

2022 Youth Conference

It was thrilling to watch and listen to the daily video reports of IREF’s annual Youth Conference last month (13-16th January), posted on IREF’s Face book page:

www.facebook.com/groups/36670984281



The theme of the conference was ***Building Lives on the Strong Foundations***, based on Matthew 7.24-27. Teaching sessions were held during the day and outdoor Gospel meetings each evening.



John Rebba estimated that 7,000-9,000 people attended at least one of the sessions, which was a remarkably high number in view of all the restrictions that the Covid pandemic had imposed.



Many responded to the Gospel invitations; nine took baptism. Praise God for everything that he accomplished in the lives of these young people and pray for their continuing walk with Jesus Christ.



The ‘Not Going’ Fund

2022 would normally be a year for sending a Medical Team to India from the UK, in January. But because of the Covid pandemic, this was not possible. However, members of previous medical teams have worked hard to raise funds for IREF(India), as they would normally do. To date, £7,725 has been raised – a magnificent total!

Global Prayer Meetings

It has been encouraging to meet up with Emmanuel and Dee Rebba, and John, in India on the first Saturday of each month for a Global Prayer Gathering, to hear their latest news and prayer needs. Friends and supporters from the UK and USA have joined them.

The next one will take place at **2.30pm GMT on Saturday 5th March**. Registration is required, for security reasons; go to [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#). Let me know if you have any difficulties accessing the link.

Celebrating a New Year!

IREF welcomes each New Year with a church service. Songs of thanksgiving were sung and testimonies were shared of how God had worked in people’s lives in 2021. God had healed the sick, provided in times of need, and opened hearts on IREF’s campus. Listening to the testimonies reminded everyone that we serve a faithful God who is active in people’s lives today.

Emmanuel Rebba shared a message from Joshua 1:1-10, focussing on God’s commission of Joshua and the Israelites’ crossing into the Promised Land: God has a plan for your life; so, be ready; and step out in faith!

Scripture bookmarks (Promise Cards) were given to each person. Students selected a card, walked back to their seats, and excitedly read and prayed over what God’s promise was for them for 2022.



On New Year’s Day, the IREF community gathered again for a service. The message for this service

focused on Moses words in Exodus 33:15: *"If your presence does not go with us, don't send us up from here."* Our hope and our prayer for IREF in 2022 is that God's presence will lead and guide, uphold and strengthen everyone within the IREF family.

Restored to Christ

My name is Mariamma. I come from a Hindu family living in Kothapalem, a rural fishing village near the sea. My mother died when my four sisters and I were very young.

When Prasada Rao preached the Gospel in our village in 1997, my father knew that IREF would be a safe place for me and my sister, Drakshavalli, to be schooled.

I attended IREF for six years, 1st-7th Grades. I studied hard and learned the Bible. God moved in my life and showed me His faithfulness at a young age.

After I finished 7th Grade, my father arranged my marriage into a Hindu family, in 2003. I fell into idol worship, as directed by my husband and in-laws. With each *"pooja"* (a worship ritual performed by Hindus to their idols) and sacrifice, I would quietly pray to Jesus and ask for forgiveness as I went through the motions of the rituals.

In 2014, I came to Repalle with my sister to run some errands. While we were there, we heard Emmanuel Rebba preaching at the annual IREF Gospel meetings. The Holy Spirit grabbed hold of my heart again. I sat through the whole meeting and felt convicted. When the meeting was over, I started to head home; but I felt the Holy Spirit nudging me to go back to IREF. I stopped at the IREF bookstall and bought myself a Bible. The young student at the stall gave me a promise card that said *"God loves you."* It was what I needed to hear, the reassurance that the Lord was still with me, despite my many failures to stay faithful to Him.

I went home and let my husband and in-laws know that I was giving my life to the Lord. I have not stepped into a temple since. I attend church in my village every Sunday.

In 2015, I came back to IREF to be baptised. The Lord has been drawing me nearer and nearer to Him each day.



I am thankful for my salvation and the foundation of faith that I was given as a young child while studying at IREF.

I have two daughters. Last year, I brought them to IREF so that they too will grow in their knowledge of Jesus, hear the Gospel, and give their lives to Christ. It is my prayer that while they are both at IREF, they will learn the Bible and the power of prayer. Please keep my family in your prayers.



IREF Together, 2nd April

Join us for the third annual **IREF Together** event at **4.00pm, Saturday 2nd April**, an online global event celebrating hope and generosity. For the past two years, *IREF Together* has become a beacon of light for the people in rural India, raising over \$200,000 to provide safe housing, education, and hope for marginalised children. Watch the event live at www.irefusa.org/together.

Some Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for the successful **Youth Conference**; pray that the messages will take deep root in those who heard them.
- Pray for continuing **protection** for all within the IREF community as the Covid virus spreads once again.
- Pray for IREF's **evangelists and Bible ladies** as they seek to spread the Good News of Jesus in their communities. Many have experienced sad losses from the Covid pandemic, both within their own families and in the congregations they serve.
- Pray that God will continue to **comfort** all who grieve.
- Pray for **IREF's pupils and students**, that they will feel loved by God and embrace Jesus as their Lord and saviour. About 750 are currently on the IREF campus, plus about 140 day students.
- Pray for the Lord to send additional **teachers** to fill IREF's current vacancies.
- Pray for **Mariamma** and her daughters, and her husband and his family too.

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

David Hunt [Chairman of IREF(UK)]