

UK-Funded Nurses Appointed

I am delighted to be able to report the appointment of two fulltime nurses for IREF (India), Ms. N. Samadanam and Ms. Bujji. Pulipati. Both are being fully supported through donations from the UK.

In our June 2007 newsletter, we reported that “for some time, it has been recognised that it would be good for IREF(India) to employ a full-time nurse to provide all-the-year-round health care for the 1,500 children in IREF’s care. Earlier this year, we heard that the salary cost would be about £900 per annum. IREF(UK) had indicated its willingness to try to raise this amount of money each year to enable a nurse to be employed by IREF(India).”

Thanks to some very generous giving to our newly formed **Fulltime Nurses Fund**, we were able to inform IREF(India) that we had sufficient funds in place to support *two* nurses for 12 months, and we hoped to be able to continue this level of support into the future. The salaries for the two nurses who have been appointed currently amount to £180 per month (£2,160 per annum). Please let us know if you would like to help with their ongoing support in the future.

Visiting Doctor Appointed

We are also pleased to be able to report the appointment of a visiting doctor. Dr. S. Ramesh was appointed at the same time as the two nurses, on 1st March 2008. He is visiting the IREF hostels in Repalle on a daily basis. Thanks to a generous gift that has been in IREF(UK)’s funds for some time, we are able to cover the doctor’s salary for the first year of his appointment, at £180 per month. Again, please let us know if you would like to help with his support thereafter.

Church Building Fund

I am delighted to report that our Church Building Fund has now reached its target figure of £7,000! This is the amount required to purchase land and erect a brick/concrete building in one of the villages on the River Krishna delta, a new area of opportunity opened up to IREF(India) recently, thanks to the construction of a new bridge across the River Krishna, not far from Repalle. Let me say a big ‘Thank you’ to all of you who have contributed so generously to this project.

Fire Relief Help Given

In separate incidents between 15-18th May this year, devastating fires swept through the villages of Balijepalli, Chennupallivaripalem, Nizampatnam,

and Sajjavaripalem near Repalle, destroying many of the thatched houses and the few belongings of the villagers. In one of the villages, many of the villagers were attending a Sunday service in a nearby village church when the fires broke out. With no one at home to put out the flames, Christian households suffered much more extensive losses than other villagers.

Families returned home to find everything they owned



had been destroyed.

IREF volunteers visited all the villages to assess the damage. 105 families had lost their houses and belongings. IREF quickly moved to provide these families with rice and other groceries, cooking utensils, clothing, financial assistance for temporary housing, and help for constructing permanent housing (along with government assistance-matching grants). IREF(UK) has been able to send a grant of £500 to help cover the cost of this relief work from its Disasters Emergency Fund, established in June 2007 for these kinds of urgent needs.



People must live in makeshift tents until their homes can be rebuilt

IREF(UK) through £0.25m mark

At our most recent IREF(UK) Trustees meeting earlier this year, our Treasurer was delighted to

report that the total giving to IREF(UK), since its formation twelve years ago, had now passed through the £¼m mark. We give God all the praise and glory for moving the hearts of his people to give so generously to such worthwhile work.

News of our Trustees

- We are delighted to announce the appointment of a new trustee, **Dr Aileen Bell**. Aileen is a consultant oral surgeon from Glasgow and a veteran of many visits to India as part of the UK medical team.
- **Rev Craig Dyer** has recently taken up an appointment with the *Christianity Explored* organisation and has already had an opportunity to visit India with them. He hopes to explore the possibility of translating the course into Telegu for use amongst the IREF churches and throughout the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- Please remember **Ian Leitch** as he prepares to visit India from 7-28th November to hold his *New Life Seminars* and enjoy other teaching and preaching opportunities.

Income Generation Projects

IREF(India) has recently re-established its very worthwhile Income Generation Projects under the snappy title *Rural Micro Financing Projects for the Rural Poor and Socially Neglected!* Small grants are given to families to enable them to purchase livestock or various pieces of equipment, enabling them to earn money and so become self-supporting rather than dependent on aid. Part of the income generated is used to pay back their grant so that the capital funds can be recycled for other poor villagers. During 2007, Income Generation Projects provided 40 milch buffaloes, 10 bicycle rickshaws and 20 sewing machines for villagers. It is hoped to develop this scheme much further, as and when further capital funds become available.

Present Aid

To that end, we are launching our own Present Aid scheme, details of which are given on the accompanying leaflet, *Unusual Presents*. For several years, many charitable organisations have offered imaginative alternatives to conventional birthday and Christmas presents, such as socks and handkerchiefs. Goats, ducks, cows and chickens, as well as water pumps and tools to till the land, have been on offer instead. So, here's how it works.

- **Choose a gift to suit your price range.** A full list of options is given on the Present Aid leaflet.
- **Send your donation 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 your family member or friend at Christmas, or on their birthday,

or for some other special occasion. The card will tell them about the particular gift you have bought for them, and how it is benefiting someone in India. The card will contain a brief description of IREF's work and let them know how they can find out more about it. There will also be space for you to add your own words of personal greeting.

IREF Honoured in India

In recognition of IREF(India)'s outstanding contribution to the education of the rural poor in India, Dr. Emmanuel Rebba received the *Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Puraskar Award for Excellence in Education* on behalf of IREF (India).

Dr. Rebba is one of only five people chosen for this prestigious award, for their outstanding service/contribution in the field of education. The



award is named after Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a former President of India, known for his scholarship. The award was received in Delhi, India's capital city, at a special ceremony pictured above.

IREF Summer Gospel Meetings

IREF Summer Gospel meetings were conducted from 18-20th April earlier this year. Prior to the meetings, a rally was organised and attended by people from several surrounding villages. Every day, over 5,000 people heard the messages delivered by Dr. Emmanuel Rebba. Hundreds of people indicated their response to Jesus Christ by raising their hands in response to the appeal given. Praise God for all those being drawn to our Lord and Saviour, and pray for their ongoing discipling in their village churches.



Once again, thank you for all your support for this outstanding work for our Lord.

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]