

## **Back to School!**

In late June, IREF's Junior and Degree Colleges began to welcome students back for their new academic year. Then on 16<sup>th</sup> August, IREF's Elementary and High schools were allowed to welcome students back onto the campus.



There have been more new admissions than former pupils returning (and a higher number of boys than usual), but we expect further former pupils to return in due course.

New parents have been delighted to bring their children to IREF; on seeing the campus, which was refurbished during India's first lockdown, they marvel at the buildings' attractive bright colours!



Please pray for the IREF staff as they welcome former students back, and help new ones settle into the routines of school life. Above all, give

thanks for the wonderful opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus with so many for the first time!

## **Thank God for good teachers!**

India's **Teachers Day**, held on 5<sup>th</sup> September, commemorates the birthday of India's second President, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. His work has had a lasting impact in the field of education.

IREF paid tribute to its own teaching staff through an assembly full of dances, sketches, and speeches to recognise the influence and importance of teachers. IREF's teachers create excellent opportunities for their students to have a truly positive future.



We thank God for sending the current teaching staff to IREF. Please pray that God will send additional experienced teachers to IREF to fill the current vacancies.

## **New nursing students**

In April, a new cohort of young women was welcomed onto the IREF nursing program. Shortly after their arrival on to campus, the second wave of COVID swept through India. This put the start of their studies on hold.

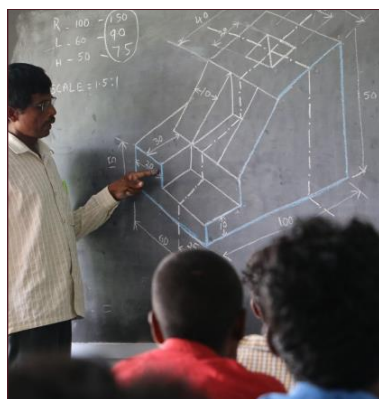


Now, after several months of waiting, they have received their smart nursing uniforms. They have been formally inducted into the Nursing College through a nursing 'capping' ceremony. The ceremony includes their pledge of being 'care-takers', both as nursing students and as future nurses thereafter. The young women were very excited to receive their uniforms and wear them to their classes the next day.

We have recently added student nurses to our **sponsorship programme**; check out our website for further details and for downloading a nursing sponsorship form: [www.iref.co.uk/support/give](http://www.iref.co.uk/support/give).

## IREF's Industrial Training Institution

IREF's Industrial Training Institution equips young men, many from impoverished backgrounds, with



skills useful in various trades to enable them to build positive, prosperous futures.

Since its opening in 2004, IREF's ITI has trained students to become electricians, fitters, and diesel mechanics.

During last year's lockdown, IREF staff undertook large-scale cleaning, landscaping, and painting projects at the ITI site. They carried out a complete inventory of equipment and tools. The desire was not only to make the site neat and tidy, but to improve the integrity of the building and the educational opportunities it currently offers by adding more staff and applying for new industrial training courses in the future.



Thanks to Josh Rebba's leadership, the ITI now enjoys a new feel. Returning students were delighted to see the transformation of their college.

IREF's ITI renovation programme has three phases. Phase One (completed) was to refurbish the site through cleaning, repair, landscaping and painting

projects. Phase Two will focus on the purchase of new equipment and tools to raise the level of the students' practical training. The vision of Phase Three is to construct a neighbouring building which will house staff offices, labs and classrooms as the ITI courses are expanded.



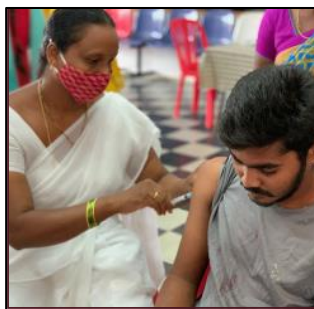
Please pray for the necessary resources to be provided to

see this vision through to reality.

## Vaccinations on IREF's campus

COVID tests were administered on IREF's campus in Repalle, in conjunction with local medical staff, as more vaccines became available. The Indian government has permitted a younger demographic to receive the vaccine in its next phase of vaccine administration.

From 1<sup>st</sup> September, it has been a requirement for all students over the age of 18 to have been vaccinated in order to attend classes.



Over 100 vaccines have been given to IREF's Nursing and Degree College students. Some sat in the "vaccine chair" calmly, but others were petrified! So students were given two days to rest and recuperate.

Check out IREF's Facebook page and the IREF (USA) website\* for further information on these stories.

### Some Prayer Points:

- Give thanks that IREF's schools and colleges have been able to reopen for the new academic year.
- Pray for all the pupils and students, that they will feel loved by God and embrace Jesus as their Lord and saviour.
- Pray for the Lord to send additional teachers to IREF to fill the current vacancies.
- Pray for the continuing protection for all within the IREF community.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support, which are much appreciated!

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