



Guidelines for Writing to Workers In RANs

Workers (code for missionaries) ministering in restricted access nations need to hear from you and need your encouragement. However, keep the following information in mind when writing a letter, sending an e-mail, mailing a package, or posting on their Facebook page or blog. *Write as if a government official is reading your letter.* Remember, the government does not give official status to missionaries in their country. You may include information about what is happening in the States, but let the worker tell you what they are doing. Please don't discuss the religious, political or economic situation of the worker's target country.

Please write about yourself, your family, your job, vacations, church activities, humorous anecdotes or comic strips, etc. Enclose some fun things: pictures, news clippings, sports scores, balloons, trinkets..., especially things that would be significant if the worker has children. Find creative ways of including Scripture verses in your correspondence. Rather than writing "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ for it is the power of God unto Salvation" (see words to avoid below), remind them that "we are not to be ashamed of the good news about our Very Best Friend for that good news is what our Father uses to rescue people."

One of the best ways to write if you don't need to send enclosures is to use an [air letter form](#). These are available at the post office. It is less likely that an air letter will be opened than a regular letter. Also, consider photocopying letters in case the letter gets lost in the mail. If you don't receive a letter from the worker immediately, please be patient.

Please **do not** send:

- Newsletters, letterheads or an envelope from a religious organization
- Prayer letters from other workers
- Church letters or bulletins
- Stationary with Christian symbols or statements

Please **avoid** such words as:

- Believers
- Bible
- Church
- Converts
- Eternal life
- Evangelism/Outreach
- God
- Gospel
- Holy Spirit
- Jesus Christ
- Ministry/Missions
- Missions Conference
- Missionary
- Muslim/Islam
- Politics
- Pray

Substitute with:

- Father's family
- Book, Good book
- Fellowship
- Those who found the way
- The life
- Visitation
- Father
- Message
- Helper, Comforter
- Best Friend
- Company/Work
- Conference
- Overseas worker/employees/Friends
- Majority or Favorite people
- Social climate
- Think, Remember



- Religion
 - Salvation/Saved
 - Team/Team members
 - Mission Board
 - Communist Party
- Belief system
 - Found the way
 - Co-worker/s
 - Company/Organization
 - The Main Group (or avoid references altogether)

There is nothing wrong with being religious in _____ [country name] [this differs from country to country]. In fact, it's a good thing. The police normally know what kind of activities foreigners do. They probably know if you're a Christian and study the Bible with others. However, you should keep in mind that your letter could be opened by _____ [country name] authorities. Workers in _____ [country name] need to be careful that the information cannot be misconstrued as being politically motivated. If they are too secretive they will be wrongly perceived so letters you write should be open as possible while avoiding areas where misunderstanding could occur.

1. Tell the "worker" anything and everything that is happening in your life and your church. You could use the word "friends" to refer to other Christians and "get-together" to refer to meetings of the church.
2. You might ask, for example, about language study, home, lifestyle, sightseeing, friends, etc. Please **do not use the FULL NAMES** of other Christians in _____ [country name].
3. Don't ask ministry-oriented questions. The worker in _____ [country name] will try to keep you as informed as possible through their own newsletters and personal correspondence. You may ask about almost anything else.
4. Don't use the following words: **Missionary, Ministry, Outreach, Gospel, Convert, Evangelize**. Thanks!
5. Don't use **Letterheads** or **Envelopes** from **Christian Organizations**, and don't send missionary prayer **letters** or **Christian magazines**.
6. Don't mention "prayer-etter" in referring to correspondence you recently received.
7. Never mention politics or comment negatively about _____ [country name] national affairs or history. Do not use the word "Muslim."
8. Please don't mention anything about financial gifts or prayer support.

If you meet someone from the Middle East [or region where worker serves] you might be inclined to say, "I have some friends who are missionaries near you." **Please be aware** that comments such as this to the wrong people could result in our expulsion from _____ [country name] or trouble for national Christians. It is better to say, "I have a friend who is in the import-export business in _____ [country name]" [or similar trade]. Don't mention that the object of your friend is to preach, teach, and win people to Christ.

PLEASE DO WRITE! "Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land."
Prov. 25:25