

INDIA 2006 TEAM

Plans are progressing well for the visit of a ten-strong UK team to India in January/February next year. David Hunt and Ian Macaulay will be delivering Bible teaching and evangelistic messages. Elizabeth Callendar, Aileen and Stuart Bell, Stewart Shaw, Suzanne Perry, Marilyn Robertson, Janet McArthur, and Shieleen Bremner will be providing medical care. We will be joined by 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 – the choice of teaching subjects and evangelistic messages for the pastors, the gathering of supplies for the medical team, and our visa applications. Each team member is required to raise funds to cover the cost of their trip (airfares, travel in India and a contribution towards our board and lodging), and so would value prayers for this too.

Ullipalem CDC – one year old

On 1st August 2005, the Ullipalem Child Development Centre celebrated its first anniversary. ***“We thank all our supporters in the UK for making this project a success,”*** wrote Emmanuel Rebba, IREF President in a recent IREF(USA) newsletter. A special celebration service was held at the Ullipalem Rural Evangelical Church, which was decorated with brightly coloured paper streamers for the occasion. All sixty CDC children were present. There was great joy among the pupils, their parents, and the people of the village who attended the function. Mr Z Ratna Prasad, Principal, spoke about the importance of the village CDC in providing training, education, and above all spiritual development, for the children. He said that IREF was implanting spiritual values through its ministry and that IREF’s CDCs would strive hard to mould the children into loving, caring and responsible adults.

A further CDC will be opening in the town of Guntur shortly, bringing the total number to four.

Sponsorship Update

Currently, 37½ (!) of the 60 Ullipalem CDC children are being sponsored from the UK, so we need additional sponsors for a further 22½ children. Please make this important need known amongst your friends. Let me know if you would like some copies of our Sponsorship Leaflet. Remember, ***a CDC child can be sponsored for as little as £1 a week*** through our co-sponsorship scheme.

41 boarding school children, 6 teachers and 19 evangelists are also being supported from the UK, for which we are most grateful.

Chennupallivaripalem Fire

On Sunday 12th June, a devastating fire spread through the village of Chennupallivaripalem when embers from a cooking stove were blown into a nearby haystack. The fire spread rapidly through the whole village, leaving 103 families homeless. The village, which is close to IREF’s headquarters in Repalle, housed many low-caste farm workers, many of whom are Christians with children at IREF schools. The fire raged from 2pm until 10pm through the thatched-roof huts and stockpiles of firewood until fire-tenders from the village of Tenali finally brought the blaze under control. One of the villagers died of shock from a heart attack. Many women fainted and required medical treatment. Those who suffered from the emotional trauma of seeing their village destroyed also received medical.



IREF personnel immediately rushed to the scene and provided food, drinking water, medical assistance and temporary shelter for the victims.



The Minister of Cooperation for the Government of Andhra Pradesh, along with the District Collector of

Guntur, visited the village and greatly appreciated the help rendered by IREF to the victims.

An appeal was launched to provide rice, blankets and cooking utensils for 103 families (800 people, including volunteer helpers). The Andhra Pradesh Government has asked IREF to assist with the building of permanent houses for the villagers. We were able to send an immediate gift of £600 from the balance in our UK funds towards the appeal target of \$15,000.

HIV/AIDS & TB AWARENESS

As part of an IREF campaign on HIV/AIDS and TB, an 'awareness meet' was conducted in August at the IREF Campus. This was done in partnership with the State Government and local officials. Students from IREF's colleges and a large number of people from the local area came to the event. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Emmanuel Rebba. One after another, the conference speakers spoke about AIDS and asked each individual to get rid of the myths and any misconceptions they had about AIDS. Listeners were urged not to judge people because they had AIDS. Everyone was called upon to explore the possibility of providing meaningful care for people with AIDS. Dr. Emmanuel Rebba said there was a lot of talk about AIDS in India, but little positive action to deal with the situation. He wanted everyone to think about helping an AIDS patient. At the close of the meeting, Dr. Emmanuel Rebba prayed for HIV/AIDS patients and for all those bringing awareness and care in the context of AIDS. We pray that God will strengthen the hands of the IREF personnel in India as they minister to AIDS victims, bringing the hope of Jesus, as they care for their medical and emotional needs.

NURSES GRADUATION

The IREF Nursing School was started in 1997 for girls graduating from IREF John's School, as well as local educational establishments. Ever since, it has been sending out well-trained Christian nurses to serve children and women in rural areas. The latest batch of 40 nursing students has been undergoing training since October 2004. In the 'Confirmation Function' held on 4th August, all the trainee nurses were capped. They held lighted candles as a mark of entering the nursing service, bringing the light of Jesus Christ to all those they serve. Several government dignitaries attended the function. They spoke on social awareness and social awakening, covering a wide range of educational, health and social topics. Dr. Emmanuel Rebba exhorted the trainees to dedicate themselves to serving the weak

and underprivileged in society, as Jesus our Lord ordained.

CHANGED LIVES

Twelve girls from different villages came to the Repalle Christian College in 2002. They belonged to different castes and religions and so had different opinions about God. The girls recalled the time when "we did not enjoy attending the daily morning and evening devotions, fasting prayers on special occasions, Wednesday and Saturday prayer meetings and Sunday worship services at IREF. We were so annoyed with these activities in the beginning. Even though we didn't like to attend to all these religious activities, we did so because we had to." But being in an atmosphere of Christian love, their hearts began to change. "Because of the consistent hearing of the truth in the Bible, God started to open our hearts one at a time to obey his Word. God spoke to us and we saw our spiritual darkness. We began to see the importance of the salvation and love of Christ. **We all accepted Christ as our Lord and Saviour one at a time and were baptized at different times.**" Having just graduated, the girls look back over their years at IREF. "We were roommates for three years and strengthened each other with prayer. Now we've finished college and are going back to our own communities. Please pray for us, that we might be salt and light to the community and our families".

Khaja Shaik and her two children were cruelly deserted by her husband. Afterwards, she became weak, both mentally and physically. One day, she invited IREF Bible Lady Elizabeth Gobbi to pray for her. Elizabeth told her of the love Jesus had for her. Khaja was a Muslim, but as Elizabeth began teaching the Gospel stories and prayed for her, the Lord started to open her heart to His love. Khaja's health continued to get worse, however. So in June 2005, she agreed to Elizabeth's invitation to attend the Believer's Retreat meetings. Khaja repented, and gave her heart to the Lord Jesus. A transformation took place in her and she was healed of her ailment. At the end of the conference, Khaja was baptized, giving God all the glory for her healing, both physical and spiritual. Pray for Khaja as she follows the Lord and puts her trust in Him.

Thank you for all your support, which makes these thrilling stories possible!

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]