

## ***A Young Man Returns to His Faith***

My name is Babu Diwakar. Though born in a Christian family, I grew up only as a nominal Christian. We lived in a house near the IREF Evangelical Church in Repalle. I have an older sister and brother. At the age of six, my family lost my father. My mother, Padmavathy, nurtured and brought us up carefully, in spite of the suffering, trials and tribulations to which our family was subjected. I used to go to church regularly. I thought I had accepted Jesus as my Saviour and held the view that I believed in Him.

After getting my university degree, I found employment at a bank in Hyderabad. After moving there, I gradually changed, getting addicted to bad habits. I stopped going to church and completely abandoned devotion and prayers to the Lord. I had fallen into worldly ways. I went on like this for some time until I got sick. I had a fever, vomited blood, and was too weak to walk. When I was taken to a nearby hospital, the doctors were worried and admitted me to the emergency ward. Just then, the patients on either side of my bed passed away. I was terrified. I thought I too would die. I began thinking and searching my heart. It dawned on me that I had distanced myself from the Lord Jesus. I wept and prayed to the Lord with a saddened and burdened heart. The Lord heard my prayers. I was surprised to find my weakness had gone. I got up and began walking. The doctors were surprised too! They found that I was totally cured of my illness. I praised the Lord for this.

Then I went back to visit Repalle and the IREF Evangelical Church. While hearing the message, great sorrow swept over me. I rose up, went to the dais and gave my witness. I truly accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour. I repented of my sins with all my heart.

One day when Emmanuel Rebba was distributing rice, groceries and clothes to the flood-affected people at the village of Penumudi, near the River Krishna, I went there and asked him to baptise me. Emmanuel baptised me in the river and gave me some verses for meditation. I am now a born-again Christian. Please pray for me.

## ***Homes for Tsunami Victims***

Many people lost everything they owned when the 2004 Tsunami ravaged the entire village of Lankevani Dibba. IREF was able to provide immediate relief in the form of food, cooking utensils, and clothing for the villagers.

A partnership with Covenant World Relief has produced an opportunity to provide relief that is more permanent for the affected families, in the form of concrete homes.



*Foundations for Tsunami Relief House*

The project will provide strong structures that will withstand the fierce cyclones and storms, which impact villages off the coast of the Bay of Bengal. In the first phase of the project, 28 houses will be built, and there are plans to provide 100 more homes in subsequent phases.



*Typical Tsunami Relief House*

New IREF churches for the coastal areas of India are now being constructed using concrete. These

structures will serve entire communities, providing havens against violent weather.

### **IREF Honoured for Humanitarian Services**

The government of Andhra Pradesh invited Dr. Emmanuel Rebba to Guntur on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2006 to receive a citation, honouring the continued humanitarian service of IREF. The award recognised the services rendered to the poor and often forgotten members of Indian society. IREF works to make an impact on the education and health care of local communities, as well as providing relief and rehabilitation during emergencies such as floods, cyclones and fire accidents.

### **New Child Development Centre to Serve Penumudi**

IREF's latest Child Development Centre has been established in the village of Penumudi, to make good use of the recently constructed IREF church building there. Many of the village children – those from the poorest families (farm workers and/or socially neglected people) - do not attend school at all. Very often, both parents need to work to provide for their family – and sometimes their children are forced to leave school before completing their education in order to work in the rice fields and in other jobs themselves. IREF seeks to help such families keep their young children in school, breaking the cycle of poverty that a lack of education brings in India. Children arrive at the CDC after normal school hours and open their time with some Bible instruction and prayer. The children then receive additional coaching in their school subjects. IREF provides all the necessary textbooks and writing materials at no charge to the families. At the end of the day, each child receives a nutritious meal before returning home.

### **Construction Begins on Laurel's Home for Girls**

Construction began last month on a dormitory to safely and comfortably house 200 girls at the orphanage in Repalle. This project is the answer to many prayers that have been offered – for a solution to be found to accommodate the growing number of children needing the care IREF offers. Emmanuel Rebba writes, "*Dale Vermillion (from the USA) and his family have contributed generously to make this new*

*dormitory a reality. It is with deep gratitude that we thank this faithful family and every IREF donor for their commitment to India's needy children.*"

### **Flood Emergency**

Dee Rebba writes (2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006). "*Everyone has been so busy around here due to the floodwaters of the last few days. Conditions are horrible. Water everywhere. No place to sleep or cook. No help coming from local government to these areas. All the houses are drowned in water. So many people are here, standing by the IREF office waiting for help. Our school building is closed. Water is around the whole area. The Boys' dormitory is surrounded by water. Please keep us in your prayers. We have so many new congregations around this area. They have all lost every thing. The crops are all drowned in water. We are so thankful that the Lord has blessed IREF with strong buildings to shelter these children here at the IREF compound. Emmanuel and I are so grateful for all your help over the years. God has opened the doors to share His love to needy and helpless people through your generous gifts. Thanks again for all your help. As I write this, I feel like this is another hurricane Katrina.*"



At our November IREF(UK) Trustees meeting, which took place on the day this e-mail arrived, we agreed to send **an immediate gift of £1,000** to help the flood relief effort. This was possible as a result of several undesignated donations we had received in recent months. Thank you for your generosity in enabling us to respond with such speed to this emergency.

### **For Your Prayers**

Pray for **Ian Leitch**, as he prepares to visit India once again, from 9<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> November, to conduct his New Life Seminars and provide preaching and teaching ministry in IREF's schools, colleges and local churches. News of his visit will appear in our next newsletter.

**David Hunt** [Chairman, IREF(UK)]