



We Write To Missionaries A kid's guide for communication

Where in the world is this missionary and what does he or she do?

There are several ways in which you can learn more about the missionary before you write.

- Visit www.lcmsworldmission.org/prayercards and view or download the missionary's prayer card. Each prayer card includes a photo, birth dates, anniversary date, a short biography, description of mission work and prayer requests for each missionary or missionary family. Please pray for the missionaries and missionary families with whom you plan to write.
- Learn more about the country at www.lcmsworldmission.org/wherewework. There you can learn about LCMS and partner church mission efforts, read related articles, view photos, listen to audio interviews of missionaries, find other Web links and download other resources. There even may be an issue of *Mission Friends* featuring the country where the missionary family serves. You can learn a lot there!



What in the world should I write?

Hopefully you've visited the LCMS World Mission Web site and have learned a little bit about the missionary and his or her work. Take the missionary's prayer card and a map and place them in front of you as you write—they may help you to focus. Based on what you've learned, you can ask questions about the missionary family, mission work, country, culture, etc.

Be sure to introduce yourself—tell a little about who you are and what your interests are. If you have something in common with the missionary, include that in your letter as well.



Do you have a favorite Bible verse or story from the Bible that is encouraging to you? Consider sharing them in your letter. Also, be sure to mention that you are praying for them and their ministry.

Holidays and birthdays are good occasions to remember people, including missionaries. You may want to send cards at these times.

How does my letter get to Timbuktu?

Each letter should be taken to a U.S. Post Office to be weighed for the right amount of postage. International airmail rates are different from first class mail in the United States. Depending on where your letter is going, it could take anywhere from one to several weeks before it reaches the missionary. Double check the address, to be sure that you copied it down correctly.

Do missionaries have access to e-mail and the World Wide Web?

Many missionaries have Internet access, which has made communication around the world much easier. However, depending on the area, using e-mail may not be as simple as it is in the United States. Some places in the world still do not have good phone connections, which makes using e-mail difficult. In other places, missionaries do not have free access to the Internet, and so they must pay for the time they spend online. Slow modem connections can make e-mail much more expensive than regular snail mail.

If you are going to write to a missionary by e-mail, keep the following points in mind:

- Sometimes missionaries share the same e-mail address, so include the missionary's name in the subject line. Such as: Attn: Missionary Joe Smith.
- Please do not forward "spam" (i.e. jokes, stories), photos or other large files.
- Since e-mail can be easily forwarded or read by other people, please have an adult read what you write before you send it.

Did you know that God is using you in His mission?

As you learn about mission work, pray for missionaries and the people whom they serve, and write to encourage them, God is using you as an important person in furthering His mission. God invites each person to be involved in His mission. You don't need to wait until you are grown up to help in God's mission! God is using your unique qualities to be a mission partner right now! Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel!

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FRIENDS

