

Kids *Helping* Kids INDIA

**Real Help, Real Hope, Real Change for
the Worlds Poorest Children**

**Real Growth, Real Connection,
Real Formation for the children in your church**



The Evangelical Covenant Church



Kids *Helping* Kids

INDIA

Loving our neighbor as ourselves.

—Mark 12:31 (TNIV)

The need in India is great and this year children in your church can help the children of India escape poverty and death by providing health care, food, bed nets, blankets, medicine, clothes, shelter, and education.

Kids Helping Kids 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

Kids Helping Kids (formerly known as 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 severe poverty. This year, **Kids Helping Kids**, will join with Covenant World Relief and the Hindustani Covenant Church in India to extend the love of Christ by caring for the multitude of poor children in India.

How can the children in your church help?

This booklet contains twenty-four stories of children who live in India; stories which help shape the lives of the children in your care.

Before taking an offering with the children each week, please read one of the stories and take some time to pray for the children in India. In this way, your children will connect with the bigger picture of God's kingdom and provide a tangible reflection of Christ's light in the world.

Over the past ten 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 providing children hope for a brighter future.

Steve Burger

Department of Christian Formation



This project is co-sponsored by:

Covenant World Relief and the Department of Christian Formation

To order more of the Kids Helping Kids resources contained in this packet go to: CovChurch.org/relief/projects/special/childrens-service-project

Here are the things you can provide that will help the children of India:

- Bed nets: \$10 each
- Blankets: \$10 each
- Health services: \$14/child
- HIV/Aids treatment and counseling: \$200/child
- Hostel stay: \$24-30/month
- Identify, rescue, and rehabilitate children from slavery: \$25/child
- Mid-day meals: \$18/month
- Nutritional supplements: \$18-20/month
- Preparation for school: \$20-25/month
- School costs: \$20/month

Note: Some cost vary depending on the area of the country in which the children live.

Week 1:

The Bible tells us that God created and loves all of us, no matter where we live. The Bible also tells us that in response to God's love, we are to love God and each other. One way to show love for each other is by helping when we see someone in need. There are many children in India who are not able to attend school because they have to work to make money for their families. Sometimes the families are even forced by the landowners to work until they have paid off money they owe and receive little or nothing for their work. These children often don't get enough to eat, may be infected with malaria or HIV/AIDS, and have little access to medical care. Imagine being hungry, and sick every day. Imagine never being able to play but having to work all day. Through your offering, you will help provide food and medicine to these children. This is a very real way to share God's love with our brothers and sisters in India. Another way to show God's love is through prayer. Take some time right now to pray for the children of India 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 a part of that family, we have the opportunity to learn from and help one another. One of the ways we learn is by listening to the stories of our brothers and sisters in India and one of the ways we can help our brothers and sisters living in India is by providing things to help keep them healthy, such as food and medicine. Your offering will care for children in India so that they can grow strong and have a better future. Your offering will make a real difference in the life of a child who is hungry, alone, sick, or has no place to live. Isn't it great to be a part of this family? Let's pray thanking God for the children of India who are a part of the family of God.



Week 3:

The Hindustani Covenant Church rescued Pavan from a poor district of Pune where his mother was a slave and Pavan was on the streets on his own. Because of fears that Pavan might be infected with HIV, it was initially difficult to find a hostel that would take him. Now, though, Pavan is living happily in a hostel in Goa where he has enough to eat, is happy, and does well in his studies. \$24 a month would pay for Pavan to remain in his new, more protected life in the hostel where he no longer has to steal to support himself. Pray for the organizations partnering with the Hindustani Covenant Church, that they would open their hearts to help children like Pavan.



Week 4:

Do you know where the country of India is? It is in South Asia, between China and the Middle East. It is also the second most populated country in the entire world. Over 1.2 billion people live there! Many people face poverty and lack of access to health care, while others grow increasingly educated and wealthy. The Hindustani Covenant Church has been working in India since 1939, serving the many poor people of the country. It is very hard work, but the families of the Hindustani Covenant Church love Jesus and are willing to share Jesus love by work hard to help others. Your offering will help the Hindustani Covenant church provide food, protection, and health care for many of these children. Today let's pray for the Hindustani Covenant Church, and the children who will become healthier because of the money we are sending.

Week 5:

The Gulbarga area of India is very dry, and most of the people are very poor, because there is not enough rain for crops to grow all year. Many people are unemployed or have jobs that don't provide enough for their families. This lack of money means that many children do not have enough food and are malnourished. In a survey done in October of 2011, it was found that over half of the children in 55 villages in Gulbarga were malnourished. Yet even though these children don't have enough to eat, they love Jesus and thank Jesus for his love. For \$18, the Hindustani Covenant Church can provide nutritious midday meals to a child for a month. Let's pray today for the children who do not have enough to eat and thank God that we can show Jesus love by helping.



