

## **Tips for letter writing:**

Please don't:

Include your address (this could potentially be passed on and you could then receive numerous begging letters from all sorts of people!)

But please do:

Send postcards of the UK

Keep your letters simple, short and legible

Send a photo of you, your family and even your pets

If you have children get them involved

Write about things the child will understand – all the things you think will interest, amuse and stimulate him or her.

Here's a list of suggested topics:

- Who's who in your family
- Interests, hobbies, sports
- Recent events
- What your church is like
- The area where you live
- Your relationship with Jesus
- The weather
- Simple prayer requests
- Music, pets, holidays

## **Spiritual Food**

Our desire for the children is that not only will they be given the chance of a healthy and safe environment in which to grow up, but also that they be given spiritual food and an opportunity to learn of God's love for them and know His son Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. By sharing favourite passages of Scripture or perhaps words of testimony, your letters can serve to encourage your child on his/her spiritual journey.

## **Encourage your child**

Please respond positively to their achievements, the sports they are playing, their handwriting, their photograph. You have a real opportunity to help build up the child's confidence. And please do let them know that you are praying for them.

## **Be sensitive**

It is best not to talk about the material aspect of your life, such as the size of your home or the car you drive. Other areas to avoid are: suggesting the child visits you in the UK or asking what gift the child would like to receive from you. All these areas can create difficult situations between you and the child.

## **Can I send gifts?**

Children love to receive occasional photographs of you and your family. However, please remember we need to post letters that are light and flat rather than bulky. Some sponsors are very clever, and include inexpensive gifts such as bookmarks, cards, pictures and stickers.

Some of our trustees and/or staff visit the home 2-3 times a year and are willing to take out small gifts (in moderation)! We will try to let you know when a trip is imminent and gifts should then be sent to the office address in plenty of time. Please let us know both whom the present is for and what it contains.

If you are wishing to send a parcel at another time, please send to the KCT office address packed in a jiffy bag and including a contribution towards the postage.

Please do not send:

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- Anything valuable, fragile or dangerous
- Any item which runs on batteries
- Any kind of medicine
- Any kind of seeds
- Knives (including penknives)
- Sweets or chocolate
- Monetary gifts (in order not to promote jealousy amongst the children)

## **Can I visit my child/the home?**

Yes, this is welcome and possible, with certain provisos:

We request that you do not visit the child/home in person or through representation, other than by arrangement with KCT, and in the presence of a local Kisumu Children Ministries representative. This is required purely for the protection of the child.

We need to hear about your trip at least two months before you leave to give us time to arrange the visit. In the event you cannot provide sufficient advance notice, we will do our best to arrange a visit, but cannot guarantee a meeting will take place.

## **How long will my sponsorship be for?**

As long as you wish to be involved! However, sponsorship is really a long-term commitment on average lasting around 5 years. If you are a One-to-one sponsor there is a need for some consistency, particularly as the communication between you and your child is of a more relational nature.

We fully understand in this present economic climate that one's financial situation can change very rapidly. We would therefore be very grateful if you could inform us at our office address should your circumstances require you to withdraw from our scheme.