BECOMING A PEN PAL



A ONE-OF-A-KIND MISSION FIELD

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver. (Proverbs 25:11)

In a world of instant communication, the practice of putting pen to paper is a gift of our intentional and undivided presence—and it was God's idea long before it was ours! The New Testament is full of letters of wisdom, encouragement, and instruction that have been read and reread for centuries.

Being a pen pal is a God-inspired and time-tested way to build meaningful connections, deepen relationships, lessen loneliness, minimize isolation, and strengthen our faith.

CHOOSING A PEN PAL

There are people everywhere who would love to receive a letter from you: a sibling, cousin, aunt, uncle, grown child, grandchild, niece or nephew, neighbor, someone in your church who feels lonely, or even your spouse. Being a pen pal can be a "mission field" right from your armchair. It can be a life-giving ministry.

WHAT MATTERS MOST

Your note doesn't have to be lengthy to be meaningful. Authentic words matter more than perfect words. Even a few lines can bring comfort, encouragement, and hope.

CREATIVE PEN PAL PROMPTS

The following prompts are designed to spark your pen pal journey. Sharing interesting questions, offering humorous jokes, crafting stories together, and deepening your faith through an Ebenezer Exchange are all great ways to communicate with your pen pal. Enjoy the journey!

UNDER THE SAME ROOF

Be a pen pal to those who live under the same roof with you.

- I thought of you today when ...
- I admire how you ...
- You surprised me when ...

DAILY DESCRIPTORS

Use your senses to describe your day creatively

- *Coffee with my friend was like a gorgeous, warm, spring rain.*
- *My morning smelled like burnt toast.*
- *Today tasted like peppermint tea.*

ASK GENEROUS QUESTIONS

- What is one small thing that brings you peace?
- What makes you feel valued?
- What is the best question you've ever been asked?
- What do you wish others understood about you?

SHARE A LITTLE LAUGHTER

- What do you get when you cross a cocker spaniel, a poodle, and a rooster? (*A cockerpoodledoo!*)
- What does a llama's doorbell sound like? (*Llama-llama-ding-dong!*)
- Where does a frog go to get glasses? (*The hop-thamologist!*)
- What is a gecko's favorite movie? (*The Lizard of Oz!*)

CRAFT A TALE

SIX WORDS FORWARD

Start a story using only six words; send it to your pen pal. They write the next six words and send them back to you. Keep going until one of you writes: *The End.*

AN ALPHABET STORY

Write a shared story using the letters of the alphabet. For example,

- **A** mysterious package arrived today.
- **B**ut no one knew who sent it.

Continue back and forth until you get to Z.

THE JOY OF DISCOVERY

Plan a shared adventure across the miles and share your discoveries. Did you learn a new skill, try a new recipe, or hike a new nature trail.

QUINTESSENTIAL QUESTIONS: A SHARED POEM

Co-write a poem of questions. Choose a topic and use it in the title, for example, *Questions for the Wind.* One person writes the first question. The other person writes the next question.

SHARE AND GROW

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Choose a theme (e.g., rest, hope, strength). Share a verse that is meaningful to you on that theme. Ask your pen pal to find and a verse that speaks to *them*.

AN EBENEZER EXCHANGE (In Hebrew, Ebenezer means stone of help.)

Share a small *stone of help*—a moment where you saw God move this week, a verse that strengthened or brought you joy, or an unexpected kindness that touched you in a meaningful way.

Your words are a gift of connection, and each of them matters!