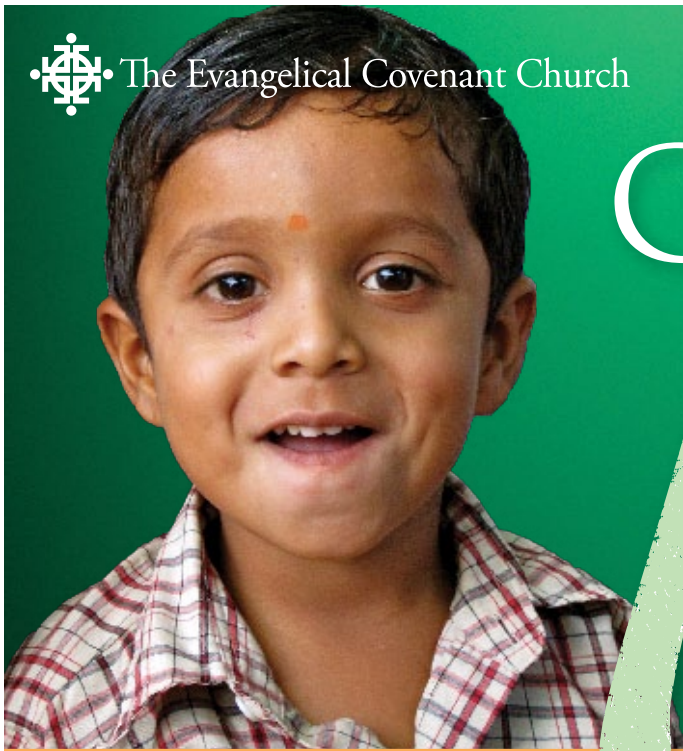


COVENANT Kids



Covenant Kids support programs that meet the educational, social, physical, and spiritual needs of children around the world.

COLOMBIA

Covenant Kids Colombia

INDIA

Child Development Centre
Neighborhood Schools
Child Laborers
Rag Picker Children
Children of Commercial Sex Workers
English Medium School, Solapur
St. John's School, Gulbarga
Industrial Training Institute
Higher Education

CONGO

Technical Training
Elementary Education
Girls' Education

SUDAN

Good Hope Academy

**Covenant Kids is a ministry of the
Department of World Mission**

8303 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631
Phone: (773) 784-3000
Web: www.covchurch.org/covkids
Email: covenantkids@covchurch.org

Eye witness accounts— Colombia and Sudan

In the past few months various friends, World Mission staff and local church leaders have offered their perspective of ministries and lives affected by the support and work of Covenant Kids scholarships. These individuals share their first-hand reflections with you.

Colombia



The barrios of Medellín, Colombia are set up in the hills. Refugee families have settled on those steep streets; fleeing from violence in the villages of their countryside homes. Over the years these hillside gatherings have developed and become part of the city - complete with paved roads, stores, churches and police presence. Last summer I walked through these steep streets and into a Covenant Church.

The Sed de Justicia Thirst for Justice Covenant Church is a 4-story building that sits among the sea of terra cotta and wrought-iron structures. Our small visiting group sat down with Pastor Alvaro Alonso Muñoz to hear about the church and its ministries. He told us about the gang activity that permeates this barrio. He explained that young men are sucked in and young women



Kim Crawford chats with Kelly Tatiana in the Sed de Justicia church sanctuary. Kelly Tatiana is one of the children sponsored through Covenant Kids.

are victimized. But he also spoke about hope and being a light in the community.

As we talked with Pastor Alvaro a young girl quietly slipped into the room. She hovered at the entrance; one arm hanging by her side and the other sheepishly grabbing

it from behind. Pastor Alvaro warmly invited her in and she slowly started to walk toward us. "This is Kelly Tatiana," he explained, "she is sponsored through Niños del Pacto (in Colombia)."

Kelly Tatiana and I began to talk. She smiled as I chatted with broken Spanish. She told me that she likes to go to school and study. And she likes to play and hang out with her friends. Kelly Tatiana's father left the family and her mother often does not make enough to purchase food or school uniforms. Kelly Tatiana is grateful for the support she receives from Ninos del Pacto and she loves being

part of the church. It was obvious that she felt at home in the church building and in the presence of Pastor Alvaro.

I left my new friend with very mixed feelings. She seemed so smart and friendly—a pre-teen girl enjoying the things that pre-teen girls enjoy. And yet she lives amidst dangerous gangs that threaten her life, her security and her future. Please pray with me for Kelly Tatiana, and others in her neighborhood, that she will continue to find strength and refuge at Sed de Justicia and in the presence of Jesus Christ."

Sudan



Reverend Abraham Tuach Kier is the President of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Sudan. He sends this report about Good Hope Academy along with prayer requests for the teachers, students and Sudanese people.

He writes, "Good Hope Academy is doing well and trying its best to nurture the knowledge of hope in the minds of the poor and marginalized children who are seriously affected by the absence of peace in this region. The school offers subjects such as English language, Math, Christian Religion, Social Studies, Science and Agriculture. Good Hope Academy won the award for excellent performance in the entire state during 2010. However, there are many challenges that the school faces including lack of classrooms and a severe shortage of school supplies such as benches, chairs, blackboards, paper supplies and learning materials.

The Evangelical Covenant Church of Sudan is asking your prayers for peace in Sudan with special prayers for the Unity State (Southern Sudan). Bentiu, where Good Hope Academy is located, is an oil rich region and there are disputes as to who has rights to

these oil resources. We ask prayers for the health of the students and teachers and for the community welfare in general. We ask you to pray for the students to gain knowledge of hope and better understanding in order to get better jobs. We ask prayers for orphans



Students of the Good Hope Academy welcome leaders from the Evangelical Covenant Church of Sudan and North America. There are 1,094 students at Good Hope Academy from PreSchool to 8th Grade and 29 teachers on staff.

and poor children who are studying at Good Hope Academy. Please pray for teachers such as Roda Nyabila Kong, Tiger Koang Nam and head master James Gatluak Mut."

Covenant Kids News & Notes

India Vision Trip

You are invited to join a Vision Trip to India this coming June. Covenant World Mission will be taking a group of pastors, leaders and Covenant Kids friends to visit the ministries of Hindustani Covenant Church and India for Christ Ministries. The trip is coming up soon but there is still space and time left to sign up! Interested? Contact Kim Crawford kim.crawford@covchurch.org for more information..

A Lenten Opportunity

This Lenten season we are challenging individuals and churches to 'give a meal for education'. For the cost of 1 meal out, approximately \$25, a child can be educated for an entire month. Think about presenting this challenge to your friends at church or family members. Instead of eating out one meal during Lent you can help to educate a child, or two, and change their life!

Covenant Kids on-line

Covenant Kids is on-line in new and helpful ways! Our webpage is part of the new Covchurch website. We also have a blog that is a great way to read about children who are supported by Covenant Kids as well as updates and pictures. We are on Facebook too! Previous Covenant Kids newsletter articles can be found at blogs.covchurch.org/covkids.

You can help...

Your \$25 monthly donation provides scholarships for children, teenagers, and young adults, so they may participate in programs that meet their educational, social, physical, and spiritual needs. To start your monthly contribution, get more brochures or find out more information, call (773) 784-3000, or email to covenantkids@covchurch.org.