



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD®

SPECIAL REPORT



thank you!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



YOUR GIFTS MEAN SO MUCH!

Since 1993, more than 94 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through your shoe box gifts, enabling local churches and ministry partners to share the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ—God's greatest gift.



A Note from Franklin Graham

Dear Friend,

From earthquake-ravaged Haiti to war-scarred Sudan, I have seen firsthand the hope and joy that simple shoe box gifts bring to children around the world.

Our Operation Christmas Child project is about more than coloring books, toys, and toothbrushes. Your gifts enable Samaritan's Purse to share the Good News of God's greatest gift—His Son, Jesus Christ—with boys and girls who need to know how much Jesus loves them. As He said, *"Your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost"* (Matthew 18:14b, NIV).

As you enjoy this special report on what God is doing through Operation Christmas Child, please keep these children in your prayers. You can be sure that your gifts are making an eternal difference. May God bless you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Franklin Graham".

Franklin Graham

President, Samaritan's Purse

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BEARING GIFTS: Long-haired yaks are used to transport Operation Christmas Child shoe box gifts to children living in remote villages in Mongolia's Gobi Desert.



Opening Doors to the Gospel

Just 20 years ago,
it would have been
illegal to go to
Sunday school and
learn about Jesus.

Ankhtuya clutched the picture. It was a color illustration of Jesus holding out His arms to comfort a child.

“The girl looks like me,” she exclaimed, pointing to the similar black hair and rosy cheeks. “When I see this picture, I feel like Jesus is hugging me. I am going to keep this forever.”

The Mongolian girl pulled another gift out of her shoe box and showed it triumphantly to her sisters. “A teddy bear! I have always wanted one,” she said.

Ankhtuya came with her mother and two of her sisters to the Operation Christmas Child program at their rural village in Mongolia, a vast and sparsely populated nation between China and Russia.

They didn’t know what to expect—only that local Christians had brought gifts from America.

Ankhtuya had heard about Jesus through Sunday school classes at the local church, but she didn’t truly realize how much He cared about the hopes and dreams of a little girl in Mongolia. When she heard the Christmas story through music and dramatic skits at the Operation Christmas Child distribution, it brought the Gospel to life for her.



“I realize that Jesus is alive. He is here,” she said as she glanced again at the photo of Jesus and the child. “I want our Sunday school teachers to teach more about Jesus to us.”

Just 20 years ago, it was illegal in Mongolia for children like Ankhtuya to go to Sunday school. In fact, any religion was strictly forbidden during nearly 70 years of Soviet rule.

With the collapse of the Communist regime in Mongolia in 1990, doors of opportunity to share the Gospel opened slowly. Missionaries found church planting to be a difficult task as Buddhism took root in the culture.

Samaritan’s Purse began sending shoe box gifts to Mongolia in 1996. This opened doors for a series of relief and evangelism projects, including our Children’s Heart Project, which has helped save the lives of over 260 children in Mongolia who were born with heart defects.

Today there are several hundred churches in the country, and about 2 percent of the population of 3 million consider themselves Christians.

“Mongolians think Christianity is a foreign religion, but when we distribute shoe boxes and tell people about God’s love, that really touches their hearts,” said Moujic Baatar, who coordinates the national leadership team for Operation Christmas Child in Mongolia.

“The boxes show that God is not asking them to do something for Him and He is not angry at them. This is a very different God than what they are taught in their religion,” he explained. “That’s why Operation Christmas Child really brings Good News to many people’s lives.”

Through the project, children and their families who live in some of the most remote provinces of Mongolia are being reached with the Gospel. One of these children is Balginyan, a teenager who received a shoe box gift last year in the mountain community of Ulzit.

Balginyan rises early every morning to milk his family’s cows and helps his father look after their herd of sheep, goats, and yaks. Horses are his mode of transportation as he leads the livestock to good pasture.

When the boy opened his box, he was amazed to find a beautiful toy horse, as well as other small gifts. Along with his box, Balginyan also received “The Greatest Gift of All” Gospel booklet in his own language. He was so taken by the story and pictures that he carried it with him when he herded the sheep that evening.

“I took the book with me and read it,” he said. “After that, I started to read the Bible and I began to pray. I learned that God is a shepherd, the Great Shepherd.”

As thousands of Mongolian children receive shoe box gifts this year, they are also hearing the blessed news of the Good Shepherd who lovingly cares for His flock of sheep.

Jesus said, *“I am the gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”* (John 10:9-10, NIV). ■

STRENGTHENING CHURCHES: Shoe box gifts are powerful tools for the fledgling churches of Mongolia to encourage children and their families to hear the Gospel.

SPREADING GOD’S LOVE: Nomadic herders and their families travel in bands across Mongolia’s arid steppes, and even young children ride horses. These friends were excited to hear about the Good Shepherd, Jesus, and receive gifts in His Name.

