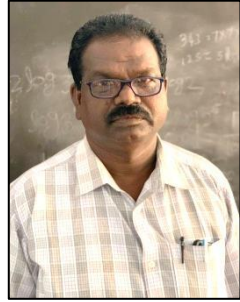


Sad losses

For many months, Repalle managed to remain free from the Covid-19 virus. But eventually, the potentially deadly disease arrived.

Many IREF staff members have been exposed to the virus and have needed to quarantine in their own homes.

So it came as a terrible shock to learn that on 24th July, IREF's Elementary and High School Principal, Mr. Zachariah, had passed away due to the effects of the virus. Unfortunately, his symptoms were not diagnosed until it was too late to save him. Zachariah had been with IREF for three years and was making a positive impact on many students' lives. He was being sponsored by one of our UK supporters.



Zachariah was known and is remembered by IREF staff and students as a humble and mild-mannered man, who shared the Gospel of Christ through his actions and deeds. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Please remember his wife and 21-year old son in your prayers as they grieve this sudden and tragic loss. As the whole IREF community comes to terms with the loss of a dear friend and a vital member of their staff, please uphold them all through your prayers.

Later, on 10th October, we received the very sad news that Emmanuel Rebba's youngest brother, John Daniel, had also succumbed to the virus. He had been suffering from a fever for two days and was struggling for breath. He tested positive for Covid, and passed away within a few hours; he was only 55 years old.

Please remember John Daniel's wife and three daughters in your prayers, and the whole of the Rebba family at this time of sad loss.

I heard a voice from heaven say: "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on". "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labours for their deeds will follow them"
[Revelation 14.13]

Positive opportunities

IREF staff members and volunteers have been making the most of the opportunity presented by the enforced closure of their schools and colleges to undertake some much-needed maintenance work on

IREF's main campus. The makeover has been remarkable!

The College building looks completely different with its new colour scheme. The team painted a badminton court in front of the College for the girls' badminton team, as well as upgrading the inner court. When a few students visited the campus for their exams, they could not believe their eyes! *"We were thrilled to see the students' reactions to the renovations. We believe this will help bring in new prospective students,"* commented Tre Moore.



The boy's side of the campus was also in dire need of renovation. A wall now separates the space between their dormitories and their basketball court, which has been fitted out with new lights, new hoops, and a red court-top. Some of students who have been back for exams and registration are awe-struck at the changes. They smile from ear-to-ear on seeing the massive difference on campus!



Pastors Conference

On 7th October, Emmanuel Rebba and the IREF team held a Pastors Conference. After a time of prayer and discussion, IREF had felt it was the right time to step out slowly to begin ministering to local and regional pastors again. Since March, the main method of evangelism has been IREF's Sunday services, broadcast on the Telegu Christian TV Channel.

Facemasks, sanitisers, and temperature checks were all put in place to ensure the safety of the 120 delegates attending the conference.



Emmanuel Rebba spoke from the books of Ezra and Nehemiah to urge a spiritual awakening, through the revival of local pastors and a renewal of their call to lead others to Christ.



Three Nursing College students also attended the conference. They were invited to sing a song and share their experience of studying at IREF, to encourage the delegates to send other prospective students to study at IREF. Please pray for the lasting impact of the conference, in terms of revival being brought to the area.



Schools and Colleges update

IREF staff have been calling their students on a weekly basis during the enforced closure of IREF's schools and colleges. They have been providing over-the-phone tutoring and plenty of encouragement to the students who long to return to IREF to continue their education; many miss the friends they have made through IREF. It is hoped the schools and colleges will be able to re-open next month, with appropriate health and safety measures in place.

Finding faith, coming home

Last year, a man arrived at IREF asking to meet with Emmanuel Rebba. He was a former pupil of IREF's school and had returned to request baptism.

Three years ago, Nageswarao had obtained a job in West Bengal working for the Indian government. During his time there, he had met a man who was a Christian. As Nageswarao talked to the Christian, he remembered some of the things he had been taught through IREF as a child. The Holy Spirit worked in Nageswarao's life to lead him to commit himself to Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour.

When his new Christian friend encouraged him to be baptised, Nageswarao headed for Repalle. He travelled 13 hours by train and car to be baptised by IREF saying, "This is where God started everything."



When Nageswarao walked out into the River Krishna River to be baptized, Emmanuel said it was time to change his Hindu name (which represented Lord Shiva, the god of snakes) for a Christian one, to symbolise him leaving his old life behind, buried in the waters of the Krishna. Nageswarao declared his faith in Jesus by being baptised and coming up out of the water as 'David - a man after God's own heart!'

The sponsorship Nageswarao received as a child laid the foundation for the faith he later embraced as an adult. Every sponsor is investing in God's kingdom in far-reaching ways we may never fully realise. Praise God for his faithfulness in bringing seeds to fruition!

IREF Together

Many thanks to everyone who joined the inspiring IREF Together event on 22nd August. Over £1,000 was raised from the UK, and the USA target of \$150,000 was surpassed. We give all the glory to God! If you missed the event, it can still be viewed at: https://irefusa.org/together/?utm_source=irefuk&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=ireftogether.