



IREF (UK) News Letter – March 2014

Dear Friends,

Thank you for praying for the UK Medical Team who recently visited India. Here is a report from Lynn Leitch.

We left Glasgow on 1st February and were all very excited to put on our scrubs and get started in the job of offering care to the people of India.

The team was made up as follows:

Jason Leitch (Team Leader), Stuart Bell (Nurse), Aileen Bell (Dentist), Stuart Shaw (Optician), Isobel Gibson (Doctor); Jim Leitch, Lynn Leitch, Yvonne Baulk and Jonathan Shaw (Clinic Assistants). Eleven Americans joined the team to make 20 people in total.



The children were soon lined up and ready for full health checks and treatment, where appropriate. Almost 1,000 children and young people passed through the clinic in Week One, having eyes, ears, teeth and skin examined.



The optician's room was the most popular part of the clinic and Stuart Shaw was always the last person to leave the clinic. A pair of glasses can make an enormous difference to someone's daily life in Repalle. The team was very ably assisted by the IREF nursing students who were extremely committed, reliable and compassionate towards the patients. Every child received a toothbrush as they left the clinic - a small gift, but very gratefully received.



In Week Two the clinic went 'on the road' and the team treated the children (and some adults) who attend the Child Development Centres of Pedumudi and Arambaka. One adult in Pedumudi thanked the team for 'showing the love of Jesus' through the care they brought to the village people.



Pray for:

- The nursing students who are studying for exams at the moment
- Those who received treatment (that it will have brought lasting relief)
- The ongoing health of the children and adults of IREF



Gospel meetings were held in the evenings of the first week and thousands of people gathered to hear the word of God preached in a very powerful way. Some people had walked for days from distant villages to be at the meetings. Literally thousands of people responded to the message and came forward at the end of the meetings for prayer. Many of these people will now be linked to one of the 300 village churches run by IREF across the region.



A **baptism service** was held in the Krishna River on the Saturday afternoon. It was a real blessing for the team to witness the baptism of almost 40 people who have given their lives to Christ in recent weeks through the work and witness of IREF.



Sunday morning in Repalle is a time for everyone to attend church and worship God. The service is extremely lively and busy and the Spirit of God is evident. Many people gave testimony to the work of God in their lives and beautiful music was provided by the IREF choir. The visiting UK/USA team even sang a song for the congregation!!



There were **two big celebrations** during the two-week trip: one was the 17th birthday of the youngest team member, Jonathan Shaw. The traditional 'Happy Birthday' song was sung quite a few times throughout the day!! It was lovely to hear some additional Christian verses added to the song, including 'May God Bless You Always'. This would be our prayer for IREF too.

The second celebration was the 35th wedding anniversary of Emmanuel and Dee Rebba (IREF leaders). They are an amazing couple whose love for God and each other is inspiring. They have given their entire lives to building IREF and have made many sacrifices in doing so.



Pray For:

- Those who were saved at the Gospel Meetings; that they will be nurtured and find spiritual homes in village churches.
- Those who were baptised; that they will grow in their faith and witness to others.
- The pastor of the Repalle church; that God would give him wisdom and strength to lead that large congregation.
- Emmanuel and Dee and their family, Christie and Jeremy, Johnny and Josh as they take on more responsibilities within the organisation.

Thank you for your on-going support of IREF!