A NEW GENERATION: Even the youngest children had opportunities to experience God’s love and hear stories about His Son, Jesus.



“ I learned that God is a shepherd, the Great Shepherd. ”





CENTRAL ASIA: In certain countries that are closed to churches and missionaries, Operation Christmas Child may be the only way that many children will hear the Good News of God's love.

MADAGASCAR: On an exotic and remote island dotted with towering baobab trees, Operation Christmas Child has distributed hundreds of thousands of gift boxes, reaching villages so remote that helicopters find them by smoke signals.

HAITI: Since the 2010 earthquake, we have handed out over 350,000 shoe box gifts in Haiti and translated *The Greatest Journey* into the Creole language. This girl lives at the Greta Home, an orphanage rebuilt by Samaritan's Purse.

“ The most important thing is that I know Jesus is God and He loves me. ”
13-year-old girl, Eastern Europe





ROMANIA: Excitement filled a school in a poor neighborhood near Bucharest as children opened their shoe boxes to find just what they needed—classroom items such as notebooks, rulers, and pens.

PHILIPPINES: Families lined the banks of the Abadan River and cheered the arrival of a boat carrying cartons full of Operation Christmas Child gift boxes. The pastor of the village church later reported that at least 10 of the 100 children accepted Christ as their Savior.

PANAMA: A schoolboy in a poor section of Panama City treasured the gift box he received and was eager to hear the Gospel.



“ Gifts come by plane, boat, car, camel, whatever it takes to bring the joy and Gospel message to hard to reach places. ”

Church Leader, Madagascar



More Snapshots from Around the World at www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ

PERU



COLOMBIA

COLOMBIA: Along with shoe box gifts, we offer children a booklet called “The Greatest Gift of All”—or in Spanish, “El Mejor Regalo”—that tells them the story of Jesus Christ in their local language.

PERU: From remote mountain villages to the crowded streets of Lima, local churches partnered with Samaritan’s Purse to distribute gift boxes to children in need.

CENTRAL ASIA: We have delivered over two million shoe boxes in “the Stans”—six nations along the ancient Silk Road that have been largely unreached by the Gospel.



CENTRAL ASIA

“ The children are very happy with their boxes. All the people in town will know about Jesus Christ now. ”

Pastor, Peru



I read the lessons and received Jesus as my personal Savior. Now I am praying with Jesus every evening.

—Jacinta, 11, Lithuania

The Miracle Beyond the Box

Millions of children are coming to faith in Jesus Christ through Operation Christmas Child's discipleship program, *The Greatest Journey*.

Nine-year-old Kathy and her older sister Joanna heard about a special Bible study being offered for children at a church near their home on the Caribbean island of Trinidad.

Having just received gift boxes from Operation Christmas Child, they were invited to participate in *The Greatest Journey*, the evangelism and discipleship program developed by Samaritan's Purse especially for children who receive gift boxes.

In the predominantly Hindu community where they lived, the sisters had few opportunities to hear the Gospel. Their parents did not have a Bible in the house. It wasn't until the sisters enrolled in the discipleship program that they began to understand how much God loved them. They enthusiastically joined in the Bible lessons, music, games, and prayer.

As they grew in faith, both opened their hearts to receive His greatest gift, Jesus Christ, as their Lord and Savior.

When the church held a graduation ceremony, Kathy and Joanna were delighted to receive their very own copies of the New Testament from Samaritan's Purse.

The girls enjoyed learning Bible stories each week. One that captured their young imaginations was the story of the crippled man healed by Jesus after his friends lowered his mat through an opening in the roof (Luke 5:17-26).

Like the men who went to great lengths to bring their friend to Jesus, Kathy carried a burden in her heart for a friend who needed to meet the Savior. After school, Kathy went to her friend's house and showed her *The Greatest Journey* lesson books. Together they read the Bible stories. Kathy shared what she had learned about Jesus and her decision

to commit her heart to Him. It brought Kathy much joy when her friend prayed to receive Jesus as Savior too! Kathy's desire to share the Good News with her friend illustrates the tremendous spiritual impact of *The Greatest Journey*. The shoe box gift is just the first step toward becoming a faithful follower of Christ and a witness for the Gospel.

Through *The Greatest Journey* Bible lessons, children are introduced to Jesus and invited to give their hearts to Him. As they grow spiritually, they learn how to pray for and share the Gospel with friends and family members.

"That's what happens with *The Greatest Journey*—children reaching other children," said Melinda Kumar, the program coordinator in Trinidad. "These children are giving hope and encouragement to their own brothers and sisters and leading them to Jesus."

We have translated *The Greatest Journey* Bible study and New Testaments into more than 30 languages. The program is now offered in over 60 countries, and more are being added each year. We have trained tens of thousands of volunteer teachers around the world to lead and guide the children as they commit their lives to Christ and learn how important it is for them to share the Good News. ■



MONGOLIA: As children complete *The Greatest Journey* Bible study, they are proud to receive a personalized certificate as well as a New Testament.



