

HOPE 4 Kids

Education
for children
in Sudan,
Colombia, India
and Congo

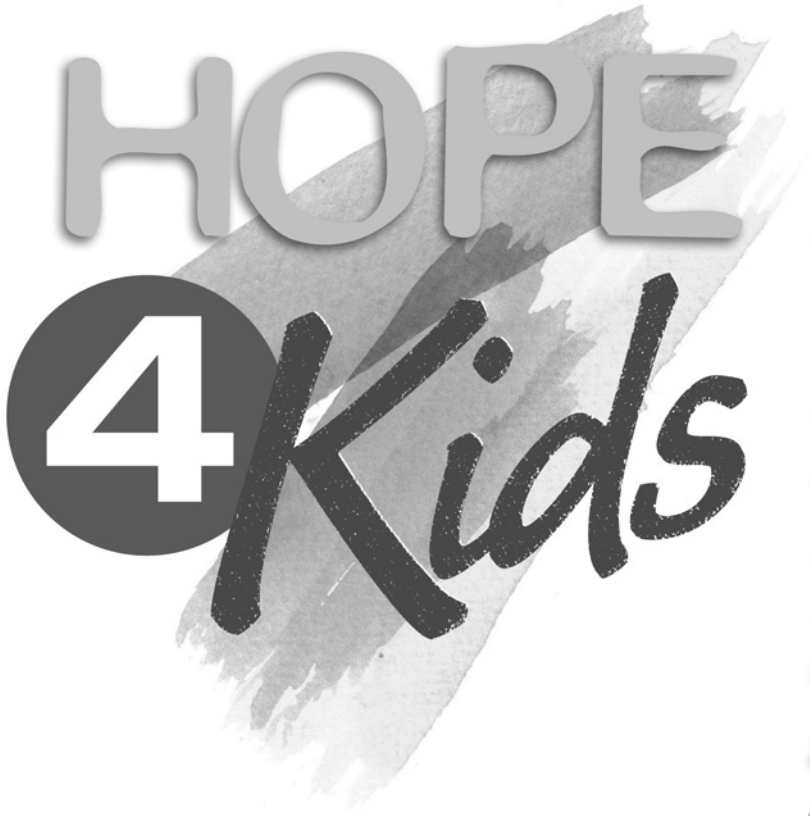


Children's Service Project
THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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Love your neighbor as yourself. —Mark 12:31 (TNIV)

THE CHILDREN'S SERVICE PROJECT enables us to partner with children on their spiritual journey to:

- fulfill Christ's commandment to love God and our neighbor
- foster a larger kingdom view
- offer an opportunity to serve and obey God
- provide a shared faith experience to build community

Over the past nine years, the Children's Service Project has enabled children in North America to offer hope and opportunity to children in some of the world's most destitute places. The lives of children in these areas are marked by poverty and as a consequence, they have little or no access to education. This year, the Children's Service Project, will join with Covenant Kids (Covenant World Mission) and their national partners in Sudan, Colombia, India and Congo to provide children with the educational opportunities to break out of the cycle of poverty and prepare for a brighter future.

How can the children in your church help?

Ministries currently in place in these countries are already providing children the opportunity to go to school and learn. Through both formal and non-formal educational programs, which include the provision of clothing, meals, medical check-ups, and family counseling, lives are being changed for the better. With the additional help from this year's service project, your children's offerings will supply the children in Sudan, Colombia, India and Congo with school supplies, uniforms, Bibles, and schools with benches, whiteboards, markers, and recreational equipment in order to provide the best education possible. While each country has its own specific set of needs, the common thread among them is the basic need to educate its children.



Contained in this booklet are twenty-four stories of children in these four countries who have benefited or will benefit from the ministries of the Covenant Church and the church's efforts to provide them with educational opportunities. Before taking your offering each week with the children, please read one of the stories and take some time to pray for the children in these countries. In this way, your children will connect with a bigger picture of God's kingdom and provide a tangible reflection of Christ's light in the world.

Over the past nine years, children throughout the Covenant denomination have reflected Christ's love to others and have made a significant life-altering difference through their giving and their prayers. Thank you for joining us this year in helping the children in Sudan, Colombia, India and Congo.

Steve Burger
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Week 1

THE BIBLE TELLS US that God created us and loves us. God loves us at the same time he loves children living in Sudan, Colombia, India and Congo. The Bible also tells us that in response to God's love, we are to love God and love each other. How can we love each other when we live so far away? One way to show love for each other is by helping when we see someone in need. Just like you, the children in these countries need to go to school but many times can't afford it. Through your offering, you will be able to help children in Sudan, Colombia, India and Congo go to school and receive an education. This is a very real way to share God's love with our brothers and sisters around the world. Another way to show God's love is through prayer. Take some time right now to pray for these children who are in need.

