



Operation Christmas Child **OPPORTUNITY REPORT**



A Ukrainian girl named Natalya received a specially packed gift representing our 200 millionth shoebox.

PREPARED FOR



Samaritan's Purse®
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF | UNITED KINGDOM

Helping in Jesus' Name®

Operation Christmas Child

Every year, generous individuals and like-minded Christian organisations like yours fill [Operation Christmas Child](#) shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world. Samaritan's Purse delivers these shoebox gifts, and the Gospel booklet offered alongside each gift, in partnership with local churches and ministries in more than 100 countries each year. We train these local volunteers to share the Gospel in a child-friendly way during community outreach events. Many of the shoebox recipients participate in our follow-up discipleship programme called The Greatest Journey. Through the 12-lesson Bible-based course, millions of boys and girls have decided to follow Christ.



209 million shoebox gifts delivered since 1993
=
209 million Gospel opportunities.

10.5 million shoebox gifts collected in 2022.
252,022 of these came from the United Kingdom.

80,000+ outreach events led by trained local church leaders.

Available in **95 languages**,
The Greatest Gift Gospel story booklet is offered alongside shoebox gifts.

More than **100 countries**
receive shoebox gifts for boys and girls.

11 nations collected shoeboxes in 2022 (Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States).

Partner With Us

Participating in Operation Christmas Child is a great way for your church or group to help fulfil the Great Commission. People of all ages can work together to pack shoeboxes in order to give local believers around the world a tool for evangelism and discipleship. Don't miss this chance to teach the boys and girls in your congregation or organisation about giving! We would also love you to partner with us by praying for the children who will receive the

shoeboxes you pack and for a fruitful outreach to children through local churches worldwide.

“There are still places around the world where the Name of Jesus has never been heard. That’s why we’re sending the Gospel to the ends of the earth through Operation Christmas Child.”

—Franklin Graham, President, Samaritan’s Purse



Doors Opening for Gospel

Romario grew up in the Saramaccan village of Duatra, deep in the jungle of Suriname.

The Saramaccans are descendants of African slaves who escaped and formed their own culture and language—a mix of African dialects, Portuguese, English, and Dutch.

Today, many still practise traditional animistic religion through rituals and rules. They cast spells and regularly go to small shrines where they call on the spirits of snakes, trees, or monkeys to help them.

As a child, Romario knew nothing about Jesus Christ, and there was no church to visit. Yet, he thought that there must be a God who made everything.

“I always had a hungry heart, looking for something special,” he said. “I knew there was something missing in my life.”

As a teen, Romario moved closer to the country’s capital. He started attending a church, led by Pastor John Amoida, and Romario accepted Christ there.

Now, as a young adult, Romario’s prayer is for his family, friends, and entire village to come to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Both Romario and Pastor John are Saramaccans. Pastor John also serves as Suriname’s Operation Christmas Child church mobilisation coordinator.

“The shoeboxes are an open door for us to spread the Gospel,” Pastor John said.



Suriname

12 Scripture lessons

in each student workbook:
6 on coming to know Christ;
3 on growing in faith;
3 on sharing faith with others.

35 million+

boys and girls enrolled since 2009.

1.7 million+

volunteer teachers trained from local churches worldwide.

17 million+

children reported decisions for Christ since 2009.

The Greatest Journey

[The Greatest Journey](#), the follow-up discipleship programme Samaritan's Purse developed for shoebox recipients, teaches children to follow Christ and tell others about Him.

Taught by trained local volunteers, the course equips students to follow Christ for a lifetime. Graduates receive a certificate and their own copy of God's Word in their language. For many children and their families, this is their first Bible.

As the boys and girls share their faith with family and friends, communities are transformed, and the influence of a simple shoebox gift multiplies.

"Let the little children come to Me ... for of such is the kingdom of God."

—Luke 18:16



Sending the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth

Ogouleroun was once his village's shaman, a position that family members had for five generations in the western African nation of Benin. But when a pastor held an Operation Christmas Child outreach event in the village in 2021, dozens of children heard the Gospel, including Ogouleroun's grandchildren.

Ogouleroun then encouraged The Greatest Journey classes that took place just weeks after the outreach. When the village chief offered to provide a field for building the first evangelical church in hundreds of square miles, Ogouleroun began attending and trusted Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

Taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth can mean going to hard-to-reach places where the Name of Jesus isn't known. Common barriers include strict customs regulations and often significant religious restrictions. Shoebox gifts going to these regions are given extra checks and sometimes specially packed Shoebox Online gifts are used.

Samaritan's Purse plans to deliver shoebox gifts to children in

500+

hard to reach people groups by 2024.

**1,000 Pacific
islands**

have received gift-filled shoeboxes over the past few years.

**EVANGELISM.
DISCIPLESHIP.
MULTIPLICATION.**



