

IREF (UK) News Letter – December 2013

INDIA 2014 – UK Team

Nine people from the UK are busy making final their preparations to form part the Pastoral and Medical Team which will visit Repalle next February, together with friends from the USA. We have some familiar faces and some new members in the UK team.

Jason Leitch – team leader
Aileen Bell – dentist
Stuart Bell - nurse
Stewart Shaw – optician
Isabel Gibson – doctor
Jim Leitch - helper
Lynn Leitch - helper
Yvonne Baulk - helper
Jonathon Shaw - helper

The team will provide healthcare for all the children and young adults in IREF’s care. This usually includes skin disease treatments, the extraction of bad teeth, and the provision of numerous pairs of spectacles.

The team will also provide care in IREF’s other facilities outside the main orphanage by taking the clinic on the road to some of the villages and churches spread around Andhra Pradesh.

The team will leave the UK on **Saturday 1st February** and return two weeks later on **Saturday 15th February**.

There are two specific ways in which you can support the team. If you would like to **pray** for the team, please contact Liz Callendar, at *elizcallander@aol.com*. She will send you regular news updates.



If you are able to help support the team **financially**, there are two ways in which this can be done:

- **By post:** please send your **cheque** to our *Honorary Treasurer, Mr James Fraser, at 22 Savoy Park, Ayr KA7 2XA Scotland*, indicating that your donation is for the India 2014 team. All such donations can be Gift Aided.
- **On line.** Visit the *Just Giving* website and make your way to our own account: www.justgiving.com/iref2014.

Donate online with **justgiving**

Just Giving will automatically add the Gift Aid element to your donation, saving our Treasurer a lot of administrative work!

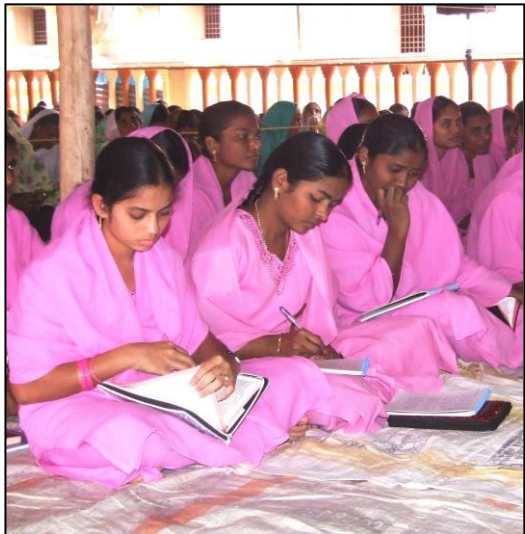
The team is hoping to raise £18,000 in total (£2,000 per team member) to cover the cost of their visit (flights, travel, etc.) and to provide a substantial gift for the work of IREF (India), to help cover the cost of their annual Youth and Bible Conferences.

Team-leader Jason Leitch writes, **“We really appreciate your continued support!”**

Christmas shopping solved!

At this time of year, we often scratch our heads and wonder what sort of Christmas gifts we can give to our family members, friends, neighbours and work colleagues. If you are looking for something different this year, take a look at our *Present Aid* options, which help raise funds for IREF’s Income Generation Programme. We have produced a series of cards for such unusual gifts as *rat traps, bamboo basket-making equipment, sewing machines, rickshaws, handlooms, fishing nets and goats – as well as Bibles and school uniforms, and bicycles and musical instruments for evangelists.*

An Unusual Present?



A Bible will be really appreciated in India!

Here is how the scheme works.

- **You choose a gift to suit your price range.** A full list of options is given on our Present Aid leaflet. This is available on request or it can be downloaded from our IREF(UK) website: www.iref.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/9.-Unusual-present-Nov-2013.pdf

- **You send the cost of your gift to IREF(UK).** Your donation can be Gift Aided, so we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you spend.
- **We will send you a card** to pass on to the person for whom you have bought the gift. The card will tell them how the particular gift you have chosen for them will benefit someone in India. The card contains a brief description of IREF's work and tells people how they can find out more about it. There is space for you to add your own words of personal greeting. An example of what one of the cards looks like is shown overleaf. They are suitable for passing on to friends and family members at Christmas, and for birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions.

Please let us know if you would like further information about the scheme and a full list of the gifts available. Prices range from as little as £1.50, for the gift of a Telegu Bible, up to £140 for a handloom.

LASTING FRUIT

Prabhavathi was brought to IREF when she was five years old by a pastor named Samuel, from Guntur, after both of her parents had died and she had no one to care for her. IREF accepted her into their primary education programme and she stayed at the Lydia Children's Home in Repalle. Little did Prabhavathi know that, despite losing both her parents, she would still have a chance to fulfil her dreams.



Prabhavathi spent ten years with IREF and left with a degree in science and theology. She and her husband now work as evangelists in North India; they have two sons.



From pupil to teacher

When Lakshmi was only six years old, she was brought to IREF from a poor Hindu Family. Her mother and father were divorced and could not afford to send her to a government school. She was taken in by IREF and became one of the first 50 children to be housed and educated by Prasada Rao

and his wife Lydia. Lakshmi was the oldest of four children in her family.

In her 8th Grade year, she made a decision to dedicate her life to the work of God and let Him direct her paths. Through knowing Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour, Lakshmi started to listen to God's plan for her life, which included her making a difference in the lives of others, just as she herself had been blessed through the generosity of her sponsors. Lakshmi was given the opportunity to complete her schooling and earn a degree in Education.



After graduating, Lakshmi didn't leap at the chance to take the first great job she was offered. Instead, she dedicated herself to becoming a teacher at the IREF Campus. Today, Lakshmi serves as a teacher in IREF's Child Development Centre at Nizampatnam, a poor fishing village. She is a great example of a former IREF student becoming an agent of change for her local community. Not only is she working to help educate the minds of young children; she has also worked hard to ensure that her family have accepted Jesus Christ as well.

In 2013, Emmanuel Rebba baptized Lakshmi's mother, Sitama. Lakshmi had prayed daily for all her family to find the same hope in Jesus Christ that she had found and experienced when she came to IREF.



Through a small relationship built between a sponsor and a child, not only did Lakshmi become saved through the ministry of IREF, but three of her siblings and her mother were also given God's precious gift of salvation!

Thank you for your own on-going support for the Lord's work in India! Please forward this newsletter to others, to encourage our supporter base to grow.

Change of address

Please note that the chairman has moved! His new address is 5 Dudley Way, Westward Ho! North Devon EX39 1 XD; telephone: 01237 239527.

David Hunt