

CHILDREN'S PRAYER GUIDE

APRIL 2018

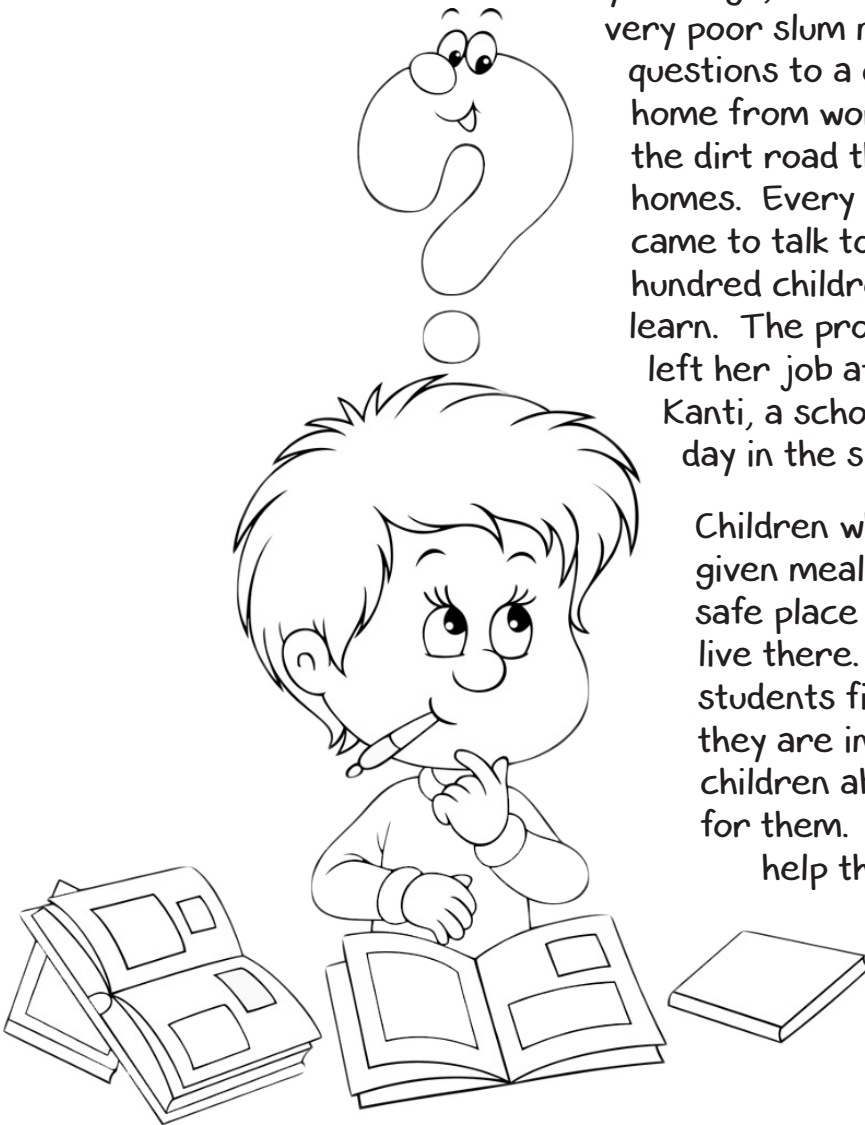
ASHIRVAD KANTI NAPGUR, INDIA

Why do I need to eat vegetables? How do I tie my shoes? How do I write a story? When you want to learn something new, you might ask your parents or a teacher. You could read a book or look on the computer. There are many ways for us to learn new information and skills. Sometimes, children who live in slum communities struggle to learn new things. They do not have access to a school, library or computer. They may not be able to ask their parents.

25 years ago, in Melghat, India, children living in a very poor slum neighborhood began asking their questions to a college professor. On her way home from work, the professor walked on the dirt road that went past their cardboard homes. Every day more and more students came to talk to the professor until over one hundred children had asked her to help them learn. The professor wanted to help, so she left her job at the college to start Ashirvad Kanti, a school for the children she saw each day in the slums.

Children who come to Ashirvad Kanti are given meals, medical care and a clean, safe place to study. Some children even live there. The staff at Ashirvad help students find information on the topics they are interested in and they teach the children about the Bible and God's love for them. As the children learn, they also help their neighbors and families learn.

All of these students have been helped because children asked for the opportunity to learn, and God led a college professor to teach them.



TRY AN INDIAN FOOD: TOASTY PANEER SANDWICH

This Indian-style cheese sandwich is tasty and easy to make! It is great for breakfast, brunch and even school lunchboxes.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup crumbly cottage cheese
 - 2 tbs butter
 - 1 tsp cumin
 - 1/4 tsp turmeric powder
 - 1 large onion (chopped very fine)
 - 2 medium tomatoes (chopped fine)
 - Dash salt (or to taste)
 - 8 slices fresh, soft sandwich bread of your choice
- For a spicy sandwich add:
- 1/2 tsp red chili powder
 - 2 green chilies (chopped very fine)

Instructions:

1. Melt butter in a pan with the onion and cumin. Add green chilies if desired. Fry till the onion is soft.
2. Add the tomatoes, turmeric powder, and salt to taste. Add red pepper if desired. Stir well. Cook for 2 minutes stirring frequently.
3. Add the cottage cheese and stir fry until well mixed. Allow paneer mixture to cool a little.
4. Lay the slices of bread on a clean cutting board and butter. Now put a generous amount of the prepared paneer mixture on 4 of the slices. Spread to cover the entire slice. Top with another buttered slice.
5. Grill or toast the sandwich till crispy and golden.
6. Serve hot with tomato ketchup or a chutney of your choice. (recipe adapted from: <https://www.thespruce.com/toasty-paneer-sandwich-1958045>)



MEET SUREKHAI

Surekhai lives in the Melghat region of India. The Melghat region has a tiger reserve in it! An animal reserve is a large section of land where no humans can have buildings or do activities. The land is just for the animals to live. When Surekhai came to Ashirvad she could not speak Hindi (an official language of India) and struggled with her classes. During her time at Ashirvad Kanti, Surekhai has studied hard and now has the 2nd highest grades in her class. She has a strong love for Jesus and she spends a lot of her free time praying and reading the Word of God. Surekhai lives at Ashirvad Kanti, but talks about her neighborhood in the slums a lot. She is planning how she can go back to make life better for the other children.

HOW TO PRAY:

- Thank God for Mrs. Pushpa Waghmare, the teacher who founded Ashirvad Kanti. Thank God that she was willing to start a school to help the children she saw in the slums.
- Pray that the children at Ashirvad will learn job skills so they can take care of themselves as adults and be able to help their families and communities.
- Pray that the children at Ashirvad Kanti would learn about God and His love for them.

HANDS-ON PRAYER CHALLENGE:

Next time you take a ride in the car count the number of schools and libraries you pass. The children at Ashirvad had to leave their neighborhood to attend school because there are no schools or libraries in the slum community. Thank God for the opportunities he has given you to learn. Thank God for the children who are learning at Ashirvad Kanti. Ask God to help them to be curious learners.