

2023 Medical Team

Fifteen medical professionals from Scotland and the USA travelled to IREF in January to provide medical care for IREF's students and many villagers in the area around Repalle. The clinic set up by the Medical Team included health examinations by qualified doctors and nurses, skin care, dental care, and a pharmacy. In total, the team provided medical care for over 500 IREF students and 284 villagers.



The clinic is the highlight of the year for many IREF students, especially those studying nursing. It provides hands-on supervised training and an opportunity to practice English through asking questions and helping patients. The nursing students play a big role in the clinic, translating and communicating needs between the patients and the medical professionals. *"The medical clinic isn't possible without this collaboration. Nursing students couldn't do it without us and we couldn't do it without them,"* explained one of the Medical Team members working in the pharmacy.



2023 Youth Conference

While the medical team was busy running their clinic, the annual IREF Youth Conference was underway. Young people travelled from near and far to join IREF students in five days of worshipping God in song and hearing his Word being taught. The theme for the Youth Conference was *"El Roi - The God who sees"*. The messages that were preached stirred the faith of

many students who were moved with tears of repentance and joy as each evening drew to an end.



42 students dedicated their life to Jesus and were baptised during the conference. We praise God that the Holy Spirit's power was undoubtedly at work in the hearts of so many!



2023 Gospel Meetings

IREF evangelists, Bible ladies, staff and students started the month of February preparing for IREF's annual Gospel Meetings, which were held from 2nd to 5th February. Many hours were spent setting up the site, the stage and lighting - and also in prayer for the hearts of those without Christ to be opened to his Good News. Thousands attended each night with the final evening crowd estimated at over 20,000!



We praise God that so many people in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh came to hear about Jesus. Many accepted Christ as their Saviour during the Gospel Meetings. As these new believers go about their daily lives, we pray that they will keep their eyes on Christ.

IREF will now turn its efforts to strengthening Christians in the tribal villages that surround Repalle. During the summer months of April and May, IREF's evangelists will aim to visit around 100 villages with the Good News of Jesus. People in these small rural farming and fishing villages are crying out for any hope of prosperity for their families. But in the Gospel, something so much better than material prosperity is offered – the eternal joy and peace that comes from knowing God personally through the Lord Jesus Christ!

IREF Science Day Expo

IREF students eagerly participated in their annual Science Day Expo on the last day of February. They had the opportunity to display and share their projects with classmates and the wider IREF community. This is an exciting event on IREF's campus. The staff work hard to support the students, and the students work hard on their experiments and projects. Each year the students create ambitious projects of increasing complexity.

This year, their projects included different ways of generating electricity, plant and water habitats – and even an active volcano!



The children showed great imagination and creativity, as well as good skills; one group of students made their project out of water bottles, boxes and a battery. IREF's science teachers were impressed by the effort made by each student. Seeing such creative science projects is a great encouragement to the staff; they witness their hard work bearing fruit as the students apply information learnt in their lessons.



Ullipalem CDC

We are delighted to be able to report that the Child Development in the village of Ullipalem reopened towards the end of last year after being closed for almost three years due to the Covid pandemic. We are hoping to be able to supply those who sponsor children in the CDC with new profiles of them as soon as possible.



Some Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for the successful Medical Team visit in January, for trouble-free travel and safety within the country.
- Give thanks for the number of students who committed their lives to Christ during the Youth Conference; pray for their ongoing walk with the Lord.
- Pray for IREF's staff and students as the current academic year draws to a close; pray for Christian students returning to Hindu families.
- Give thanks for the huge crowds who attended the Repalle Gospel rallies; pray for the many who were baptised.
- During this year's season of Lent, IREF staff and students are praying for revival and a great movement of the Holy Spirit in the Southeast India. Pray for IREF's village campaigns that will take place in May and June; over 100 villages will be reached with the Gospel.
- Persecution of Christians is rapidly increasing in India. The United Christian Forum (UCF) has stated that growth in recorded incidents is increasing "not just year-to-year, but it is rising month-to-month". In the past seven years, India has risen from 31st to 10th on Open Doors' World Watch List for persecuted Christians. Pray that God will give strength and resilience to Christians throughout India.
- Pray for the IREF's training seminars led by Emmanuel Rebba; pray that the revival among Christian workers will grow.

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

David Hunt [Chairman of IREF(UK)]