

A story of Transformation

When we visited the orphanage at Nalluripalem for the first time, on our 1996 visit, all of us were shocked by the appalling poverty of the residents in that Tribal Colony village. IREF was seeking to make a significance difference to the poorest of the poor, but it was an uphill struggle given the inadequacy of the buildings housing their orphanage.



One of my abiding memories from that visit, however, was of a young girl giving a Scripture recitation for us – the whole of the fifteenth chapter of John's Gospel! Time didn't permit her to finish all 27 verses, but she was still going strong when her teacher asked her to sit down to let someone else contribute to the proceedings.



I also remember asking the children how many of their parents *couldn't* read or write. Almost every child put up his/her hand. It opened my eyes to the wonderfully strategic work IREF was engaged in, in the Tribal Colony areas, equipping households to become literate through their children.

On our last visit to India, in 2006, we met a girl who was suffering from polio, due to contaminations in the water supply for the village. So we were please to read news of IREF's water project, reported in our September 2006 News Letter. Originating from a well in Repalle, the water is purified at the IREF campus, transported to Nalluripalem, and then pumped into the village tank. An entire village is now confident that their families are consuming water free of polio, cholera, and countless other impurities.



A recently constructed IREF church building not only hosts Sunday

worship services, Bible Studies and Prayer meetings. It also provides accommodation for one of IREF's Child Development Centres, providing much needed supplementary education and nourishing meals to 200 children from the village.



A testimony of Gratitude

Below is the testimony of Nalluripalem's IREF Pastor, Shaik Daniel, a Muslim convert, who dedicated his life to serving the Lord after his conversion. Pastor Daniel speaks about how his sponsor helps him spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

My name is Shaik Daniel and I am the IREF pastor looking after the congregation in the village of Nalluripalem. The village congregation consists of families who, until recently, used to hunt small animals such as rats or squirrels for food. Now they have settled in the village and go to farm fields to work there as labourers.



But there is work only until the end of the harvest season in November. The season lasts for about four to five months, and then they must depend on the uncertain supply of other labour jobs for the remainder of the year. Somehow, they manage to survive in this vicious cycle of poverty. When IREF tried to reach them two decades ago, they were against hearing God's word. But slowly, after passage of time and IREF's continued spiritual presence, many of them converted and IREF formed a church congregation.

I was born into a Muslim family. But after attending IREF Gospel meetings and many of their spiritual programmes, I accepted the Lord Jesus as my Saviour, repenting for my sins. After training me, IREF placed on me the responsibility of pastoring the congregation at this village. The people here are very faithful, but very poor. They attend the Sunday worship services regularly and offer in kind what little they have.

As my sponsor encourages and supports me, I am able to continue my ministry here. It is only through my sponsor's generosity, that I can look after my wife

and two daughters. I thank the Lord for enabling me to continue my gospel work in such a remote village in the midst of illiterate people whose only means of getting the Word is by hearing it. So it was very important that our sponsor's funds enabled us to purchase a P.A. system for the people of our church, and that electrification of the church was completed. And I am thankful for the bicycle that was gifted to me so that I could also go to nearby villages and preach.

We glorify the Lord for these blessings.

News Round Up

➤ **2008 India Team**

A team from the UK will be visiting India next January/February. Those signed up so far are **Jason Leitch** (dentist and medical team leader), **Stuart Bell** (nurse), **Aileen Bell** (dentist), **Elizabeth Callander** (nurse), **Janet McArthur** (dental nurse), **Suzanne Perry** (dentist), and **Stuart Shaw** (optician). Please pray for others who have been, or will be approached, to be part of this team. The team is hoping to raise a substantial sum of money to take with them to India, by way of a gift, and to cover their travelling expenses. Please get in touch with us if you would like to make a contribution. A webpage for donations will soon be active. Please go to www.justgiving.com and search for IREF to donate to the medical team's trip.

➤ **Nurses Project**

Please continue to pray for the appointment of two nurses for IREF, funded from the UK. The posts were recently advertised, but the applicants were not of sufficient calibre for appointments to be made. The posts are being re-advertised this month.

➤ **Seethanapalli Village Church**

Work on the new church building for Seethanapalli is almost completed. A few minor jobs, like fixing doors, finishing the flooring and then painting the building, are all that remain to be done. We are hoping that Ian Leitch will be able to conduct the dedication of the building during his visit in November.

➤ **An IREF(UK) church building?**

We mentioned in our last newsletter that we have established a **Special Projects Fund** to help finance a range of capital projects. Our first objective is to raise enough number for the building of an IREF(UK)-funded church-building. Our colleagues in India have earmarked a village called Nagaram (15 km from Repalle) for construction of a new church. So far, we have about £4,000 in our fund towards our target figure of £7,000. Please contact the Treasurer

if you would like to make a contribution to this Fund at any time.

➤ **New Child Development Centres**

IREF are planning to start Child Development Centres in five island villages in the middle of the River Krishna delta. One of these island villages needs a church building to house its proposed CDC. Please contact us if you know of anyone who would like to sponsor the new church building!

➤ **Income Generation Projects**

On one of our earliest visits to India, we were privileged to see Income Generation Projects in action. Small loans were provided for villagers in Arumbaka, a tribal colony settlement where IREF has established a children's home and school. Villagers used the loans to purchase sewing machines for making clothes (to sell on), rickshaws for giving taxi rides, and livestock for producing milk and meat, enabling the villagers to become self-supporting. The loans were paid back over a specified period of months or years, to re-circulate funds. The project lapsed several years ago, due to a lack of ongoing funding to support the project's administrative costs. But there are plans to resurrect the concept. The long-term goal is to help 500 families in five separate villages. £47 would pay for a sewing machine, £118 would purchase a bicycle rickshaw, and £141 would pay for a handloom. Please let us know if this is a project that you would be interested in supporting. Further details are available.

➤ **IREF Industrial Training Centre**

Since 2004, IREF has been running an Industrial Training Centre in the village of Nagaram (see above) for 9th and 10th grade students. Young people are now being trained in three useful trades - as electricians, fitters and diesel mechanics. Further courses are planned in several other trades for which employment opportunities, in both the public and private sectors, are encouraging. These include tailoring & sewing, plumbing, refrigeration and air-conditioning, welding, carpentry, draughtsmanship, masonry and computer training. The courses will last either one or two years. Proposals have been drawn up to move the ITC to Repalle. Training for 250 one-year students and 120 two-year students is planned, a total of 370 at any given time.

Please remember our Treasurer in your prayers, who has been in hospital recently for a heart condition. Thank you for your ongoing support. It is greatly appreciated by all the UK trustees, and particular by the hundreds of people who receive your support in India.

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]