

Every Child Ministries Special Gift Policy

Special gifts have a special place in the life of ECM's children, and we encourage sponsors to send extra financial gifts whenever possible. However, because sponsored children are almost always surrounded by other children, two important guidelines have been established for the good of the entire program. These guidelines apply to all ECM children *except* secondary school students.

- Special gifts of \$25 or less, including financial gifts sent for birthdays or for Christmas, are encouraged. The specific use of the gift is determined by the project coordinator, the child, and the child's family, but in all cases the gift will benefit the child for whom it was designated.
- Any portion of a financial gift which is over \$25, in order to avoid tension, jealousy and conflict, will be used for *all the children in the project*. For example, if a donor sends a gift for \$50, \$25 will be used specifically for the designated child and his family, and the remaining \$25 will be used to benefit the entire project.

In addition to financial gifts, sponsors may wish to send non-monetary gifts such as birthday or Christmas presents to a child. Because of the high cost of shipping these types of items to the child, we **cannot send them through the post** with the regular letters and cards, and therefore we request that donors DO NOT send the items to the ECM office without prior permission. When ECM staff members travel to Africa, they will make every effort, as space allows, to carry gifts from sponsors to their children.