

## **IREF Together – Restoration!**

The theme of this year's **IREF Together** event was Restoration. The goal was to raise \$75,000 to help restore 26 village church buildings so that they are fit for purpose once again, and thereby a good witness to our Living Lord. Wonderfully, the goal was exceeded!



*The IREF church building in Kolluru being restored*



One of the first buildings to be restored this month is in the village of Raja Kalava. New concrete work and painting, as well as fresh landscaping, have transformed the site – and sight!



IREF's church buildings, like the one in Raja Kalava, are used for much more than Sunday worship services. They often act as community centres, operating food banks for starving families and providing after-school programmes for village children.



Water pumps have also been installed in the grounds of the Raja Kalava church building to provide water for the community – reminding everyone of Jesus' offer of living water [John 4.13-14].

Jesus said: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I give will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life within that person."

If you weren't able to watch the inspiring **IREF Together** event live, it is still available at [www.irefusa.org/together](http://www.irefusa.org/together) and well worth watching.

## **Pastors' Conferences**

Earlier this month, IREF held a Pastors' Conference in Guntur, a city two hours away from IREF's main Repalle campus. Emmanuel Rebba challenged church leaders by providing teaching on the subject of Spiritual Renewal. It was encouraging to witness the pastors come alive with the teaching and preaching of God's Word. Our prayer is that these church leaders will be catalysts to bring hope and change to their communities through faithfully proclaiming the Good News of Jesus in their towns and villages.



Last month, it was the turn of Jaggaiahpet (four hours north of Repalle) to host a Pastors' Conference; almost 500 pastors attended. Many church leaders in the area experienced isolation during the Covid lockdowns and some were discouraged about continuing with their ministry. Emmanuel used the story of Nehemiah to encourage the church leaders to continue their mission of being Christian leaders in a religiously tense society. The pastors gave good

feedback regarding how much they learned and how much the conference will change their ministry.



IREF broadcast the conference for those who couldn't attend in person, with over 500 watching via IREF's YouTube channel. Not only were those in attendance encouraged to persevere in their ministry; those who had been unable to attend in person contacted IREF to request a Pastors' Conference for their areas too!

Two former IREF Nursing students, who graduated in 2021, attended the conference and shared testimonies of their time at IREF. This was a great blessing to the IREF staff attending the conference, as it encouraged and motivated them to remain faithful in serving the Lord through the ministry of IREF.

Our prayer is that these Pastors' Conferences will inspire church leaders to be spiritually renewed and thereby continue to be beacons of light in the spiritual darkness of rural India. We pray that the Biblical teaching given by Emmanuel Rebba will be a catalyst in sparking true Gospel revival amongst church leaders and the Indian church at large!

### **Exercise time!**

During this past term, IREF's PE teacher introduced morning exercises for the Junior and Degree College students - light stretches and exercises that aren't too rigorous and so within the capability of every individual. The benefits have already been seen, with students having clearer minds for their studies.



Enjoy watching some of the exercises being undertaken, on IREF's Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/groups/36670984281](http://www.facebook.com/groups/36670984281)

### **Easter Celebrations**

Easter was celebrated in style by IREF's students this year, with a Palm Sunday procession through the streets of Repalle and a joyful resurrection morning service on Easter Day.



### **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. The next one will take place at **2.30pm BST on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June**. Registration is required, for security reasons; go to [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#). Let me know if you have any difficulties accessing the link.

#### **Some Prayer Points:**

- Give thanks for the funds raised to restore so many **village church buildings**; pray that this will result in spiritual renewal within these villages.
- Give thanks for the **Pastors' Conferences** Emmanuel Rebba is able to lead; pray that the Lord will bless him with stamina and spiritual insight to encourage God's servants in this way.
- Pray for IREF's **students** currently on their summer vacation.
- Pray for the new academic year beginning next month; pray that the Lord will bring a good number of students to IREF's educational establishments and that he will provide additional **teachers** to fill IREF's current vacancies.

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

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