Week 2

DID YOU KNOW that there are Covenant Churches located all over the world? Just think, we are a part of a big family; we are all Covenant kids! As part of that family, we have the opportunity to learn from one another and help one another. One of the ways we can help our brothers and sisters living in very poor places is by providing the things they need to help them learn at school. Many of these children can't afford food, let alone a school uniform. Your offering will allow children in Sudan, Colombia, India and Congo to study so they can have a better future. Your offering will make a real difference in the life of another child. Isn't it great to be a part of this family?! Let's pray thanking God for the children in Sudan, Colombia, India and Congo who are a part of our family.



Week 3

DO YOU KNOW where the country of Sudan is? That's right, it's in Africa. The people living in Sudan have suffered for many years because of war, disease, and lack of food. The Covenant Church of Sudan is committed to making a difference and helping people in need. One of the ways they show the love of Jesus to children is by helping them go to school and get an education. The Good Hope Academy is a school where kids can go to learn, experience the love of Jesus, and receive

a meal every day. Your offering will provide children with the school supplies they need, such as a notebook and pencils. For only 60 cents we can give a child a notebook and a pencil. Today, let's pray for the children and teachers at the Good Hope Academy and for the children who will be able to join them because of the money we are sending.



Week 4

ABRAHAM LIVES IN SUDAN and loves to go to school. He loves learning new things and being with the other children. Unfortunately, Abraham's family is very poor and he can't afford to buy a school uniform. A school uniform costs \$20. This might not seem like a lot of money, but many children are so poor they can't even afford to buy shoes, so they walk to school barefoot. With your offering, you can help Abraham receive the school uniform he needs. Imagine how happy this would make Abraham! Pray for Abraham today and other children who are walking to school with sore feet.



Week 5

AT THE GOOD HOPE ACADEMY in Sudan, children like Frances learn to read and write. This will help Frances in the future find a job to support herself and her family. Without an education, Frances will not have a lot of options. Your offering will help Frances receive materials she needs for school, like notebooks, which only cost 50 cents each. By giving your offering you are showing Frances the love of Jesus. Pray that Frances would experience Jesus' love in a very real way today.

Week 6

WHAT IS YOUR SCHOOL

LIKE? Do you sit at desks or at tables and chairs? Did you know that in Sudan many classrooms don't have desks or chairs so children must sit on the ground? Sometimes you sit on the floor at your school but you probably have a nice soft carpet. In Sudan there are no carpets, the children sit all day on a dirt floor. Do you think it's easy to concentrate and learn when you have to sit on the dirty ground? With help from your offering, Good Hope Academy

can purchase benches so the children won't have to sit on the ground. This is another big way you can make a difference in the lives of Covenant kids in Sudan. A bench costs \$100. Please pray that students in Sudan will have enough benches so they won't have to sit on the ground anymore.



Week 7

IN SUDAN, although the people are poor and they don't have a lot of things, they have a very deep faith in God and love to praise Jesus. Children like Tang love going to church to sing songs. He also likes to read the Bible. At Good Hope Academy, children not only learn to read and write, they learn how to read the Bible. Your offering will provide Tang with his very own Bible. A Bible only costs \$5. Just think about how your offering will help Tang learn more about Jesus! Let's pray for Tang and the other children who will receive Bibles.

Week 8

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS COLOMBIA? Colombia is located in the northern part of South America. Like you, children in Colombia love to play with friends and learn new things. Unfortunately, many children in Colombia live in such poor conditions that it makes



it difficult to even go to school. Many have been forced to leave their homes in the countryside because of violence and war and move to the cities, where they are forced to beg on the streets for money for their families. Niños del Pacto (Covenant Kids) is a ministry of the Covenant Church in Colombia that provides children with the basic things they need to get an education, like school uniforms and school supplies. Your offering will help children in Colombia receive school supplies that they couldn't afford otherwise. Isn't it good to share what we have with our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world?! Let's pray that children in Colombia would receive the school supplies they need so they can go to school and learn.

