible Conference

Ian Macaulay and I, along with Craig Darling from the USA, enjoyed the immense privilege of teaching over 1,200 delegates who registered for IREF’s annual Bible Conference together with about 2,000 pupils and students from IREF’s school and colleges. Ian spoke on the theme of *Anger and Forgiveness* throughout the three-day conference and I took the story of Ruth as the basis for my four messages. Once again, we were indebted to some fine translators who enabled us to bring God’s



Word to the Telegu-speaking people of Andhra Pradesh. I was touched by a young student who came up to me during the second week to tell me that the Lord had really spoken to her heart through the story of Ruth – so much so, that she had decided to be baptised on the middle Saturday of our visit.

Evangelistic meetings

The evangelistic meetings during the first week got off to a slower start than in previous years; but at the last of the four evening rallies, on our middle

Saturday, about 6,000 people gathered to hear the Gospel messages. Ian, Craig and I each spoke twice at the meetings, with Emmanuel Rebbha speaking on three of the four nights.

Although the numbers were smaller than in previous



years (partly because the meetings had been moved from the centre of Repalle to IREF’s own campus, mainly for security reasons), the response was as moving as ever. Perhaps as many as 2,000 people came forward at the end of the meetings in response to the Gospel appeals. We need to pray for IREF’s evangelists and pastors as they seek to disciple these respondents in the coming months.

Baptisms in the River Krishna

On our middle Saturday, we enjoyed the immense privilege of baptising 152 new believers in the River Krishna, a few miles from IREF’s headquarters in Repalle. It was remarkable to witness the wide range of candidates for baptism – youthful children and wrinkled oldies, with plenty in between! Those with Hindu and Moslem birth names were given new Christian names to underline the point that *if anyone is in Christ, he/she is a new creation - the old has gone, the new has come!* [2 Cor 5.17].



Church full for Sunday worship

It was a joy to join with 3,000 other worshippers for our Sunday worship and to be part of such a youthful congregation. Well over half of those present were under the age of 25 – even though the 4-hours service was long!



Great work by the medical team

Once again, our medical personnel excelled themselves. They saw over 500 schoolchildren within the first two days of their arrival in Repalle. Then they dedicated themselves to the task of serving many of the Bible Conference delegates, IREF's evangelists, and the college students. Those new to IREF's medical work, Jamie Robertson and Gordon Elliott, quickly picked up what was required of them.

They worked well alongside our more experienced team members - Aileen and Stuart Bell, Shieleen Bremner, and Stewart Shaw - under the overall guidance of Jason



Leitch. Valuable assistance was provided by Colin



on their next visit in two years time!

New Nurses College

The medical team were very ably assisted by several trainee nurses who are undertaking a four-year degree course.

About 50 young men and women are working towards a BSc in Nursing, in a new venture for IREF, housed in the old Bible College building.



Ullipalem - new sponsors needed

On our middle Sunday in India, we visited the village of Ullipalem, where we support one of IREF's eight Child Development Centres. Seventy children between the ages of 5 and 16 are now being cared for through the centre and so we are seeking new sponsors to support them all. As some of our previous sponsors have fallen away (for a variety of reasons), 26 new ones are needed to enable us to support the Centre from the UK. Please spread the word amongst your friends and contacts. A sponsorship form for the CDC can be downloaded from our website, details of which are given at the

foot of this page. One of the most remarkable sights as we arrived at Ullipalem was to see a man in a mud hut working at a large notebook. It turned out that he was studying for his BSc in Chemistry at IREF's Degree College.

It epitomised for me the remarkable work that IREF is doing in providing a first-class education for many of the rural poor of India. Though having very little materially, plenty of these children and young people have first class brains, waiting to be developed to their fullest potential.



Evangelists' conference

During the second week, Ian Macaulay, Craig Darling and I spent several very profitable sessions teaching about 100 of IREF's evangelists, both men and women. We began with a stimulating Question and Answer. We were quizzed on topics as varied as where Cain's wife had come from; who the Nephilim of Genesis 6 were; how the barren woman of Isaiah

54 could bear children; what the word 'flint' meant, in Zechariah 7; and what the 'sin leading to death' in 1 John 5 was about. We were also asked where the traditional Hindu

gods had come from. The questioning certainly kept us on our toes; but it also helped us to understand some of the exegetical issues the evangelists struggle with as they try to understand the Scriptures.



Village Church Dedication

Although there were no village evangelistic meetings arranged for our second week, unlike in previous years, we enjoyed participating in two village Church Dedication services. One of the new buildings, in the village of Potumeeda, was on the east side of the River Krishna across the new toll bridge that was constructed about three years ago. This was the first building funded entirely from donations to the IREF(UK) General Fund; so it was a joy to dedicate it on behalf of all our UK supporters.

Once again, thank you for your invaluable on-going support for the Lord's work in India.

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]