

The Joy of a Letter

Helping children heal and grow through letter writing



Lynette Hinkel and Anne Paskett, our Letter Writing Campaign Outreach Coordinators, organize handwritten letters to the thousands of children in our Memory Books network. They share below how letter writing supports our mission to help children discover that they are somebody special with extraordinary value and purpose.

Each Memory Book a child receives has a special insert for a letter from someone like you. Whether a mother, father, friend, or child, your words can send encouragement and love to a child dealing with loss.

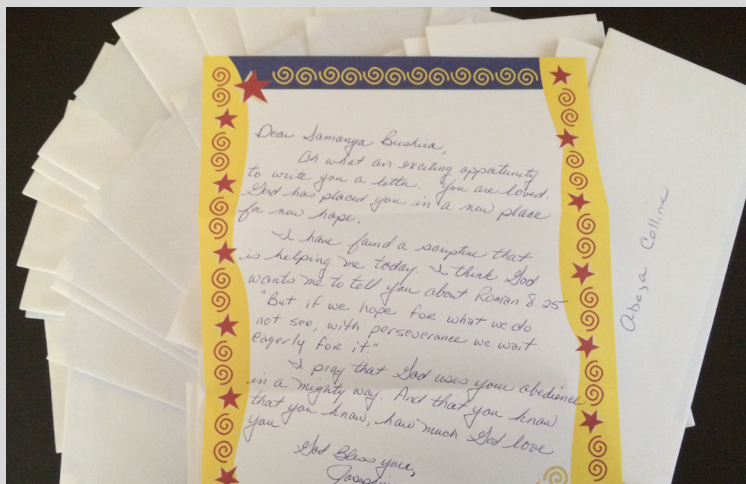
Many have picked up their pens for the cause. Bible study groups, individuals, and gatherings of friends are annually writing letters to be put in Memory Books. Without their help, this special insertion would not be possible.

It is easy to organize a letter writing event of your own. It is a great opportunity to get together with your friends over coffee or dessert and serve together. Many have attested to the blessing of participating in something so simple, yet so meaningful to encourage a child who has suffered and endured a loss or hardship.

Recent interviews with South Af-

rican children revealed that letters and greeting cards are, by and large, their favorite keepsakes treasured within their Memory Books. Post-traumatic growth (PTG) and resiliency research shows that a person has greater potential for positive rebound following a traumatic experience when just one concerned person acts as a witness to their story.

Many of us can remember how simple words or small acts of kindness from one caring adult touched our lives when we were children. Consider what you can do now in the lives of thousands more.



...helping children preserve and tell their stories...

In a Nutshell

The five “W’s” of letter writing



WHO

Young or old, moms and dads, anyone with a heart to encourage can write a letter to a child. Whether on your own or in a group, you can make a positive impact in the lives of children around the world.

WHAT

Writing a letter is simple. Whether four sentences long or a whole page, children will cherish your words over and over again as they read your letter over time.

WHEN

A letter can be written anytime of the year, individually or in a group, or you can join us during our annual letter writing campaign event.

WHERE

Your letters will be sent to children in orphanages and neighboring churches around the world. We have available to you and your letter writing group the names of these children, upon request.

WHY

Millions of children around the world have endured significant hardship and loss. Your words of encouragement help them experience God’s love and can give them the motivation they need to begin their healing journey.

Outline & Theme Suggestions for Writing a Letter

- ◆ Start with a greeting such as “Hello” or “Greetings!”
- ◆ Introduce yourself
- ◆ Express your feelings about the opportunity to write a letter
- ◆ Share how you have been encouraged in your relationship with God and/or how others, such as an adult or friend, have expressed their love and concern amid your experiences with fear, loss, etc.
- ◆ Tell the child how God cares for them. This is a great opportunity to include a meaningful scripture about God’s love, provision, faithfulness, etc.
- ◆ Reveal your hopes and prayers for the child’s dreams and future to be fulfilled according to God’s unique purpose and plan for their lives
- ◆ End by signing your first name

...leading children to know grace through Jesus Christ...



Get Your Pens Ready!

Anyone can bring love and warmth to a vulnerable child's life with a thoughtful, handwritten letter. If you are interested in writing letters to children with Memory Books, please contact:

Anne Paskett
sapaskett@frontier.com

Alternatively, send your letters to:
Memory Books for Children
P.O. Box 1372
Gresham, OR 97030

We will ensure your letters get into the hands of children who need them.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: Memory Books for Children
P.O. Box 1372, Gresham, OR 97030

Website: www.memorybooks4children.com

E-mail: info@memorybooks4children.com

Blog: www.memorybooks4children.com/blog/

"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK!

Step 1: Go to facebook.com/MemoryBooksforChildren
Step 2: Press "Like"
Step 3: Select the cog icon and "Share" our page with your Facebook friends.



...teaching children the truth that "I am somebody!"...

October
2014

Memory Books For Children



Teaching children the truth that God has a loving plan and purpose for their lives

Dear Friends,

It is with pleasure I introduce to you Lynette Hinkel and Anne Paskett, Letter Writing Campaign Outreach Coordinators. For years they have coordinated handwritten responses to the thousands of letters sent by children using the envelopes found inside their Memory Books. These handwritten replies have given hope to countless children worldwide. Thank you Lynette and Anne for your child-like hearts and inspiration to others!

I am excited to announce that the research 'Evaluation of Use of Memory Books by Children Orphaned in South Africa' is published in the *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, July/Aug 2014 issue. Findings conclude the importance of preserving

thoughts and feelings for orphans in the midst of loss, so they gain greater understanding, insight, and truthfulness overtime.

The newly-designed Memory Book will be ready in 2015! Now 60 pages long, its new décor coordinates with the Memory Book Club Lesson Planner. We are certain children will cherish this keepsake while they grieve and grow. Thank you Jon Sittko and Clean Fun Promotions for donating the design work and more!

Years ago when I was dreaming in the thousands, God asked me, 'Why cling to a tiny pinnacle of personal endeavor' when there are millions of disadvantaged children? A short time later, I received an e-mail from a Nigerian pastor who told of a

young girl who was met by a friend on her way to Memory Book Club at church. The friend exclaimed, 'I want to have a Memory Book. I want to go to Memory Book Club,' and began to follow her. Later that evening, the girl returned home with a Memory Book of her own, and the following Sunday, she and her parents attended church for the first time.

We may never know just how many lives are touched by this ministry. Will you join me in imagining the possibilities? Let's dream big!

With Deep Affection,

Tamara Faris, Founder
Memory Books for Children



...gifting vulnerable children worldwide through Memory Books...