Week 6:

Four year old Paresh is malnourished because he does not have enough healthy food to eat. His older brother died a year ago because he did not have enough food and became ill. Paresh's family thanks God for what little they do have, but life is hard. The lack of rainfall in Gulbarga means that there are not enough crops for his family to eat, and his parents are not allowed to collect any food in the forest. It is very hard to find jobs where Paresh lives, and his family cannot move to the city to find work because they were not able to go to school and do not have the education to do the jobs. For \$20, Paresh and children like him living far from the cities can receive a nutritional supplement for a month, which will make sure they have sufficient food at least for that time. Please pray that God would help us be aware of the abundance in our own lives and make us generous givers.

Week 7:

Almost half of all child deaths and a quarter of all cases of disease in India are due to malnutrition, which is caused by not having enough healthy food. The malnourished children who do survive don't do as well in schools as other children who have had enough to eat, and they can't play or do physical work very well. They have no toys. For them the greatest gift is food. A gift of \$18 allows the Hindustani Covenant Church to provide malnourished children living in cities with a nutritional supplement. These children will have their health watched to make sure the supplements are helping them, and their mothers will be showed how to prepare healthy meals for their children. Pray that these nutritional supplements would nourish these children, body and soul. Thank God for the food we have to eat.

Week 8:

Sheetal is the youngest child of a poor family. Her whole family lives in a single room, and must do all of there eating, cooking, sleeping, and bathing in that room. Sleeping on the floor, like Sheetal does, is dangerous in a room where you eat and cook, because the floor is dirty, sticky, and wet. A blanket of her own would allow Sheetal to sleep up off of the floor and would protect her from skin diseases, as well as keep her warm during the cold season. A blanket for a child like Sheetal costs \$10. Please pray for the children who don't have a bed or blanket to sleep on. Thank God for the beds and blankets we have.



Week 9:

The Hindustani Covenant Church has been working in India since 1939. It was started by Swedish Covenant Missionaries, although they no longer run the church. The Hindustani Covenant Church has a mission of spreading the word, and love of God by working for justice in the world. This leads them to spend much time and energy serving the poorest and most vulnerable people of their nation. The children they work with are the poor. They are ignored or looked down on by others and are often not able to attend school because they must work to provide money and food for their families. Pray that the Hindustani Covenant Church would be able to provide for the children's needs and help them know God, who loves them, and does not ignore them.



Week 10:

At age 8, Ravi Pawra is finally able to attend school thanks to a center for learning operated by the Hindustani Covenant Church. Ravi's parents are not able to read or write, so they were not able to teach him anything at home, but at the learning center he is learned his alphabet, numbers, bible stories and other basic knowledge that helped him gain admission to a regular

school. For \$20, you can support the efforts of the Hindustani Covenant Church learning centers and help get a child ready to attend school. It is a blessing that Ravi's parents recognize the value of educating their son. Pray that Ravi would continue to be blessed by his experiences at school, and that his successes would inspire the families living near his to send their children to school as well. Thank God that you have opportunities to learn as well.

Week 11:

Some 93 million people in India live in slums – more than the number of people who live in California, New York, Texas, and Michigan combined. Slums are very crowded places to live with houses that aren't able to protect people from wind, rain, or dirt. The people who live in these slums live in dangerous and unhealthy conditions, often without reliable access to clean water, sufficient food, or education. Some know Jesus, many don't. But God loves them all. \$18 can provide nutritional supplements, as well as health checkups, for a child in one of these slums. Pray that our hearts and eyes would be opened to those in the world who do not have good food, water, or shelter, or know Jesus.



Week 12:

Rajashree is a 10 year old girl living with her parents in the Ramtedki slum in Pune. She and her parents work as rag pickers. They spend their days sorting through garbage in the dump, looking for paper, plastic, and glass that they can sell. Her parents didn't believe in educating girls and needed her help to make money for the family, so she was never sent to school. However, the Hindustani Covenant Church encouraged her to come to the child development centers during her spare time, and there she learned to read and write. Now that they have seen her improvement, her parents support her goal of learning as much as she can at the child development center and maybe even eventually going to a regular school. \$25 helps children like Rajashree in Pune, Daund, or Gulbarga read, and write and learn about the love of Jesus. Pray that the children in the child development centers will learn not only to read and write, but also come to know the love of God.

Week 13:

After living much of their life in a slum, Puja Rathod and her two younger sisters now study at a girl's school in Pune. Their father left the family and the money that their mother made as a rag picker was not enough to feed Puja and her sisters. A development officer who worked in the slum noticed their problem and informed the Hindustani Covenant Church, which is paying for the girls to go to school. They are experiencing God's love because of the work of the Hindustani Covenant Church. The girls now have dreams of what they will be when they grow up: a teacher, a doctor, a police officer. \$20 a month will support children like the Rathod sisters. Pray that these girls and others like them would be able to realize their dreams.



Week 14:

At Savargaon, the Hindustani Covenant Church runs a hostel (a place to stay) for poor and orphan boys. Manoj is a 9 year old who came to live in the hostel after his mother left the family and his father could no longer care for him. At the hostel, Manoj experiences the love of God. He is able to go to school and receive adequate food, clothing, and health care. Only \$30 a month can support boys like Manoj. Pray for the staff of the Hindustani Covenant Church's hostels, that they may show the love of God to the boys in their care.

