



IREF (UK) News Letter – July 2017

Answered Prayer!

On behalf of our fellow believers in India, let me say a huge thank you to all of you who have been praying about IREF's registration with the Indian authorities to permit them to receive funds from overseas.

On 13th May 2017, permission was granted and IREF's registration was confirmed in writing! This is a tremendous answer to prayer. Some of you will be aware that *Compassion* had to take the heart-breaking decision in February this year to withdraw from their work in India, as their registration application was refused. It left 250,000 children without the support they had been formerly enjoying.

[You can read about it at: www.thehindu.com/news/national/Compassion-International-to-shut-down-India-operations/article17152998.ece].

Now that IREF's registration has been approved, we are in a position to send our first remittance to India for some time. £40,000 in sponsorship money and a further £20,000 donated as undesignated gifts will be remitted this month. We praise the Lord for moving your hearts to give to his work so generously!

We are planning to resume our quarterly remittances to India, once we have cleared this backlog, so that the money you so kindly donate reaches the people who need it as quickly as possible.

Thank you!

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you who have recently completed a **Gift Aid mandate** for us; these have enabled us claim Gift Aid on your donations for the past four years as well as the current year. So, far we have received almost £1,000 from HMRC by way of Gift Aid receipts.

We are keen to maximise the money we can raise for our fellow believers in India. So, if you are a tax-payer (or have been during the past four years) and have not yet completed a Gift Aid mandate, we would be pleased if you could do so. Please e-mail me for a copy of the form (please note my new e-mail address:

davidrghunt@gmail.com); alternatively the mandate can be downloaded from our website (www.iref.co.uk).

Let me also thank those of you who are now using **Stewardship** for your giving to IREF. They recover your Gift Aid element for us, thus saving our Treasurer (and Chairman!) a lot of administrative work. If you are a taxpayer and have not yet changed to give via Stewardship, we would be pleased if you were able to do so. Please let me know if you would like any further information about this arrangement.

In terms of general donations to IREF, such as for our Medical Team visits to India (see below), we will be using *Stewardship* in the future, rather than *JustGiving*, due to a sharp increase in fees charged by the latter.

We are very grateful for the excellent work Jimmy Fraser carried out on your behalf as our former Honorary Treasurer. Jimmy has now retired as one of our trustees, for health reasons, and we wish him and his wife, Sandra, God's richest blessings for their future.

2018 Medical Team

Good progress is being made in assembling a UK Medical Team to visit India in January 2018. Here are some provisional details.

The team of ten will leave Scotland on Friday 5th January 2018. We expect the team will include three nurses, three dentists, and an optician. They will meet up with the USA contingent in Chennai, which will add a further two nurses and a cook (a crucial element of any team!).

The team will travel to Repalle on Sunday 7th January and be there for two weeks to coincide with IREF's annual Youth Conference. The medical personnel will begin their work by screening IREF's 600-700 primary-age children from the John's School, before moving on to cover students from the Junior College, Degree College, and other institutions later in the week.

In the second week, the team hope to take their clinic on the road and provide care at some of IREF's Child Development Centres.

The team will leave Repalle on Wednesday 17th January and arrive home in the UK on Friday 19th January – suitably exhausted!

Please pray for safety in travel, good health, and the ability to use their God-given skills wisely and for the good of others in a very different environment. Pray that the UK and US teams will quickly work well together. Please pray too for all the IREF support staff – nurses, translators, and leaders.

The team is aiming to raise £30,000 for the trip to pay for flights, travel within India, and to provide a substantial donation to IREF to help cover the cost of the Youth Conference. If you would like to give, you can do so via <https://give.net/iref2018>.

News update from India

Every June, on their return to begin a new academic year, a random sample of IREF's college students is selected to answer some brief questions about their summer break and their hopes for the coming year at IREF. This year, 41 college students were surveyed and their data analysed. The data revealed that 10 students (24%) came from Christian homes; 18 (44%) came from Hindu homes; and 2 (5%) came from Muslim homes.



The students were asked how consistently they were able to read their Bibles. The response varied, with many students stating that they did not read their Bible as much at home as they did when at IREF. But when the students were asked what they most looked forward on their

return to IREF, they indicated that they looked forward to being in church on Sunday mornings and hearing Bible messages in the daily evening devotions.

The final question in the survey asked what the students hoped to gain in the coming year; they all wished for good grades!

Daniel Shaik: a challenging ministry

I am a Muslim convert working in Nalluripalem, a very segregated village due to the caste system. IREF has a church in the village in which it runs a Child Development Centre.



The tribal people of Nalluripalem face numerous struggles which pose many threats to their family lives (such as alcoholism), to their health, and to their ability to serve the One True Living God.

The caste system still operates in the village and presents fewer opportunities for lower caste and poorer individuals to find jobs.

IREF has been doing great works for the Lord for over 65 years. I was able to see the change first-hand in my village. There are people who came forward for prayer whom I never expected during our Gospel meetings earlier this year. I am thrilled each Sunday to see the church building full of the Lord's people; and as I walk through the town, even the most prominent Hindu leaders have stopped me for prayer!

New USA director



After many years of faithful service, Craig Darling recently stepped down from his position as IREF's USA Director. **Dan Wagner** has been appointed as a new Development Director

with a particular remit to help raise funds for IREF FROM within the USA. Please pray for Dan in his strategically important new role.

Thank you for continuing support for IREF, which is greatly appreciated!

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]