

IREF (UK) News Letter – January 2015

CD presents Telegu CE to IREF

We were delighted that one of our trustees, Rev Craig Dyer, who is the International Training Director for *Christianity Explored*, was able to visit India towards the end of last year to launch the Telegu version of the course amongst IREF personnel.

Christianity Explored was devised by Rev Rico Tice as a course based on Mark's Gospel to introduce people to the person, life and mission of Jesus. It is now available in 22 different languages and is being used in over 50 countries worldwide.

Craig was able to present the course to about 40 IREF personnel (pastor-evangelists, Bible Ladies, teachers and students) and train them to use it amongst students and members of their congregations.



Craig has filed this brief report:

It was a great personal thrill for me to return to Repalle in November for the first time since my memorable visit in January 1997 with the second IREF(UK) team. Much has changed in the intervening years. It was great to see how all aspects of the IREF ministry had developed, and yet evidently the core desire and purpose is as strong as ever - to hold out the gospel to the people of this area of Andhra Pradesh. That was the reason for my visit.

For several decades, a former IREF(UK) Trustee, Ian Leitch, did an outstanding job delivering training from his 'New Life Seminars' to many pastor-evangelists and Bible Ladies. It is difficult for Ian to be active in India these days, for health reasons. But the IREF (UK) Trustees were supportive of IREF(India) translating the

'Christianity Explored' course into Telugu. Emmanuel Rebba oversaw that process and commissioned an initial print run.

In a hectic few days, I had the joy of training about 40 evangelist-pastors, Bible Ladies, teachers, and students, in the rationale behind the course, and gave them exposure to its content.



This kind of training via translation isn't straightforward; but it is a credit to Emmanuel and Dee Rebba's translation skills that the group gained so much from our time together. A number of the students who are fluent in English fed back on the last day and reassured me that they had understood even the finer points with accuracy.



Dee Rebba translates in Telugu as Craig Dyer teaches and trains.

So, Christianity Explored Ministries is delighted

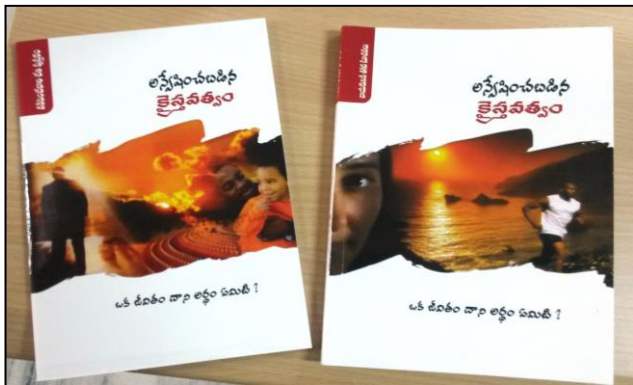


Evangelists, pastors and Bible ladies in group discussions.

to be in partnership with IREF (India), who have provided us with a Telugu translation to accompany our existing Hindi translation of the older 2nd edition of the course.

The goal of the training provided by Christianity Explored Ministries is to 'equip hundreds to train thousands to rescue millions'. These statistics are very pertinent to India. We now look to see how the Lord will bless His church as those who have been trained spread the gospel to others.

Please pray for those who have been trained in using the course as they trial it over the next year, working towards final refinements and publication as an official translation, which will then be made available globally.



Emmanuel Rebba, IREF's Director, commented on the training: *Craig has a strong passion for proclaiming the Gospel, which was felt by the many IREF staff who attended the training.* Emmanuel affirmed that IREF pastors can become renewed through this type of training and it will encourage them to explore new ways of reaching people with the good news of Jesus.

Emmanuel would like to thank all of IREF's UK supporters for their contribution to the ministry of IREF. £3,000 has been earmarked from donations received to help with the eventual publication of the finalised Telegu version of the course.

2015 Trinity team

Trinity International University, in the USA, has been sending mission teams to India for many years. The 2015 team includes six members who visited IREF two years ago.

IREF has been truly blessed through the ministry of these teams. Emmanuel Rebba speaks appreciatively about the positive impact that the teams have had on the young people in IREF's care. *"The children relate well to these students because many are working on their education and experiencing many of the same types of struggles in life, even though they are from different parts of the world.*

The Christmas story for Hindu children

The word 'Christmas' is often heard but rarely understood properly by children who have been

raised in a Hindu background. But from the very first moment such children come to IREF, they start to learn about Jesus and his love for them. However, Christmas is the time when many children really start to appreciate and understand the extent of God's love for them.

Dee Rebba writes, *"The attention surrounding this holiday in India helps children grasp the reason for all the celebrations. They become so excited to receive a gift that they start to ask many questions as to why these events are happening."*

One of Emmanuel's recent Christmas messages focussed on understanding that Jesus needed to be born into a humble environment so that even commoners, like despised shepherds, would come and worship him. If Jesus had requested the royal birth which he deserved as God's eternal Son, many people would have been denied the opportunity to worship him in person.

Most of the children who attend IREF's schools and homes come from very poor backgrounds. So it is thrilling for them to grasp that Jesus Christ is the God who values them so much that he was willing to forego the royal treatment he deserved, in order to come closer to all of them.

It is when IREF's children and young people accept and believe this truth about God that they begin to live out this principle themselves and we see start to see noticeable differences in their young lives.

Points for Prayer Please pray for ...

- **The Telegu version of Christianity Explored** to be well received and put to good use, and for any necessary refinement to be clearly identified;
- **The 2015 Youth and Bible Conferences:** that the teams from the USA will be well received and that there will be no problems with their visas.
- **Emmanuel and Dee Rebba and all the staff employed by IREF:** that they will be granted wisdom, spiritual and physical strength, and great integrity, as they lead God's work to the glory of Jesus Christ.

Once again, thank you for your generous and on-going support for IREF.

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]