

Meet the Head

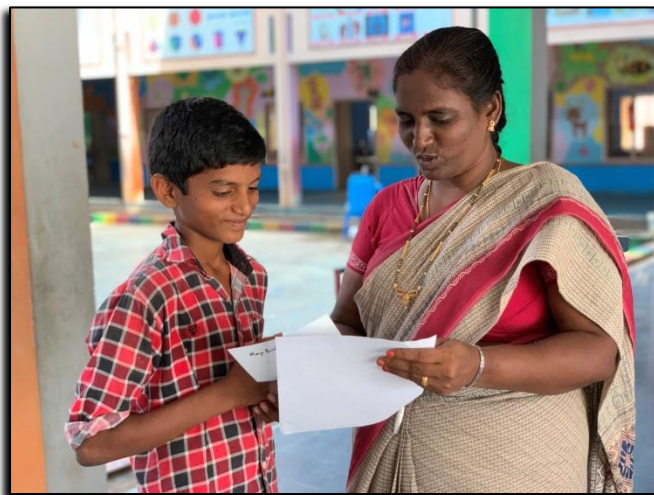
In 2014, IREF(UK) decided to open an English Medium School (i.e. a school whose teaching language would be English rather than Telegu), as this seemed to be the preferred language of many of the local parents.

At that time, the newly elected Andhra Pradesh state government had signalled that it would like English to become the main language for education in the future.

For the school's first three years of operation, IREF(UK) donated £6,000 per annum to help cover its running costs.

When this arrangement came to an end, IREF(UK)'s trustees agreed (in September 2016) to donate £3,500pa for the next three academic years, 2017-2020, to cover the cost of the head teacher's salary. The money would be allocated from the 'undesigned' gifts that IREF(UK) receives from time to time.

At our most recent trustees meeting, we decided to extend this commitment for a further academic year (and for longer, if possible). So, this is a good opportunity to introduce you to the person we are supporting.



Anila Kumari Choragudi is married to Elish; they have two children: Syam Prudhvi Rakesh is studying Engineering, and Krupa Ebinezzer is in the 9th grade at IREF's school. Anila started with IREF in June 2017 when she was appointed to the headship of the English Medium School.

Some of the initiatives started under her leadership include:

- a yearly Science Fair covering Environmental Science, Social Sciences, and Maths;
- competitions such as art, singing, talents shows,

and drawing. Through these competitions, Anila hopes the students will tap into the more creative side of their learning, valuing their own personal insights rather than merely absorbing 'teaching from the front';

- a first-aid kit for the school; Anila wants her staff to be alert to the students' health needs.

Anila has also been part of the summer holidays campaign to bring new students to IREF.



Her vision is to bring a fresh perspective to the school so that it is on a par with other English Medium schools in the area.

She has also bought new backpacks and school books for the Kindergarten students, and would like to introduce a secondary uniform for the students.

Asked about her experience with IREF to date, she replied, *"Because of working with IREF, I have understood that I have a real purpose in life. I wouldn't have understood this without coming to IREF. Through the preaching and teaching of Emmanuel Rebba, I have learned many things, including:*

- *how to improve in my spiritual life;*
- *what to do in ministry;*
- *how to obey the Word of God;*
- *how to be concerned for the poor."*

Anila and her family have decided to dedicate their lives to the service of IREF; for this, she has asked that you would pray for her and help her through your continuing generosity.

Prayer – powerful and effective

A new policy was instituted in Andhra Pradesh for the beginning of this new academic year, which began in June. Under the state's policy, every mother of a child who enrolls in a *government* school will receive 15,000Rp per year (approx. (£168pa). No doubt, the policy was employed to encourage a higher level of school attendance throughout the state of Andhra Pradesh. The illiteracy rate in Andhra Pradesh is 33%, almost 7% higher than the national average of 27%.

However, the policy had unforeseen consequences. In order to qualify for the grant, some parents withdrew their children from IREF's schools in order

to send them to a government school instead. Five Repalle-based boys and eight girls out of the 48 children being sponsored from the UK were affected.

***The prayer of a righteous person
is powerful and effective.***

[James 5.16]

However, IREF's Director, Emmanuel Rebba, held some meetings with Andhra Pradesh's Chief Minister, Jagan Mohan Reddy, who is a Christian; as a result of these meetings, the government scheme has now been extended to cover private schools as well as government schools.

Emmanuel Rebba believes that local parents will start to bring their children back to IREF's schools because the IREF schools offer a much better education than the local public schools. So, the upshot may be that parents will now be paid to send their children to IREF's schools!

It reminds us how important it is to pray for those who govern us, both here and on the other side of the world, because people's salvation is at stake.

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers,
intercession and thanksgiving be made for all
people— for kings and all those in authority,
that we may live peaceful and quiet lives
in all godliness and holiness.*

*This is good, and pleases God our Saviour,
who wants all people to be saved
and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

[1 Tim 2.1-4]

India 2020 Team update

We are expecting about a dozen Americans to be joining the eleven travelling from the UK to form the Medical and Pastors Team serving in India next January.

The team plan to begin their work in Week One by assessing and treating, where possible, all the younger children being cared for in the Repalle Children's Home. Once these have been seen, the team will work their way through any of IREF's young people who have problems and choose to be seen. In Week Two, if time and logistics allow, the team will conduct health camps in some of the more distant rural villages; often this is the only healthcare that these villagers receive.

Please continue to pray that each UK team member will be able to raise their target figure of £2,000 to cover the cost of their airfare; and also, so that collectively, they can make a substantial contribution to IREF's funds.

So far, £18,556.97 has been raised toward the £22,000 target, which is a really good start!

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.

A heart-warming story

Vasai is a first year college student with IREF. She comes from a village six hours away from Repalle; she heard about IREF through her uncle, who used to be a lecturer at IREF's Repalle Christian College.

Vasai's father was an alcoholic; he used to abuse his wife and daughter. They lived in fear of him, and twice Vasai's mother tried to kill herself.

Vasai learned how to pray through the elders in her village, and she became a nominal Christian.

One day, her father had to go to a surgery for respiratory problems. For a time, he began to get his life back in order. But one night, he fell off an auto-rickshaw, hit his head, and died. The next morning, the police found him lying in the road.

Vasai's mother started to work in the fields to earn some money to look after Vasai and her brother. Vasai studied hard and passed an exam to study at the Repalle Junior College.

It wasn't until she came to IREF that she truly confessed and repented of her sins, and accepted Jesus Christ as her Saviour. Now, her mother and extended family have also found a deeper life in Christ. Praise the Lord!

For your prayers

- Pray for **Anila** and for IREF's other **teachers**; pray for the pupil numbers to increase again.
- Pray for **Vasai** and **students** like her who come from a difficult home background; pray that they will find true Christlike love and care through IREF's ministry – and, as a result, dedicate their own lives to Jesus.
- Give thanks for those who have volunteered for the **India 2020 Medical team** and for the funds already donated; pray for further fundraising and for all the practical arrangements that need to be made over the coming months.

Once again, thank you for your continuing support for IREF which is much appreciated!

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]