

NEWS FROM IAN LEITCH IN INDIA

Evangelist and Bible Teacher, Ian Leitch (one of our IREF(UK) Trustees), is currently in India for his annual visit. He writes, *"My heart is full of wonder that God still takes my five loaves and two fish to feed spiritually hungry people, multiplying my gifts beyond my ability."*

Ian has been privileged to preach to 5,000 people at IREF's Repalle Church, and teach 1,000 college students about the evidence for the resurrection. Many have made a response of commitment to Christ on hearing his messages. Ian has also been able to visit the new orphanage building at Arumbaka; attend a groundbreaking ceremony for a new church building at Konaphalam (a very poor village near the Bay of Bengal); and attend a dedication service for a new Church building in Aravapalli, a Hindu village with no previous church. About 30 villagers have become Christians through IREF's ministry. A Christian couple have built a new house and gifted their old one for a church building. *"They have so little but give so much,"* Ian comments.

Ian visits India each year to deliver his *New Life Seminars* on basic Christian doctrines and Christian living. About 60 pastors, church leaders, college students, and IREF staff members benefit from the course each November. The seminars are always well received and give people a good grounding in Christian basics. Ian developed them in the UK several years ago and many churches have benefited from them. Please feel to contact him if you would like to discuss the possibility of him holding them at your church. For further details send an e-mail to enquiries@theheraldstrust.org; or by post to, *The Heralds Trust, P.O. Box 813, Edinburgh, EH14 7LR*; telephone: 0131 449 4440; or consult the Heralds website, www.theheraldstrust.org.

INDIA 2006 TEAM

Plans are progressing well for the visit of a ten-strong UK team to India next year. We will be flying out of the UK on Saturday 28th January and returning on Saturday 11th February, a slightly shorter trip than in the past.

Revd David Hunt, of Durham Road Baptist Church, Gateshead, and **Revd Ian Macaulay** of St John's Church, Linlithgow, Scotland, will be delivering Bible teaching and evangelistic messages. David will be giving four talks on the life of Jonah and Ian will be delivering four messages from the book of Philippians at the Bible Conference during our first week in India. These meetings are normally attended

by about 5,000 people. We will also be preaching at the large evening rallies, which may be attended by up to 15,000 people. Three American pastors will also be contributing to the Bible teaching and evangelistic work.

During our second week, we hope to visit some of the outlying orphanages, take part in a church dedication service, visit a couple of villages for evening evangelistic meetings, and spend some time with the Bible College students. We have been asked to share some teaching on the theme of 'servanthood' with them. We would greatly value your prayers for all the preparation that needs to be done in advance; that our teaching and preaching would be culturally sensitive and relevant; and spirit-inspired in its delivery.

Elizabeth Callendar, Aileen and Stuart Bell, Stewart Shaw, Suzanne Perry, Marilyn Robertson, Janet McArthur, and Shieleen Bremner make up the medical team, together with **Jason and Lynne Leitch** (currently living in the USA) and various other personnel from the USA. Please pray for all the preparations that need to be made over the coming weeks, especially the gathering of medical supplies.

IREF SERVES FLOOD VICTIMS

In our last Newsletter, we reported on the help IREF had been asked to provide in the aftermath of a devastating fire, which had swept through the village of Chennupallivaripalem near Repalle. Twice this year, IREF has also provided help for flood victims.

During the second week in August, several areas close to Repalle, near the course of the River Krishna River, suffered severe flooding due to heavy, incessant rain, which lashed the upper areas of the river. The floods destroyed everything in their wake. The people who suffered most were daily-wage workers living in thatched huts in villages beside the river. Thousands of poor farm-workers were evacuated and sent to safer places nearby. However, few of them were able to find work, as most of the planted crops were submerged under water. IREF rushed to distribute relief materials to the affected people. Over 2,100 families in twelve villages were helped. Each family



was given rice and groceries for their sustenance for a few days, until they were able to find work. Another 1,500 families in eight more villages also required help. “We praise the Lord for having enabled IREF to give a helping hand to the poor in distress,” reports Emmanuel Rebba, IREF’s Director. Such help is only made possible through the generous ongoing donations of supporters in various parts of the world to IREF’s Emergency Relief Fund.



IREF PROVIDES FURTHER EMERGENCY RELIEF TO VICTIMS OF FLASH FLOODS

From 18th-21st September, the people of Andhra Pradesh suffered further heavy rains. A depression in



the Bay of Bengal intensified into a cyclonic storm causing wide-spread down-pours. The River Krishna and its tributaries overflowed, leaving

200,000 people homeless. Villagers were evacuated to safer locations, but many could not find work as the paddy fields where they usually work were completely under water.

Many displaced villagers were without food and water. IREF mobilised help to assist over 100 families in the villages of Pesarlanka and Pallipalem. Relief packages contained rice and other groceries.

“The food we passed on will sustain them for at least ten days, until they find work in the fields to earn their daily wages,”



reported Emmanuel Rebba at the time. Please continue to remember these very poor flood victims in your prayers.

TRAGEDY STRIKES TRAIN FROM REPALLE



Heavy rains continued throughout October and into November. The resulting floods washed away a railway bridge, causing 90 to die in the ensuing accident. The train had begun its journey from Repalle, where IREF’s headquarters are based. Please pray for those who lost loved-ones in the accident, and IREF’s on-going ministry of comfort in Repalle.

Sponsorship Update

Please continue to pray for further sponsors to come forward for the Child Development Centre at Ullipalem. Currently, 42 of the 60 Ullipalem CDC children are being sponsored from the UK, so we still need sponsors for the remaining 18 children. At present, we are supplementing our sponsorship income with income received from undesignated gifts, to ensure that the work is fully supported from the UK. But we would like to move to a position where the CDC is being supported fully through sponsorship income. This enables us to use undesignated gifts for other purposes (such as the flood relief work). Please let me know if you would like further some copies of our Sponsorship Leaflet to pass on to potential sponsors.

In addition to our CDC sponsorship, 42 boarding school children, 6 teachers and 19 evangelists are also being fully supported from the UK.

At our recent IREF(UK) Trustees meeting, we learned that, since IREF was founded less than ten years ago, our remittances to India have totalled over £150,000! So, on behalf of my fellow trustees and all the people of India whom you have helped, let me say a very big *‘Thank you’* as we give God all the praise and glory for the generosity of our UK supporters.

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]