Week 9

KEIDI COMES EVERY SATURDAY to the kids program at the church in Colombia. Through the program, Keidi has learned to trust the people in her life more and to pray every day when she wakes up. She is grateful for the food and transportation back to her house provided by the Saturday program. Her home situation is difficult because Keidi's family was displaced from their hometown by the violence in Colombia. Twenty family members live together in a small house and because of this, Keidi and her siblings need many things, including food and clothing. Keidi believes that without the presence of God in her life, her family would be much worse off and thanks God for listening to her prayers every day. God can use your offering as an answer to Keidi's prayers. Your offering can help Keidi receive the school uniform she needs, but can't afford. With \$25 we can provide Keidi with a school uniform. Let's pray that Keidi would experience God's love today.



Week 10

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE WAYS that you've learned about God? Through your parents, Sunday School teachers, friends? Camilo started learning about God by coming to the kids programs at the church in Colombia. He likes the classes taught by the teachers there. He prays every day for God's help and prays that God will help him and his family in their daily lives. He believes God has helped him very much because of all he has learned from the Saturday program, and is especially thankful for the school supplies which he has received from the church. Your offering will help the church supply more children with the supplies they need to go to school and learn, like pens and notebooks which cost only \$1. This is a very important way that we can share the love of God with other children, like Camilo. Let's pray thanking God for the ministries in Colombia where boys and girls can go to learn.

Week 11

JOSE IS IN FIRST GRADE but is very behind in his studies as his family wasn't able to put him in school before this year. Thanks to the church in Colombia, Jose received a donated uniform and can now attend school. As a single mother with three children, Jose's mother works during the day as a maid and struggles to support the family financially. Every night Jose prays for his needs and the needs of his family. Thank God that Jose received a school uniform so he can go to school. A school uniform in Colombia costs about \$25. With our offerings we can help other children receive the uniforms they need so they can go to school too. Pray that many children would be able to receive the uniforms they need.

Week 12

THERE ARE SCHOOLS in many different cities throughout Colombia and the Covenant Church is helping to educate kids through afterschool or Saturday programs. The children are so thankful for a safe place to go and learn from great teachers. They love the time to play with other friends. Some of these programs need basic things like whiteboards, markers, and gym equipment. Through your offering you can help these schools and programs provide children with the best education possible. With \$25 a school can purchase a small whiteboard and markers. Thank you for being such generous givers. Pray that God would take your offerings and multiply them so that the children in Colombia can receive a good education.



Week 13

THROUGH THE NEXT SET OF STORIES we will travel to another part of the world to a country called India. See if you can find it on a map. Like the children we've heard about in Sudan and Colombia, these children in India live in some of the poorest neighborhoods and many of them are not able to go to school. Because they come from poor families, many have to beg for food and money, while others called "rag pickers" search the trash to find things to recycle in order to earn some money. There are many different ministries in India that have built schools in these very poor places in order to change the lives of these children. In sharing our offering today, we can help provide students with books and school supplies and show God's love to the Covenant kids in India. Let's pray that God would continue to make us generous givers.



Week 14

HUSNA LIVES IN INDIA. She is 7 years old and has eight sisters and two brothers. She can't attend the government school because, like most children in her neighborhood, her family doesn't have money for uniforms and books. However, thanks to a Christian man, there is now a new school open in the community where Husna can go. She is now in the 1st grade. Thanks to the ministry of this school and your offering, Husna will have the opportunity to go to school and get a good education. This is something that wasn't possible before. As you take your offering, say a prayer of thanks for the KAM School.

Week 15

MEENA IS SEVEN years old and lives in a community in India where there are no government schools and there is no way for him to go to a school in another community. He is so thankful for the KAM School where he can finally get an education. He likes to read and write and says if it's

God's will he'd like to do even more things. Your offering today can help Meena receive supplies like books, notebooks, and pencils. Pencils only cost ten cents each. Let's pray for Meena and other children who study at the KAM School.



Week 16

LIFE IN INDIA has not been easy for Wilson. His father deserted the family and his mother has been working hard to take care of her children. However, it was through meeting a pastor that Wilson began to learn about God and put his faith in Jesus. This pastor helped Wilson get into one of the schools in the community and he is now in 10th grade. Although it has been hard, God has taken care of Wilson, who says that in the future he would like to become a pastor. Through your offering you will help Wilson and others like him not only to have the opportunity to go to school, but also to grow into disciples of Jesus. Let's pray thanking God for Wilson and the children of India.



Week 17

THERE ARE SO MANY ways that your offering will touch the lives of children in India. Something as simple as receiving a school uniform can change a child's life. This was true for Vijay. He comes from a very poor family that was struggling to take care of him. Vijay's life changed when we was able to start attending a school program with other boys his age. He loves class and is now able to do well in his studies. When you take your offering today, pray for Vijay and the other children like him, that their lives will be changed by God's love and care.

