

Communication:

Helpful Tips and Instructions

Everybody enjoys receiving a personal letter or note from someone that cares! The children at RG are no different. They get so excited when a sponsor sends them a letter, card, photo, or email. The relationship between sponsor and child is just as important as the financial support. We highly recommend that sponsors communicate at least twice per year with their child. More if you are able! For these children who have lost everything, it means so much just to know they are loved and that someone is thinking of them. Communication can be a short and simple note or card, or could be a letter. Photos are especially exciting to the children.

Following are some instructions and tips on communication with your sponsored child at RG.



Letters

Please understand and remember that RG is in a very remote part of a developing nation in Africa. These factors make mail delivery challenging and unreliable. The missionaries working there tell of letters arriving a year after being sent...if they arrive at all. *Due to the unreliability of regular mail, we do not encourage sponsors to attempt to send a letter to RG in Uganda through the post office.* Instead, please mail it to us (see back for address). We will then send it with the next available person or team visiting RG.

Here are some letter writing tips:

- International holidays or the child's birthday are good times to send a card or letter. Please plan at least several weeks in advance to allow traveling schedules. Of course, ANYTIME is a good time for them to hear from someone who loves them.
- They would love to learn about your world! Tell the child about yourself and your family. Please consider the child's environment. Though they live at RG, the African culture is one of few possessions and little money. Rather than writing about your possessions, share "get-to-know-you" things. What activities do you enjoy? What things are important to you?
- Be sure to let them know that you care about them and pray for them. Encourage them in their walk with God, in their education, or interests. Write words of blessing and affirmation for them.
- Print, rather than write in cursive.
- Ask them questions about themselves. Here are a few ideas to ask:
 - About their Ugandan or tribal culture
 - About their customs/culture
 - What do they do in a normal day?
 - How you can pray for them
 - What special talents or abilities do they have?
 - What is their favorite food, activity, school subject, etc.
 - What do they want to do when they are an adult?

"What village are you from?"



Photographs

Please send photos! The children **cherish** photos of sponsors. Please remember that there are many cultural differences between the USA and rural Uganda including modesty. It is good to choose photos with modest clothing. Keep in mind girls in Uganda don't wear short skirts or swimsuits, and shorts are mostly worn for playing soccer. Just like letters, photos should be sent to the RG office.



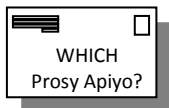
Gifts

At any time, a small gift **which can fit inside an envelope** can be sent to your sponsored child. In addition, once a year at Christmas there will be an opportunity to make an extra donation so that every child can receive a larger gift.



Making sure it gets to the right child

It's hard to imagine, but even when RG had only a few children, we already had two different pairs of children with the same first and last name! So in order to make sure that your communication gets to the *correct* child, **please put the child's full name and ID number on the outside of all envelopes or the subject line of emails.** Please understand that the children are definitely known by name at RG, this just helps alleviate potential confusion when a letter is received for a child.



A few other guidelines:

- Do not put your return address on your envelope. Other people in Uganda may use your address to try to contact you and ask for favors.
- You are very welcome to visit your sponsored child at RG! If you would like to do so, please contact our office in Waco.
- Please try to send an initial letter and photo within the first month of your sponsorship.

RG's Mailing Address for Orphan Letters:

Restoration Gateway, 4300 W. Waco Dr. B2-314, Waco, TX 76710

Office phone: 254.752.0583 Office email: info@restorationgateway.org