

Letter Writing Guidelines

Here are some simple guidelines to help you as you write your letters and cards:

- **Pray before you start**
Ask God to give you the right words to communicate
- **Share God's Word**
For Bible verses in other languages, visit www.biblegateway.com
- **Show sensitivity**
Please don't dwell on the recipient's plight, or share about the blessings of life in your country
- **Translation**
Write in simple English, or if you are able, in the recipient's language
- **Keep it short and simple**
Short letters cost less for us to post on and are easier to translate for those recipients who do not speak English.
- **Feel free to include your details**
It's fine to include your name and country but not your full address
- **Security**
Please **do not** mention Open Doors in your letters, criticise a country's religion or religious extremists, its government, judicial system or political leaders.
- **Postcards**
If you are writing a postcard, send it in an envelope rather than writing Open Doors' address on the card
- **Handmade cards**
If you are a Sunday School or youth group leader, making cards can be a great way of allowing younger people to respond and do something to connect with suffering Christians. Please note that any cards or pictures sent must be small, light and not too fragile for posting
- **Gifts**
If you include money in your letter or card to go to the person you have written to, Open Doors will not be able to forward your gift on. It is unsafe and can also cause severe difficulties for the recipient.

Please do keep a prayerful attitude as you write your letter or card. Once you've put it in the post, remember to pray for the brother or sister you've written to.

Pray that:

- Your letter will arrive safely at its destination
- The recipient will be blessed by what you've written and comforted by the knowledge that you are joining in their struggles by praying for them (*Romans 15:30*)
- The Lord's peace will guard the heart and mind of your recipient – and their family – as they endure suffering for the sake of the Lord (*Philippians 4:7*)
- God will give the recipient strength to persevere, and that they will know the Lord's compassion and mercy (*James 5:11*).

Please post all letters and cards in a separate addressed envelope to:
Open Doors, PO Box 27 630, Mt Roskill, Auckland 1440