

More about India 2016

In our February newsletter, we shared several reports from the UK Medical Team, who visited India in January this year. Here is a further report, from Lynn Leitch, which we didn't have room to include last time.

Lynn Leitch writes

I was thrilled to be able to go back to Repalle for a third time and witness the work going on there. The commitment, relentless hard work and compassion of Dee and Emmanuel Rebba never cease to amaze and inspire me. They are completely tireless in their mission to care for the practical and spiritual needs of hundreds of children and young people. Emmanuel told us that the children who have attended IREF's schools have been drawn from about 1,000 different villages. He asked us to imagine how the Gospel will spread if these children go back to all these villages one day, and share their faith with their friends and families!



My job in this year's team was to be a Dental Assistant. It was a privilege to help, in a very small way, to bring much needed treatment to people who would otherwise not be able to access proper care.



One village man presented with a very serious (and probably life-threatening) dental abscess and, after much persuasion and encouragement, had treatment which almost certainly saved his life! This

work was only made possible through the patience and care of the nursing students who worked with us every day. They translated our words and demonstrated God's love to everyone who came through our clinic.

A big part of the Medical Team's mission is to educate the children and young people about basic health care. They received a short lesson on how to look after their teeth before leaving the clinic. We took over 1,000 toothbrushes with us to India and gave them out to each person who came through the doors. The children loved receiving small gifts of balloons, bracelets, stickers, and toothbrushes. Everyone left smiling!!



The 2016 Youth Conference

This year, two pastors from the USA (Tim Marshall and RA Atanus) worked alongside Emmanuel Rebba to minister to the youth of India, and also in some of the rural villages where IREF churches have been planted.



The 2016 Youth Conference gave each pastor and also members of the Medical Team the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with the students and villagers who were in attendance. Testimonies and messages were delivered each day and night for the conference, which provided hope for many seeking Jesus.

For AR Atanus, his first visit to India was a very moving experience: *My main purpose for visiting IREF was to preach and evangelize as part of the 2016 Youth Conference. Upon my first walk to near the front by the stage, I had never seen so many eager and dedicated students paying such great attention as they listened to the speakers and worshiped. Soon after I sat down, I felt God's presence through His Holy Spirit in a very powerful way, one in which I never felt so strongly for such a long period of time. Talks were being translated for me and, not knowing how that would work, I was greatly surprised to feel the Holy Spirit connection*

with the other speakers and translators. God was making our words one and uniting us in the purpose of sharing His salvation message and words of encouragement. He was doing this not only on a large scale through the thousands of students attending the Youth Conference but on an individual level before and after the talks as well as during our village visits.

The annual Youth Conference is an excellent opportunity for IREF's young people to grow in their faith. Praise the Lord for the messages He supplied for each evangelist this year, and to all the team members who shared their personal testimony in order to inspire each student to truly believe that God has a great love for them as well!



Each year, the Youth Conference sees many students commit their lives to Jesus Christ and go on to be baptized in the nearby River Krishna. This year, 60 such students, as well as some local people, were baptized as the conference concluded.

Please keep these new believers in your prayers as they continue to practice their new found faith in Christ and share it with their family and friends.

2016 IREF Gospel Meetings

IREF evangelists, Bible ladies, staff and students started the month of February preparing for the annual Gospel Meetings, which were held from 3rd-7th February. Many hours were spent setting up the grounds, stage and lighting - and even more importantly, in prayer, for the hearts of the lost to be open to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thousands attended each night with the final evening count topping over 30,000! We praise God that so many people in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh heard the Good News. Many came forward and accepted Christ as their Saviour during the Gospel Meetings. As these new believers go about their daily lives, we pray that they will keep their

eyes fixed firmly on their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



IREF has now turned its efforts and evangelism focus to strengthening the work in the tribal villages that surround Repalle. These small rural farming and fishing villages are crying out for any hope of prosperity for their families, and what better way could there be to feed their souls than with the message of Christ's love! Please pray as IREF's Evangelists and Bible ladies conduct revival meetings in these villages over the next few months.

Points for Prayer Please pray for ...

- Praise God for the hundreds of individuals who accepted Christ as their Saviour at the 2016 Youth Conference and Gospel Meetings.
- Pray for IREF's staff and students as they prepare to close the 2015-16 academic year this month.
- Many of IREF's young people return to idol-worshipping families for the summer holidays and value our prayers, to enable them to stand firm for Jesus!
- Pray that Emmanuel Rebba will be given strength and good health to continue IREF's village meetings over the next two months.
- Pray for IREF's finances, as a major partner for many years, the Dutch organisation *Word & Deed*, ends its support for the work.
- Praise God for His graciousness to this ministry and His sovereign ability to provide for every need.



Once again, thank you for your generous and on-going support for IREF which is much appreciated both here and in India! Please let us know if you are able to receive this newsletter by e-mail to help us cut down on our printing and postal costs.

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]