

## **Praise God for a Successful Visit**

The IREF(UK) Medical Team has just returned from a very successful trip to India. Thank you so much for your prayers for them. Many of us enjoyed reading the daily reports of their activities posted on the Airdrie Baptist Church website by Lynn Leitch. They can still be accessed at:

[www.airdriebaptist.co.uk/category/news/iref-2018](http://www.airdriebaptist.co.uk/category/news/iref-2018)

Here is a flavour of some of the highlights.

The team saw 250 children in their first two days of work in the **clinic!**



The Medical Team was able to screen all of the Ullipallem CDC children and some adults from the village too. One little girl had a bad foot injury, which was made worse by the fact that she had no shoes. Emmanuel and Dee's granddaughter came to the clinic and gave the little girl a pair of her own shoes - Christianity in action!

An old lady from one of the outlying villages came for dental treatment; she was 85 – the oldest patient so far! Lindsey comforted her and held her hand throughout.



Many adults queued up to see Stewart Shaw, the optician. Glasses are very sought after and make a massive difference to people's lives in this part of rural India.

In total, the Medical Team saw 641 people at their clinic in Repalle – and extracted 207 teeth!

The **Youth Conference** was attended by hundreds of young people, who were so enthusiastic about hearing God's word. Many of them shared stories of how God was speaking to them. The theme for the Youth Conference was **'Walking with God'**.



Some of the team members had the privilege of sharing their testimonies at the evening meetings.

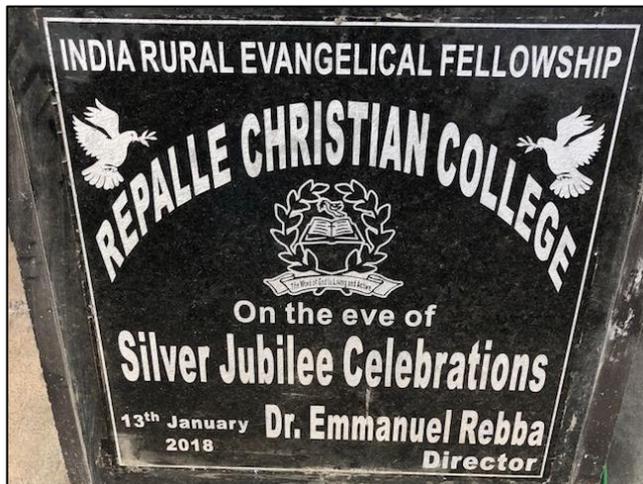


On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January, those attending the Youth Conference took part in a **March of Witness** through Repalle. At the end of the evening meeting that day, Emmanuel Rebba gave a Gospel call and over 50 young people came forward for prayer.



On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January, **IREF's Degree College** celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Many former students came back to share what they are doing now and to receive awards. Some of them remembered Jason taking their teeth out when they were very young!

The Team were moved to hear stories from former students who had been educated through IREF from the age of five, and who had gone on to gain a degree. Some were now teachers, engineers and doctors; one of the former students who spoke now has a PhD. They all expressed gratitude for the opportunities IREF had given them when they had nobody and nothing in the world.



It was a privilege for the Team to be present for such a special event, even if it was 5½ hours long! Nobody does a celebration quite like the Indians!!

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January saw an early start for the Team, as they headed to the River Krishna for the **baptisms** of many who had become Christians during their Youth Conference.



Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January was a special day for the Team. They travelled to conduct a clinic in the very poor village of **Utagundam**, a village never previously visited by a medical team. Most of the villagers there live in mud huts and there is no known Christian witness there.



However, Emmanuel and Dee were keen for the

Medical Team to visit the village because one of IREF's Maths teachers grew up there and came to IREF as a schoolboy. He then went on to study for a Maths degree and to become a teacher; he was the top-performing student at his university!



He accompanied the Team on their visit to the village. It was felt that offering medical help would be a good testimony to the people. The clinic was very intense and the Team saw 252 people in total out of a village population of 300! They were so thankful for the Team's visit and grateful for all they were able to do for them.

Please pray for these people who are mostly Hindus. Pray that they will realise the love the Team showed them was *God's* love and that IREF could continue to connect with them and share the Gospel with them.

Thank God for the work of IREF! It changes the lives of some of the poorest of children in India, like the young man from Utagundam!

### Thank you!

We give all the glory to God for the remarkable total raised by the 2018 Medical Team for their visit to India. So far, the money given amounts to a staggering **£40,953.61!** After deducting the cost of their airfares, we will be able to send a gift of £30,648.71 to India to help support the work of IREF there. Thank you so much for your overwhelming generosity!

In our next newsletter, we look forward to reading some reflections from the team members about their experiences in India.

As ever, thank you for continuing support for IREF, which is greatly appreciated!

*David Hunt* [Chairman, IREF(UK)]