To learn more about *The Greatest Journey*®, visit www.samaritanspurse.org/tgj.



Your Gifts Go A Long Way!

Countries receiving your shoe box gifts:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>AFRICA
 Angola
 Benin
 Botswana
 Burkina Faso
 Burundi
 Cameroon
 Central African Republic
 Chad
 Congo, Dem. Rep. of
 Congo, Rep. of
 Equatorial Guinea
 Gabon
 Ghana
 Guinea Bissau
 Ivory Coast
 Kenya
 Lesotho
 Liberia
 Madagascar
 Malawi
 Mali
 Mauritius
 Mozambique
 Namibia
 Niger
 Rwanda</p> | <p>Senegal
 Sierra Leone
 South Africa
 South Sudan
 Swaziland
 Tanzania
 Togo
 Uganda
 Zambia
 Zimbabwe</p> <p>ASIA & PACIFIC
 Cambodia
 China
 Fiji
 India
 Indonesia
 Mongolia
 Nepal
 Papua New Guinea
 Philippines
 Solomon Islands
 Thailand
 Vanuatu
 Vietnam</p> | <p>CARIBBEAN
 Dominican Republic
 Haiti
 Jamaica
 St. Kitts & Nevis
 Trinidad & Tobago</p> <p>EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST
 Albania
 Armenia
 Belarus
 Bulgaria
 Croatia
 Estonia
 Georgia
 Iraq
 Kosovo
 Latvia
 Lithuania
 Macedonia
 Moldova
 Montenegro
 Poland
 Romania
 Serbia
 Slovakia
 Ukraine</p> | <p>CENTRAL AMERICA
 Belize
 Costa Rica
 El Salvador
 Guatemala
 Honduras
 Mexico
 Nicaragua
 Panama</p> <p>SOUTH AMERICA
 Argentina
 Bolivia
 Chile
 Colombia
 Ecuador
 Guyana
 Paraguay
 Peru
 Uruguay
 Venezuela</p> |
|--|---|---|--|

** Some countries are not listed for security reasons.*

Working Together to Bless Hurting Children

Operation Christmas Child would not be possible without the participation of a host of caring people who pray, give, pack, and volunteer.

Nothing could stop Lou Dell Ferguson from volunteering with Operation Christmas Child. Not even a painfully slow recovery from cancer. Lou Dell traveled with her church group all the way from Palestine, Texas, to Charlotte, North Carolina, to prepare shoe box gifts for delivery to hurting children overseas.

“God healed me, and He allowed me to do this again,” she said. “Operation Christmas Child is my way to do something for God when He has done so much for me.”

Lou Dell’s heart for the project exemplifies the dedication shown by hundreds of thousands of people who participate in Operation Christmas Child. For many families, packing shoe box gifts is an annual holiday tradition. Churches, schools, and community organizations pour their enthusiasm and resources into packing parties. An army of over 115,000 volunteers like Lou Dell serve at 3,247 collection points spanning all 50 states and seven regional processing centers. Thousands volunteer year-round.

This past year, 8,643,354 shoe box gifts—the most ever—were packed by children and

adults in 11 nations: the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, Finland, Australia, and New Zealand.

Since 1993, more than 94 million boys and girls have experienced God’s love through these simple gifts. Most important of all, millions of these children, along with friends and relatives, have come to faith in Jesus Christ as local churches and ministry partners distribute Gospel storybooks and follow up with *The Greatest Journey* discipleship program. “*Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!*” (Psalm 96:3, ESV). ■



CARING FOR ORPHANS:

Greta Van Susteren hands out shoe box gifts to children at an orphanage in Leogane, Haiti, that was destroyed by the 2010 earthquake. Samaritan’s Purse is rebuilding the orphanage, named “The Greta Home” in honor of her efforts to save the lives of Haitian people following the devastating earthquake.



What a joy to be used by our Lord to touch the life of a child thousands of miles away!



Barb, volunteer from Pennsylvania



SHARING THE BLESSINGS: Scotty McCreery, the 2011 winner of American Idol, used his newfound fame to encourage fans and others to pack shoe box gifts—which he has been doing since he was a boy.



Join us on Facebook, where the community of people who pack shoe box gifts is always growing.

“

I want to give children the same hope I received when I got a shoe box and heard about Jesus.

”

Vladimir 'Ted' Foreman,
Russia orphan now
living in the U.S.



SHOE BOX RECIPIENT
IN GUYANA:

“Thanks for the beautiful gift you sent me. That box was so neatly packed with all the things that I so badly needed. One of the things was a pair of shoes because the ones I have are very old and have holes. The other children would make fun of me at school and at church. When I opened my gift box and saw the shoes I was so happy, and luckily it was of the right size and beautiful. I really like my shoes and can walk in confidence among my friends both at church and at school.”

