

Healing the broken



Kalyani, Anusha and Anil Kumar belong to the same family. Their father is a car driver. He used to physically abuse their mother every night. If she didn't stand when he

entered a room or make him a meal in time, he would beat her. The children witnessed much of this abuse.

One night, they tried to stand up to him; but he beat them severely. After doing so, he went on the run for fear of being in trouble. He is now with another woman, who is legally married to another man.

The three children were sent away by their relatives to their maternal grandparents' home. But the grandparents were too old to take care of them; they couldn't shoulder the burden of responsibility for the three small children. Their mother and father didn't want them back, so it left the three children without a home.

IREF(India) took in the three children in last year, giving them shelter, a healthy community within which to heal and grow, and a much needed good quality education.

Anil Kumar was nonchalantly sharing his life story with Dee Rebba one day, telling her everything they had experienced. When he stopped talking, Dee didn't say anything; she simply patted the ground next to her, encouraging all three children to sit down beside her. Anil started to cry when Dee put her arm around him.



She started talking to the three children gently and calmly like a mother - the mother they had never had, a mother who truly cared for them.

The children enjoy life at IREF's campus in Repalle. They said the studies and discipline are hard; but they like the food and the friends they've made.

Please continue to pray for these three children and their parents, and many others like them.

A New Academic Year

Some of IREF's students travel long distances to attend IREF's schools and colleges; others are based locally. Students are given the option of staying on

site in an IREF dormitory; and for the rest, IREF provides a bus service to local communities to transport children who may not be able to afford their own bus fares.

During enrolment, IREF gives priority to the poorest students; their poverty may be financial or social in terms of their family background.

The photo shows a teacher handing out supplies (books, school uniform, etc.) to a newly enrolled pupil.



Please pray for these young people; they embarked on their new academic year in June. Pray that they will not only learn how to break out of the cycle of poverty that many of them have experienced; but, even more importantly, that they will find a real and lasting hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank God for the generosity of all those in the UK who are sponsoring so many of these children and young people.

India 2020 Team

Once again, IREF(UK) has the privilege of sending a medical team to India to work with IREF(India). I say 'once again'; but each new venture for the Lord requires fresh prayerfulness on our part. We must never assume that because we've done something before, we know how to do it again. Experience is valuable; but presumption is fatal! Remember the Israelites' unhappy experience at Ai (Joshua 7.2-4).

So, please pray for Jason Leitch as he works hard to assemble a medical team with right blend of skills. So far, eleven from the UK have booked their flights (others will be joining the team from the USA)

- Mrs Yvonne Baulk
- Dr Nicholas Beacher
- Dr Aileen Bell
- Mr Stuart Bell
- Mrs Lindsey Clark
- Prof Jason Leitch
- Mrs Lynn Leitch
- Mrs Jennifer McCafferty
- Mr William McClounie
- Mr Stewart Shaw
- Mrs Vanessa Telfer

Pray that each team member will be able to raise

their target figure of £2,000 each to cover the cost of their own airfare and so that collectively we can make a substantial contribution to IREF's funds.

If you are able to help financially, you can do so using our dedicated Stewardship Fundraising page where you will find further information about the trip, together with some appealing photos:

www.give.net/iref2020/fundraising.

So far, £5,219.81 has been raised, which is a really good start!

One student's moving story

Bhavani is from the Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh, about an eleven hour journey from Repalle; it means she takes a city bus and train to get to IREF's campus.

Bhavani's father committed suicide when she was about 8-years-old. Not being able to bear the burden of raising her two daughters alone, Bhavani's mother arranged for her elder daughter to get married as soon as she had finished her 10th Grade of schooling (Bhavani's sister would have been about 16-years-old at that time).



When Bhavani was in 7th Grade, her mother's friends asked, "Why do you want to continue with her education? It's time for her to get married." Her mother didn't want to do this for Bhavani as she would have been only about 13-years-old at the time.

After Bhavani had finished her 10th Grade of schooling, her mother looked for a safe place for her to go to Junior College for her 11th and 12th Grade studies.

Bhavani's uncle lives about 45-minutes from Repalle; he had heard about IREF's ministry and suggested that Bhavani should continue her education there.

When Bhavani arrived in Repalle to study at IREF's Junior College, she disliked all the prayers and devotions. Being from a Hindu background, she didn't find any joy or value in them at that time.

After a month, she wanted to get away from IREF and go somewhere else. But she saw the lives of so many new students being transformed; this led her to open her mind and ears to the Gospel messages.

Her heart began to soften and she realized that she

needed salvation. Some key verses for her were Luke 5:2-11, the calling of Simon Peter.

She wanted to be baptised; but since she had been brought up as a Hindu, she was fearful. She thought her family would object; but her friends encouraged her and she went ahead with her baptism on 16th September last year.

When her mother visited her on a Parents' Day, Bhavani told her of the public profession of faith that she had made. Her mother was furious and went home.

A month later, Bhavani's mother became paralyzed. The family started to blame Bhavani because of her new-found faith. But Bhavani started to pray for her mother and for her healing. God answered her prayers! Her mother is now fully healthy and, miraculously, she has experienced no after-effects.

Bhavani's mother attended IREF's January Gospel meetings and was happy to hear the Word being preached. She has now started to attend church regularly, having personally experienced the power of God at work in her life!

For your prayers

- Give thanks for those who have volunteered for the **India 2020 Medical team**; give thanks for funds already donated; pray for further fundraising.
- Pray for Kalyani, Anusha and Anil Kumar, and for other **children** like them being cared for so well by IREF(India); pray too for their families.
- Pray for the **new students** who started with IREF(India) in June, for the beginning of this academic year; many of them will be hearing the Gospel for the very first time. Pray that they will come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as the Holy Spirit informs their minds and moves their hearts to trust themselves to him.
- Pray for the **IREF Believers' Retreat** taking place in Repalle from 14th to 18th August; it is attended each year by those who have come to faith through the evangelistic campaigns earlier in the year. Pray that those who attend will be encouraged in their new-found faith.
- In India's recent elections, Jagan Mohan Reddy was appointed the **Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh**. Jagan is a devout Christian and humbly took the oath with his Bible in hand, a great testimony to the people of India – praise God!

Once again, thank you for your continuing support for IREF, for which we and they are so grateful!

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]