

Questions Long-Term Sponsors Ask

Nothing matters more than our relationship with you, our faithful partners. We exist to connect compassionate people like you with children in poverty. Our aim is that you and your family will be blessed along with your sponsored children and their families. It's a two-way street — and a very long one, stretching around the world!

Our office team sits at the nexus of this connection. We receive a lot of communication from sponsors. As technology changes and our work around the world is modified to meet the needs of a changing world, new questions arise. Let's tackle a few of the most Frequently Asked Questions of 2016.



The child I sponsored is no longer available. This happened once before. Why do so many children leave the program? I wanted to sponsor her from kindergarten through graduation!

Poverty and mobility often go together. Families move around in search of work or a better life. If children are sponsored through one of our schools or after-school programs, when they move away, we no longer have a connection to them. Sometimes children leave our school for other reasons beyond our control, like for an early marriage or to attend a different school or program. We hope you will consider sponsoring a new child who also needs to discover the joy of learning, hope for living, and the love of Jesus.

I sponsor three children from different countries. Two of them write frequent, personal letters, but the other one hardly ever writes and when he does, the letters seem rote and don't tell me anything about him!

You are experiencing one of our biggest challenges. Children in some cultures find it easy to write about themselves, with a little coaching by their teachers or caregivers. Some even write in English, which streamlines the process a lot! But for some cultures, thinking of yourself as an individual and writing about your unique thoughts, feelings or experiences is a much bigger stretch. In certain places, it would even be inappropriate to share yourself so personally with a stranger. Finally, some settings require herculean travel through dangerous terrain for our staff to obtain the letters.

So — this gives us a chance to check our motivation for sponsoring a child. We want to help a child in poverty — yet aren't we ultimately offering our gift to God? So, when some children are capable of writing sweet and touching words of appreciation, great! When others aren't, let's extend grace and understand that our expectations may not be realistic for all children. We want them to learn gratitude, and writing is a good exercise for their development. We'll keep trying to help them do better. But if you were hoping for a "pen pal," call our office; we have one country that excels in this grace of thank-you letters. Maybe you can add a child from this country!



Cost-Effective Giving

Which form of giving is the most cost-effective for ICCM?

	\$30 donation	\$90 donation	\$1,000 donation
Electronic Funds Transfer	\$0.35	\$0.35	\$0.35
Credit Card	\$0.80	\$2.00	\$20.20
Check	\$0.83	\$0.83	\$0.83

EFT is set up through our website. "Check" denotes personal checks and bill pay checks from your online bank (your bank mails these to us). The \$0.83 includes our bank processing fees and the receipt, envelope and stamp to mail your receipt back. We enclose *Reflections* as a "freebie" since we're already mailing you the receipt — these cost an additional \$0.12, a small cost we're glad to absorb. EFT and credit card donations receive tax receipts in January.

Sponsors use all forms to give. We are grateful for all your gifts! Any way is fine.



Timing of Gifts

Is there a best time in the month for me to make my contribution?

Ideally, the middle of the month. The first week we're wrapping up data from the prior month and sending wires around the world. If you mail your check the last week, it might not make it by the end of the month; USPS often takes a week. If your check doesn't arrive by the last day of the month, your gift can't be sent to the field until the next month.

Keeping Up to Date

Why do you need my email address?

If we have multiple ways to contact you (phone, postal address, email), when one of these changes or our records have an error then we have another way to reach you. For online giving, if your donation fails or expiration date needs updated, an email is automatically sent to you, but only if we have your email.

If I change my contact information with FMCUSA, is ICCM notified?

Unfortunately, no. We maintain a separate database, so please call the 800 number to update us with all changes. Thank you!

The Answer is NO!

Do you ever give away or sell my contact information? No.

Do you receive government funding for any of your work? No.

Does the Free Methodist denomination subsidize ICCM? No.

Does anyone else sponsor the same child as me? No.

Are all the enrolled children sponsored? No. About 2,500 are waiting for a sponsor. Please pray for more sponsors.