SHOE BOX RECIPIENT
IN IRAQ:

“When I opened my gift, I saw a letter and picture. I know that the people in the picture are the senders of this gift for me. I kissed the picture and asked my older brother to send them an email to thank them. I know that Jesus loves children.”

YEAR-ROUND
VOLUNTEER IN
MONTANA:

“God called me to build His team of volunteers and grow the shoe box donations here in our community for the purpose of spreading His love and Word to more children around the world.”

THE GREATEST JOURNEY
STUDENT IN ECUADOR:

“I listened during Lesson 4 about how Jesus died on the cross because He loves me. I made the decision to accept Him into my heart, and I know that God cares for me as a Father. Although my father abandoned me, God will never leave me.”

THE GREATEST JOURNEY
STUDENT IN LITHUANIA:

“I read the Bible lessons and received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. Now I am talking with Jesus in my prayers every evening.”

THE GREATEST JOURNEY
TEACHER IN ZAMBIA:

“Children are now treating each other with respect and honor after *The Greatest Journey* lessons. They understand that they are equally important to God and that God can use them to minister to others.”

PASTOR IN BELIZE:

“Since the shoe box distribution at our church, Iglesia Evangelico has grown. We have expanded our church program from just Sunday to now Tuesdays and Thursdays so that the kids can be involved. There has been an increase of participation and an expansion of ministry because of the shoe boxes. Thank you, Operation Christmas Child.”



SERVING THE LOCAL CHURCH WORLDWIDE

From start to finish, Operation Christmas Child partners with local churches here and overseas as we collect, ship, and hand out shoe box gifts—all for the sake of the Gospel. Let us know if we can help you get your congregation and community more fully involved.



1-800-353-5949

www.samaritanspurse.org/occ

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YOUR GIFTS MEAN SO MUCH!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD is a project of SAMARITAN'S PURSE®

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08-16-26

A THANKFUL HEART: Nine-year-old Ralph lives with his parents and six siblings by a city dump in the Philippines. He received a shoe box gift at school and prayed to receive Jesus as his Savior after attending a Gospel program for kids.





S122-0CSR

Year-Round Volunteer Opportunities

Wherever you live, you can join one of our Area Teams and be a part of Operation Christmas Child in every season of the year. Here are some of the ways you can get involved:

- Church Relations** – encourage local churches to share in the joy of the project
- Community Relations** – build relationships with civic groups, businesses, and schools
- Media Relations** – work with local media outlets to promote Operation Christmas Child
- Prayer Mobilization** – serve as prayer warriors for the ministry

To fill out a volunteer interest form, go to www.samaritanspurse.org/vif.

a gift for you!

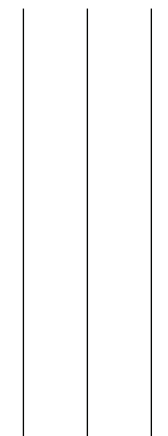
Shoe Box Scripture Treasures

Memory Verses for Each Week of the Year

To receive your free gift, just fill out the information on the attached card. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. While supplies last.




Samaritan's Purse[®]
 INTERNATIONAL RELIEF
 P.O. Box 3000
 BOONE, NC 28607-3000
 USA



STAMP



What's Next?

Join with us in *The Greatest Journey*[®] Discipleship Program

What happens after children receive their gift-filled shoe boxes? Churches in their communities invite boys and girls to participate in Bible lessons using discipleship materials provided by Samaritan's Purse. The curriculum, called *The Greatest Journey*, is written in the local language and contains interactive activities with a solid Biblical foundation. Through the 12-lesson series, children learn about Jesus Christ, have the opportunity to receive Him as Savior, and are equipped to pray for and share their faith with others. Your gift will allow us to provide children with the discipleship materials along with a New Testament to help them grow in their walk with the Lord.



The Greatest Journey discipleship program lessons



New Testaments for graduates

Suggested Gift

- \$6** One set of Bible lessons and New Testament
- \$90** Equip a classroom

Help us reach more children with the Good News of God's love.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I will pray for the ministry of Samaritan's Purse to suffering children around the world. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Please send me a free set of Shoe Box Scripture Treasures. <i>(Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. While supplies last.)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Enclosed is my gift to Samaritan's Purse for: | <input type="checkbox"/> | I am interested in becoming a year-round volunteer with Operation Christmas Child. |
| \$ | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I am interested in becoming a year-round volunteer with Operation Christmas Child. |
| \$ | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If this report has been sent to a child in your household, please check here if you do not want this child to receive future mailings from Samaritan's Purse. |
| \$ | <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Please verify your name and address below, mark any corrections, and send using the attached envelope.

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