



IREF (UK) News Letter – November 2009

India 2010

A team of eleven from the UK will be visiting India next year:-

- *Aileen Bell, dentist*
- *Stuart Bell, nurse*
- *Colin Bell, helper*
- *Shieleen Bremner, nurse*
- *Gordon Elliott, nurse*
- *David Hunt, Pastor*
- *Jason Leitch, dentist*
- *Ian Macaulay, pastor*
- *Madeleine Macaulay, helper*
- *Jamie Robertson, doctor*
- *Stewart Shaw, optician*

We are flying out on **30th January** and will be returning on **13th February**. Please continue to remember the team members in your prayers – for the pastors, as we prepare teaching materials and evangelistic sermons; and for the medical team as they gather together the equipment and medicines they will need. Please pray especially for those who will be making their first visit to India: *Colin Bell, Gordon Elliott, Madeleine Macaulay and Jamie Robertson*. Sadly, Elizabeth Callander is unable to join us this time around, but she has kindly offered to keep our supporters in touch with our news through regular e-mail prayer bulletins. Please let us know if you would like your name to be added to her list of contacts.

We are thrilled at the way in which people have supported the team's visit so generously, financially. At our Trustees Meeting last month, our Treasurer was able to report that almost £19,000 has been raised so far towards our target figure of £2,000 per team member; and as I write, the total has increased to £19,635!

It is possible to donate to our India 2010 fund in one of two ways.

- **If you are a non-taxpayer**, a charitable trust or a church, please send a cheque to our Honorary Treasurer, Jimmy Fraser, 22 Savoy Park, Ayr KA7 2XA Scotland, indicating that your donation is for the India 2010 fund.
- **If you are a taxpayer**, to enable us to recover Gift Aid on your donation, please give via our own dedicated part of the *Just Giving* website, www.justgiving.com/irefmedical2010. *Just Giving* will automatically add the Gift Aid element to your donation, saving our Treasurer a lot of administrative work!

Ian Leitch

Please remember Ian Leitch in your prayers as he visits India from 7th-25th November to conduct his *New Life Seminars* for pastors, church leaders and other personnel associated with IREF. His visit will provide him with many other preaching and teaching opportunities. We look forward to sharing news of his visit in our next newsletter.

Nurse sponsorship

In our September 2008 newsletter, we reported that IREF(India) had appointed two fulltime nurses to work amongst the children and young people in their care. We had sufficient money in our **Nurses Fund** to support the nurses for an initial 12-month period, but indicated that we hoped to be able to fund them from the UK beyond their first year. The salaries for the two nurses are £100 and £80 per month. If you would like to sponsor one of these nurses, or contribute towards the cost of employing them, please let us know.

Present Aid reminder

About this time last year, we launched our own *Present Aid* scheme to help raise funds for IREF(India)'s Income Generation Programme. I am delighted to be able to report that over £700 has been raised so far through the scheme and with Christmas fast approaching, it may be a good way of solving some of your Christmas present headaches! We have produced a series of cards for such unusual gifts as rat-traps, bamboo basket-making equipment, sewing machines, rickshaws, handlooms, fishing nets and goats! Here is how the scheme works.

- **You choose a gift to suit your price range.** A full list of options is given on our Present Aid leaflet, available on request.
- **You send the cost of your gift to IREF(UK).** Your donation can be Gift Aided, and we can claim an extra 28p for every £1 you spend.
- **We will send you a card** to pass on to the person for whom you have bought the gift. The card will tell them how the particular gift you have chosen for them will benefit someone in India. The card contains a brief description of IREF's work and tells people how they can find out more about it. There is space for you to add your own words of personal greeting.

Please let us know if you would like further information about the scheme and a full list of the gifts available, which includes Telegu Bibles at £1.50 each. An example of what one of the cards looks like is shown below. They are suitable for passing on to friends and family members at Christmas, and for

birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions.

An Unusual Present?



**A basket-making kit
will be really appreciated in India!**

Flood Relief

Devastating floods, the worst for 100 years, hit the town of Repalle early last month, leaving parts of it under 10 feet of water. Following exceptionally heavy rainfall in the state of Andhra Pradesh, water from the nearby River Krishna poured across the low-lying landscape engulfing 30 villages in its wake. A 50-ft breach in the embankment of the River Krishna near Penumudi became a major cause for concern as the floodwater gushed through it.



All of the children in IREF's main compound were moved to the first floor of their buildings for safety. Unable to gain access to the main kitchens, IREF staff cooked food for the children on the flat rooftop of the boys' dormitory, using gas stoves!

In addition, some 3,000 people from surrounding villages who had been made homeless sought refuge

in the IREF compound and slept in the school buildings. Indian newspapers reported that over 250 people had lost their lives in the floods and 1.5 million others had been made homeless. In Guntur District alone, where IREF is located, officials evacuated 27,000 people from their villages. The local police department stationed itself in IREF's church building to distribute food and oversee the relief efforts.



Once again, IREF(India) was at the forefront of the relief effort for all these displaced people providing rice, other groceries, cooking utensils and clothing to people devastated by the destruction of their homes and loss of personal belongings. It is such a blessing for the recipients of this relief to see the love and provision of Jesus through the people who follow Him.



IREF(UK) was able to pledge £2,000 from our Relief Fund, thanks to the generosity of those who give unspecified gifts over the course of each year.

Thank you for your continuing support which is so much appreciated.

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]