To the Albino Child,

Have you ever wondered what makes you look different from other children? Why is your skin so pink? Why is your hair so yellow?

You are not sick. You have a condition called albinism. It is not a disease. It is not caused by germs. You did not get your pink skin by catching it, and no one else can catch it from you.

It is not caused by spirits or gods. It does not come from a curse.

Then why is your skin pink?

From your parents

It's just because you inherited from your parents a set of traits that shows up every so often. Parents can pass these traits on to their children even though they might not have albinism themselves.

This is how you got to be an albino. Albinism is not a sickness. It is a condition caused by genes that were inherited from both parents.

God loves many colors

You see, God loves variety. Look at the many colors of flowers He made. They are all good and beautiful in their own way. Look at the many beautiful butterflies and birds. Some are dark, some light, and some bright-colored reds, yellows, and blues. They are all good. God likes them all because He made them. He planned for them to be different from one another. God planned many colors of people, too. He did not plan for all people to look just exactly alike. He likes the different kinds of colors and kinds of people in our world. He made you the way you are, and He likes you just that way.

Why do some people seem afraid of you?

If others seem afraid of you sometimes, it is only because they don't understand what albinism is. Sometimes people are afraid of things they do not understand. You do look different from others, but you are just like them in most ways. As people learn more and understand better, they will no longer be afraid of things that are different.

What kind of a life can you have?
Many people with albinism have grown up to do outstanding things. Some well known singers, government people, college teachers and business people are albinos. Many albinos earn a good living. Many have done worthwhile things with their lives. With God's help, you can do anything that other people can do.

What kind of education can you get?
Many people with albinism are very intelligent or smart. You can learn just like others. You can go to school. You can do well in your studies.

How long can you live?
People with albinism can live to a normal old age just like other people.

What special problems will you face related to your albinism?
There are two problems that people with albinism do face, and there are things you can do to help make these problems better.

One, your eyes are extremely sensitive to light and can get burned easily. You don't have the melanin that protects other people's eyes from the sun. You can protect your eyes by always wearing sunglasses when you are outside in the daytime. You can also wear a hat that has a brim which gives some shade to your eyes. Christians who love Jesus have sent you a gift of sunglasses. We hope they will help your eyes. We are giving you this gift just to show you that God really does care about you. He wants you to have a good life and to be His friend forever.

Your eyesight might be poor in other ways, too. If you have trouble seeing in school, ask your teacher if you might move to a position nearer to the front of the classroom.

Two, your skin is also very sensitive and can get burned easily. Because of this, your skin and lips will get sores on them very easily. Many albinos do develop skin cancer because their skin has no protection against the damaging rays of the sun.

What can you do to help these problems?
You can do a couple of things to help protect your skin from the sun. First, try to avoid being out in the sun from about 10 a.m. to about 4 p.m. At this time of day, the sun's rays are the hottest and most direct and can hurt you

the most. During this time you should stay inside or stay in the shade as much as possible.

You can also wear long-sleeved clothing. White or light-colored cotton shirts and pants will protect your skin and reflect the sun. Keep your shirt buttoned up. You can wear a wide-brimmed hat to shade and protect your face and ears. You can also wear sunblock lotion to protect your skin. This is very important for the skin areas that will not be covered. Coconut oil will not block the sun, but it is good for your skin and can help protect you from some of the damage the sun might do. You could rub coconut oil on your skin at night or on rainy days when you are staying inside.

A word of encouragement to you
God loves you. You are important to him. He loves you just the way you are. You can be a blessing to your family and to the world.

You can have eternal life and be God's friend
Jesus Christ, God's eternal Son, loves you and died as the perfect sacrifice to pay for all the wrong things you have ever done. He rose from the dead, and He's alive today to hear your prayers and to help you and be your friend. You can call on Him at any time and ask for His salvation. If you need help in these matters, we at Every Child Ministries are always ready to talk with you.

What questions do you have?
What questions do you have about what we have said, or about being an albino?

What problems have you faced as an albino?

We at Every Child Ministries would love to discuss these issues with you or your parents or guardian. God bless you!

Prepared by:
Every Child Ministries Email: ecmafrica@ecmafrica.org
A Christian NGO bringing hope to "the forgotten children of Africa"
Because children area any nation's greatest resource—
A precious treasure from God!

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