



IREF (UK) News Letter – October 2017

2018 Medical Team

Plans are well underway for the medical team travelling to India from the UK in January. Here are the personnel booked so far; a hygienist may also be joining them, as well as personnel from the USA.

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

The UK Team of ten will leave Scotland on Friday 5th January 2018. They will meet up with the USA contingent in Chennai.

The whole 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.

One of the team members, **Lindsey Clark**, has penned these thoughts for us:

January 2016 was my first experience of an IREF mission trip; it was eye-opening, humbling, and on many levels wonderful! So, as you can imagine, I'm really looking forward to the trip in January 2018.

I hope to rekindle friendships and working relationships with the lovely and invaluable nursing students and teachers. I hope to see an improvement in the children's health with fewer tooth extractions required! I hope to reconnect

with some of the people from the surrounding villages as we take the mobile clinic to the various Child Development Centres.

I am of course nervous about the logistics of the travel arrangements, meeting new team members and new patients. And, as a non-medical member of team UK, I am anxious to work hard to facilitate the efficiency of my friends and colleagues.

Please Pray that:

- ❖ *the journeys and connections all go smoothly and as planned;*
- ❖ *the team dynamics work well both in the UK team and when the UK and USA team join;*
- ❖ *the teams are protected and kept in good health for the duration of the trip;*
- ❖ *we will bless and be blessed by everyone we come into contact with;*
- ❖ *we will be able to show God's love, compassion, joy, and peace to those around us.*

How you can help

As well as upholding the team in prayer for their preparations and the duration of their visit to India, there is a further practical way in which you can help. 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. We are pleased that so far over £14,000 has been donated, so the team is almost half-way towards their target figure.

If you would like to make a contribution, you can do so via our dedicated Stewardship page: <http://give.net/iref2018>.

More Answered Prayer!

Back in July, Emmanuel Rebba, IREF's Indian Director, received a summons to report to Hyderabad with all of IREF's financial documents since 2000. Following an initial interrogation and two further meetings, Emmanuel's daughter, Christie, was able to report last month that

the summons from the government finance department has come to an end. They

signed off on all the paperwork saying that IREF has submitted all of the proper documentation to continue operating in Repalle. Any further claims from the local level can no longer be pursued. We praise God for protecting the ministry through this and thank you for your prayers!

Health Care Training

IREF has provided basic health care training for hundreds of students over the last 20 years through its Health Workers Training Institute. An 18-month course equips students with the necessary skills to provide basic medical care in their home villages. Often in remote areas, the nearest clinic or hospital is hours away.



Dee Rebba teaching the nursing students how to take a blood pressure reading.

IREF also runs a four-year Bachelor of Nursing course. The training the students receive emphasises the importance of caring for others selflessly. They are taught to process information quickly so that sound decisions are reached rapidly; they are also encouraged to offer patients hope at every stage of the healing process. Each student is encouraged to excel as a compassionate, competent health care professional.



IREF's first year nursing students.

IREF seeks to update its educational resources and equipment regularly to meet current expectations. To that end, if you would like to make a donation for this purpose, let me encourage you to do so via a dedicated page on the Stewardship website:

www.give.net/IREF2018team//oneoff marking your donation '*for the Nurses College*'. Or you can give by cheque via our Honorary Treasurer: Mr Stewart Shaw, 62 Holmhead Road, Cumnock, KA18 1UA



Teaching the younger students proper hygiene, including how to brush their teeth thoroughly

Gift Aid

We are keen to maximise the money we can raise for our fellow believers in India. So, if you are a taxpayer (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 at davidrghunt@gmail.com; alternatively the mandate can be downloaded from our website, www.iref.co.uk.

Many of you 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.

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

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]