Week 15:

Prarna and Pammi are twins and the youngest of six kids. Their father can't work, so what their mother makes as a maidservant must feed and clothe for the entire family of eight. With money so tight, the girls were not getting enough to eat. Even so, this family loves Jesus and prays each day. The staff nurse and community health volunteers of the Hindustani Covenant Church were able to work with the twins to get them nutritious food and dietary supplements. Prarna and Pammi are getting healthier, and are now likely to survive. \$20 would provide one child with nutritional supplements for a month. Pray that Prarna and Pammi continue to experience God's abundance and love.

Week 16:

For those children living in poor districts it is not unusual to become infected by HIV/AIDS, leading to further discrimination, and are looked down on by members of their family and larger community. Often these children are left on their own and even less likely to get the food, medicine, and love they need. Many of these children are also orphans, having lost their parents to the disease. The Hindustani Covenant Church is committed to working with orphans affected with HIV/AIDS. Many of these children now know Jesus love just like you. \$200 provides counseling, treatment, and access to centers to care for these children. Pray that the HIV/AIDS infected children of India would know God's healing power and love.



Week 17:

Although Madhavi's parents were receiving treatment and counseling for HIV, they did not survive the disease. Now Madhavi, who is also infected with HIV, lives with a grandmother who is too old to take care of her properly. Madhavi receives counseling, treatment, and medicine at a Hindustani Covenant Church health center where she has experienced God's love and care. For \$200 you can continue to provide counseling, treatment, and other support for Madhavi and children like her. Pray that God would make us generous givers.

Week 18:

In Goa, children are often sold into slavery, mistreated and abused by adults. Madhur was rescued from this abusive slavery and enrolled in a rehabilitation center where he could receive counseling and treatment. Now he is able to attend school and dream of a better future for himself. He was abandoned by others but saved from slavery by those who love God and shared that love with Madhur. It costs \$25 to identify, rescue, and rehabilitate other such children from slavery in Goa. Pray for Madhur and the other children who are enslaved and mistreated, that they might experience the love of God and find physical and emotional healing. Thank God that we can help others like Madhur.



Week 19:

In the Orissa area of India, the biggest health problem is malaria, which is spread by infected mosquitos. The tribal populations (which people look down on) are only 8% of the people, but they get 25% of the cases of malaria. Luckily, there are some easy ways to prevent malaria, such as bed nets. Sleeping under a bed net allows children to sleep without worrying about being bitten by infected mosquitos, whether at night or during an afternoon nap. But because others look down on the tribal people, they are not able to get jobs to make enough money to purchase bed nets. God does not look down on the tribal people. They are learning that God loves them through the Hindustani Covenant Church. Providing a child with a bed net costs only \$10 and the nets are good for up to five years. Pray that we can open our hearts to provide for these children.



Week 20:

13 year old Sukanti recently became seriously ill with malaria. Happily she was able to get to a government hospital for treatment, recovering after a few weeks. Doctors told her family, though, that if they had waited much longer to get her medicine she would have died. Sometimes it's too late and even the medicine doesn't work. Bed nets keep infected mosquitos from biting people so they won't get malaria in the first place. Bed nets cost only \$10 and are safe and easy to use to prevent malaria. Pray that children like Sukanti will receive healing and that bed nets might keep other children from getting sick.

Week 21:

In the Gulbarga district of India there are nearly 100,000 children who are working in the agricultural fields. Many families believe that everyone in the family working will lead to a better life, but employers pay children far less than adults, even though they work longer, and the children do not get enough food or rest. Many of them end up suffering from health problems, including skin disease, malaria, and trouble breathing. For \$14 per child, child laborers can be provided with free health services and medication. Pray that these children would be able to stay healthy, receive opportunities for education and receive God's love.

Week 22:

Wow! We have met a lot of other Covenant kids from India. We have learned that, although they face some really big challenges, the children in India are very similar to us. They need food; shelter, blankets, medicine, education, love, and care just like us. They have dreams of what they would like to do in the future, and a love for Jesus. We have so much to learn from one another, 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 become healthier. Today, pray especially that the children of India would experience the love of God.



Week 23:

Today remember how much God loves you, and how much God loves the children of India. How amazing that we can share God's love with people across the world through our gifts and prayers, and how wonderful that they can share God's love with us through their stories. Pray today for your friends and family and that they would be willing to open their eyes, ears, and hearts to the stories of God's children around the world. Pray that you would be able to share what you have learned about the children of India with your family and friends.



Week 24:

The children in India thank you for your prayers and offerings. Now children like Paresh and Madhavi have the resources they need to grow up healthy, so they can look forward to a better life. You've helped them, and children like them, receive food, medicine, and protection. Please keep praying for the children in India! Praise God for their lives and stories of faith. How wonderful that we can love and learn from each other, even when we live in different places!



Donation Information

Make offering checks out to Evangelical Covenant Church.
Include *Kids Helping Kids – India* in the memo line.

Please send donations to:
Covenant World Relief
8303 W. Higgins Rd.
Chicago, IL 60631



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