

India 2020 Medical Team reports

Lindsey Clark writes: This was my third visit to India as part of the UK/USA medical team. We had the opportunity to treat the children, students, and staff at IREF; and also took a mobile clinic to two very poor rural villages. What a special place and what wonderful people we encountered!



My role is that of dental assistant, and it always strikes me how vulnerable our patients are. They are very often at the end of their tether with toothache that they have endured for some time. With no access to medical care, they just have to grin (or grimace!) and bear it.

They often come to us with firmly held beliefs that having dental work carried out will in some way negatively impact their eyesight; so they are battling not only their fear of pain and the unknown, but also an irrational (but very real) fear of blindness.

Some cannot overcome their fears and refuse much needed; however, a lot of others are willing to trust us.



This is incredibly humbling and often overwhelming. Having done what we can to ease their pain, they are so grateful for our time and our willingness to reach out to them. I don't remember ever showing such gratitude to my own dentist – perhaps I should remedy that!

Although our motivation is to help these beautiful people, more often than not it is us who come away changed and taught. The warmth of their characters and generous spirits; overcoming their fears and superstition to come to trust us; their cheerfulness and contentment amidst poverty and sickness; and above all, the faith they show in the most difficult of circumstances - these are all profound lessons for the Team to receive.

They are lessons the Rebba family have known all too well. Their faith, strength of character, and their love for the Lord are so clear in everything they do.

- Please pray for their health, strength and sustenance.
- Please pray for each of the precious children in their care - that they may know health, love, healing and stability despite their sometimes horrific stories.
- Please pray for financial help to continue in this amazing work.
- Please pray for the many people we were able to treat – that the physical outcomes were good and that the seeds of Christ's love that we're sown will take hold and flourish so that His light may shine in the darkest of places.

Stewart Shaw writes: I think the trip was very successful, and it is always encouraging to be with a group of Christians having a common goal and purpose of serving and witnessing, that ultimately others will know the Lord Jesus for themselves.



The healthcare team worked very hard providing as much care as is possible in sometimes challenging environments, whilst the pastors spoke with clarity from God's word touching many souls for Christ.

I am always reminded in India that, as we serve, others are serving us; we really appreciate the work done on our behalf by the girls who help prepare our

food and clean our rooms, and the nurses who help in the clinics and interpret for us. It is always difficult at the end of our visit to say goodbye, knowing that we are unlikely to see some of our helpers again. We pray that as they move on from IREF God will guide them and help them benefit from all they have gleaned in their time at Repalle.



Lynn Leitch writes:

The Servant Heart: This was my 5th visit to IREF and like every other time I was completely humbled by the work that is going on there.

Firstly, I was completely struck again by the tireless dedication of Dee and Emmanuel Rebba and their willingness to trust and serve God as they lead this mission. We were only there for two weeks but every day of their lives, they sacrificially reach out to meet the practical and spiritual needs of the children and young people of IREF and those in the surrounding villages. I was particularly inspired by the prayerful way they approach absolutely everything. The wheels did not turn on any IREF bus unless the journey was given over to God first. Dee told us that ‘not a single brick in IREF has been laid until, often tearful, prayers were said.’



Secondly, I was extremely moved by the welcome and generosity of those who had so little. One day, we ran a clinic in a very rural village and a local lady made lunch for the entire team and invited us to eat in her house. This was no mean feat and was undoubtedly sacrificial for her; but she did it with such joy! We felt welcomed, nourished, and rested enough to work all afternoon back in the clinic. Despite language barriers, her love for God was obvious and translated into service and hospitality towards us.



I feel so blessed and privileged to have been part of the 2020 team and thank God for how he uses the Indian people to deepen my faith and teach me something new - every time!

Thank you!

We give all the praise to God for the magnificent total raised by and for the 2020 Medical Team: **£36,649.31**. After deducting expenses for flights, visas, and medical supplies, it means we can pass on **£23,255.37** to IREF(India) by way of a very welcome gift. Thank you everyone for your generosity!

Jason Leitch, CBE

I didn't learn until recently that one of our Trustees had been awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours last year. So, congratulations from all of us within the IREF(UK) family, Jason; and please accept my apologies for not acknowledging this very great honour earlier.

I am sure we will want to uphold Jason in our prayers at this time. He holds a very responsible job as the National Clinical Director for the Scottish Government. He and many others (some of our trustees and many of our supporters, no doubt) are on the front-line, seeking to address the challenge presented by the coronavirus.

For your prayers

None of us knows just how devastating the effects of the coronavirus pandemic are going to be globally. Inevitably, it will be the most vulnerable who will suffer most, and those with the least medical care facilities in their region. This, of course, includes much of rural India. So please pray:-

- for the protection of all the children, students, staff, and evangelists in IREF(India)'s care;
- for Dee and Emmanuel Rebba, that they will be granted wisdom from beyond themselves to deal with so many unknowns;
- for the Gospel to be embraced by thousands around the world, who are looking for help and hope from beyond themselves;
- for those of our supporters work in front-line services in the UK.

*God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear.
When anxiety was great within me,
your consolation brought joy to my soul.
[Psalms 46.1; 94.19]*

David Hunt [Chairman, IREF(UK)]