Week 18

LET'S VISIT ANOTHER COUNTRY where we can meet more Covenant kids. We're going to return to the continent of Africa, to the country of the Democratic Republic of Congo or Congo for short. There are many wonderful things about Congo, but there are also many things that make life very hard. Congo is a very poor country and many children don't have money to be able to get a good education. The Congo Covenant Church is working to make it possible for more children to go to school. It is difficult because each child has to pay tuition and wear a uniform. A uniform can cost \$15. In giving your offering, you can help a child receive a uniform. Please pray for the children in Congo who want to go to school but don't have uniforms.



Week 19

JUST LIKE IN SUDAN, many times schools in Congo don't have desks or benches and the children have to sit on the dirt floor. Jeanne is in elementary school and doesn't even have crayons or colored pencils to use. Do you like to color? Would you like to help children like Jeanne in Congo have crayons and colored pencils in their schools? Crayons only cost \$1. Your offering can help make this dream come true for children like Jeanne. Please pray for Jeanne and the other children who have to sit on the floor when they go to school.



Week 20

MARTIN COMES FROM A LARGE FAMILY. Because he has so many brothers and sisters, his parents don't have enough money for him to buy a uniform for school. A uniform costs \$15. Martin loves to learn and really wants to go to school. Your offering can help Martin and others like him in Congo receive the uniforms they need. Isn't it great that we can help other children in such a big way?! Let's pray for Martin and his family.



Week 21

HOW DO YOU GET TO SCHOOL EACH DAY? Do you take a bus? Do your parents take you? Do you walk? Children in Congo, like Danu, walk to school. They walk because there are no buses or cars to take them. Sometimes they have to walk many miles to school. Imagine walking all that way to school, only to get there and not have any school supplies to use.

The offering you give today will help buy pencils, paper, and books so when children like Danu go to school, they will have the supplies they need to learn. A notebook costs 50 cents and a pencil costs only ten cents. Take time to pray, thanking God for our brothers and sisters in Congo and asking that our offerings will provide the school supplies they need.

Week 22

IMAGINE NOT HAVING ANY STORY BOOKS to read or math books to study from. Imagine trying to study without books. Many children in Congo have never had a book before. With your offering we can help children in the Congo receive the books they need for school. One book costs between \$5 and \$10. Pray for the children in Congo who will receive a book for the first time.



Week 23

WOW, hasn't it been great to read about all these different countries around the world and meet other Covenant kids! We learned that the children in Sudan, Colombia, India, and Congo are very similar to us, but they face some very great challenges. We have so much to learn from each other and there are so many ways we can help each other. Isn't it great that we can show God's love to others by sharing what we have?! Remember, your offering will help children in other parts of the world receive what they need so they can go to school. Today, pray especially that the children in Sudan, Colombia, India, and Congo would experience the love of God.

Week 24

THE CHILDREN IN SUDAN, INDIA, COLOMBIA AND CONGO THANK YOU for your prayers and offerings. Now children like Valentina and Syad will have the opportunity to go to school and get an education. You've helped them to receive the basic things they need like pencils, paper, school uniforms, and benches for their classrooms. Please keep praying for the children in these countries! Praise God for their lives and their stories of faith. How wonderful that we can love each other and learn from each other, even when we live in different places!



Breakdown of costs per country:

SUDAN

Bible	\$5.00
Notebook.....	.50
Pencil.....	.10
Bench.....	\$100.00
School uniform.....	\$20.00

COLOMBIA

School uniform.....	\$25.00
Pen & notebook	\$1.00
Playground equipment	\$20.00
White board & markers	\$25.00

INDIA

Pencil.....	.10
Notebook.....	.50
One meal.....	.50

CONGO

School uniform.....	\$15.00
Notebook.....	.50
School book.....	\$5 - \$10.00
Crayons.....	\$1.00
Bible	\$10.00

Special note to teachers and parents:

One way to continue an on-going relationship between your children and the children in the countries mentioned throughout this booklet is through Covenant Kids (a ministry of Covenant World Mission). Through a monthly donation, you can help children in some of the poorest places receive the education they need to break out of the cycle of poverty. For more information, visit: www.covchurch.org/covkids





Donation Information

Make offering checks out to Evangelical Covenant Church.
Include "Children's Service Project — Hope 4 Kids"
in the memoline.

Please send donations to:

Covenant World Relief
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