

India 2010

Plans are coming together well for the next UK team visit to India. The dates are **29th January – 14th February 2010**. So far, two pastors, one doctor, two dentists, three nurses, one optician and two general helpers have signed up for the 11-strong UK team. They are:-

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

Please pray for all the preparations each team member will be making over the coming months, remembering especially those for whom this will be their first visit to India.

I am delighted to be able to report that over £5,500 has already been donated by our supporters towards our target figure of around £20,000 to help cover the cost of the visit. Each team member is aiming to raise around £2,000 to cover their international and Indian travel costs, their board and lodging whilst in India, and also to provide a substantial gift towards the cost of

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the Bible conference and Gospel meetings.

If you are able to contribute towards our fundraising, it is possible to make your donation in one of two ways.

- **If you are a non-taxpayer**, a charitable trust or 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 visit.
- **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

Once again, Ian Leitch will be visiting India in November to conduct his *New Life Seminars* for pastors, church leaders and other personnel associated with IREF. His visit will also provide him with many other preaching and teaching opportunities. Please pray for him in all his preparations and especially during his time in India, from 7th-25th November.

Amazing scenes

I am sure you will be as encouraged as I was to read the testimony of Pastor Pradeep, who cares for the IREF church in the town of Challapalli. Earlier this year, they witnessed some remarkable Gospel meetings.

I am Pradeep, pastoring a congregation in Challapalli town. I attended the IREF gospel meetings held at Challapalli from 18-20th February and, led by my conscience, I felt it my duty to give my testimony.

Never before had I seen such huge crowds coming to hear the gospel messages. The ground on which the audience sat



appeared to be swelling minute by minute. The lowest estimates put the numbers at 15,000.

The people came to the meetings by bullock carts, tractor-trucks and buses. Many from the nearby villages came on foot. Everyday the meetings ran from 7.00 pm to 11.30 pm. Holy songs were sung by the audience, in chorus with the IREF choir. The pandals [meeting tents] reverberated with 'Hallelujahs'!

Dr. Emmanuel Rebba, Mrs. Dee Rebba and Mr. John Rebba gave heart-searching messages, which moved the people to tears. Many of the people were seen standing, witnessing their acceptance of Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.

The people fondly expressed their desire that IREF should conduct many more such Gospel meetings throughout the year so that they could lead their lives dearer to Christ.

Pastor Pradeep, Challapalli.

A captivated and captive audience

Craig Darling, IREF's USA director, writes,

This last trip to India left me marvelling at how God regenerates the human heart and transforms affections from idols to himself.

I am still moved recalling the Sunday morning worship time in the Repalle church - a female college student of a high caste Hindu family beseeching the church for prayer as she had been baptized that Saturday, publicly identifying herself as a believer in Jesus. She asked us to pray for her as she returned to her family and testified to the grace of God in her life.

We were also invited to the Repalle jail where we were warmly received. All the inmates were brought to a common outdoor courtyard under guard, where they sat and listened to Rev. Jon Tice from Indiana. As he addressed them, sharing the gospel, their attentiveness was unreal. I was then asked to speak. I shared briefly about the thief on the cross. Again, the prisoners were transfixed by the message. Only God knows how the Word will affect them.

IREF's Children's Bible School

In order to train children in Biblical ways and equip them with a good knowledge of Christ, the IREF Children's Bible School is held in the John's School each year, after exams.

*Train up a child in the way he should go
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
[Proverbs 22:6]
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
[Proverbs 9:10]*

Bible lessons, story telling, learning new songs, recitation of Bible verses, action songs and Bible quizzes form the programme. On the concluding day, the children usually perform a dance/drama depicting the life of Jesus. Praise God that IREF is able to teach good Bible lessons to the children each year before they leave for their summer holidays.



Baptisms at IREF

Most of the young people who come to study at IREF's colleges are from Hindu backgrounds, so they would not have heard the truth about Jesus Christ prior to setting foot on campus. The atmosphere within IREF's colleges is one of deep spiritual reality with daily meetings for Scripture readings and Bible messages. Many students are transformed through the Gospel meetings.

Hearing powerful messages delivered each week in IREF's large church move many students to repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord, and testify to the same by being baptised. Each week, typically about ten students are baptised! We praise God for enabling IREF to serve the Lord in extending His Kingdom in this way!



Believer's Retreat Meetings

In India, just like anywhere in the world, the failure of many Christians to live a Christ-filled life tragically deters unbelievers from putting their trust in Jesus. IREF endeavours to reverse this trend through events such as their *Believers' Retreat* meetings. The goal of these meetings is to cultivate a deeper sense of responsibility amongst believers to live true Christian lives.

Earlier this year, the Repalle Evangelical Church overflowed with church members, pastors and evangelists, as well as IREF's many teachers, lecturers and students. Over 4,000 people attended the retreat meetings. Rev. David McMahon from the USA, Dr. Emmanuel Rebba, Mrs Dee Rebba and Mr John Rebba delivered the messages. During the Retreat, which included sessions for group prayer, many decisions for Christ were made. Sixteen new believers testified to their faith by being baptised. This year's Retreat turned out to be a particularly memorable occasion because Mrs. Panabaka Lakshmi, the Minister of State for Textiles in the Indian Government, and Mr. MV Ramana Rao, the Minister of Technical Education for the Government of Andhra Pradesh attended the meetings and heard the opening day messages.

We continue to praise God for the work he is doing through IREF and for your support for his work.

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]