



IREF (UK) News Letter – October 2015

The 2016 UK Team

Jason Leitch writes: *The medical team for 2016 has now taken shape and we are planning to leave Scotland on Friday 8th January 2016 for two weeks in India. The team contains two new members who will be travelling to Repalle for the first time; please pray for the whole team: for good health, safe travel, and to be able to provide what IREF needs.*

The team members are:

- Jason Leitch – team leader, dentist
- Lynn Leitch - helper
- Yvonne Baulk - helper
- Aileen Bell - dentist
- Stuart Bell - nurse
- Gordon Elliott - nurse
- Stewart Shaw - optician
- Nick Beacher - a new dentist.
- Lindsey Clark - a new helper

Please consider supporting the team financially through www.justgiving.com/iref.

Honouring teachers

Saturday 5th September was designated *Teachers Appreciation Day* in India. IREF celebrates this day each year to honour the contribution that IREF teachers make to the local community.

More than 40% of India’s 1.2 billion people live well below the poverty line, earning less than \$1.25 (83p) per day. IREF’s students are drawn from amongst the poorest citizens of Andhra Pradesh. An important part of IREF’s mission is to provide a refuge for the poor and orphans.



IREF teachers provide education and hope to students

Teachers play an important role in the overall development of students at IREF as they offer Christ-like compassion and a sense of dignity and equality

for the young people in their care. Children are particularly blessed by the influence and support that IREF’s teachers give them, positively impacting their lives.

The children and young people cared for by IREF are given something that they couldn’t get anywhere else – real hope for a better future through a foundation of Christian faith.



IREF teachers are also caregivers who live in the residential halls with the children.

Every student at IREF celebrates Teacher’s Day to thank, encourage, and support the contribution of his/her teacher. It’s a day of gratitude and respect for the selfless efforts of these valuable and key influencers in the ministry. Each teacher empowers students with great hope and gives them the tools needed to break their cycle of poverty.

IREF currently employs 75 teachers. At present, we are sponsoring around 10% of them from the UK. But we would like to increase the number of teachers we sponsor from our current figure of seven to around a dozen. Sponsorship costs **only £3 a week**, which represents the starting salary of an IREF teacher. If you know of anyone who might like to sponsor a teacher, please encourage them to download our **‘Sponsor a Teacher’** leaflet from IREF(UK)’s website (www.iref.co.uk), or send an e-mail to me (iref@drghunt.freemove.co.uk) requesting a form.

A HEART-WARMING TESTIMONY

My Hindu name is Yosoda Rani. I belong to the town of Eluru in Andhra Pradesh. I come from an Orthodox Hindu family who practice idol worship. I am studying for a BSc in Nursing; I am in my first year at a government school. I have a sister who is studying for her BSc in Nursing; she is in her 4th Year at IREF’s Nursing College in Repalle.

My testimony is that in the past I suffered from chronic headaches and seizures. Everybody would tease me because of my illness and seizures. My mother took me to so many doctors, including psychiatrists. Many prescription drugs were offered but still I found no relief. CT scans and ECGs were also completed. Doctors diagnosed me and gave me medicines, which cost around 1,500 Rupees per month (£15 per month).

To get me through this illness, I kept my faith in the gods of my own country, but they were not helping me to find relief. I visited all the famous Hindu temples and spent a lot of money to find a cure to my illness.

One morning my sister asked me to join her in IREF's daily prayers and devotions. I will never forget that day, 19th July 2015. At first I had a deep fear and I hesitated to enter through the gates of IREF. My sister initially took me to Mr Emmanuel Rebba and he prayed for me. While he was praying I could feel relief that very moment. I couldn't understand what happened but I felt different, like I was healed. I requested to stay in the hostel (dorm) with my sister and spent time with the other students in prayer.

At the request of Emmanuel, I also attended the evening devotions in the IREF compound. While Emmanuel was preaching, God touched my heart. He was telling me to give my life to Him and I would be forever healed. I started to pray and I confessed my sins to Him. Emmanuel advised me to not waver from this calling to serve God. Later that week, I took baptism and my new Christian name is Ruth.



Ruth (pictured above in blue) with her sister (far left), mother and aunt at her baptism.

The students of IREF taught me how to pray and IREF gave me a Bible after my baptism so I could read the Scriptures. The IREF pastors have continued to pray for me and for my health; and I have had no re-

occurrence of the chronic head-pain or of seizures. Thank God for He has given me sound health!



Emmanuel Rebba presented Ruth with her first Bible.

Give thanks to God for every life changed for the better through the ministry of IREF!

IREF's students come from long distances as well as locally. Students are given the option to stay on campus in an IREF dormitory. IREF also provides a bus service to local communities to reach pupils who may not have the resources pay for their own transportation into Repalle. IREF gives priority to the poorest students during enrolment time.

Points for Prayer Please pray for ...

- **the 2016 UK medical team** – see above;
- **all the many children and young people in IREF's care.** 325 children, formerly sponsored by the Dutch charity, *Word and Deed*, are no longer being supported as *Word and Deed* phase out their commitment to India in favour of Africa. Many of these children attend IREF's CDCs and have hopes of attending IREF's school and/or colleges in Repalle;
- **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 which is much appreciated both here and in India!

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]