



# Operation Christmas Child® **OPPORTUNITY REPORT**



Middle East

PREPARED FOR

## Operation Christmas Child

Generous individuals like you and like-minded organisations take time each year to fill ordinary shoeboxes full of toys and other fun items for children in need around the world. Samaritan's Purse sends these [Operation Christmas Child](#) shoeboxes to ministry partners in more than 100 nations who distribute them to boys and girls together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In addition to a child-friendly presentation of God's Word at a festive outreach event, children receive with their shoebox a Gospel storybook that tells them about God's Greatest Gift, His Son, Jesus Christ. Many shoebox recipients are also invited to participate in our 12-lesson follow-up discipleship programme, The Greatest Journey, where they learn how to follow Christ and share Him with friends and family. As they, in turn, come to Christ and tell still others, believers and churches are multiplying all over the world!

**220 = 220**  
**MILLION MILLION**

shoebox gifts  
delivered since 1993.

Gospel  
opportunities.

**11.3**  
**MILLION**

shoebox gifts collected  
globally in 2023.

**237,735**

of these came from  
the United Kingdom

**118,000+**

outreach events led by trained local church leaders.



The Greatest Gift  
Gospel story booklet  
accompanies  
shoebox gifts.

Available in  
**107**  
**LANGUAGES**

More than  
**100 COUNTRIES**

receive shoebox gifts for boys and girls.

**11**  
**NATIONS**

collected shoeboxes in 2023:  
Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland,  
Germany, New Zealand,  
South Korea, Spain, Switzerland,  
United Kingdom, United States.



Honduras



Fiji



## Partner With Us

Participating in Operation Christmas Child is a great way for your church or group to help fulfill the Great Commission. People of all ages can work together to pack shoeboxes year-round 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!

“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



Philippines



## Scaling Mountains with Shoebox Gifts and the Gospel

The steep footpath that ran alongside the cliff had become a trail of slimy, unrelenting mud. But it was the only way to reach a Filipino community nestled in the mountain forest—a nearly 35-mile walk from the nearest town.

Undaunted by the conditions, Pastor Jacob\*, together with his wife, daughter, and a small ministry team, strapped cartons of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to a dirt bike. They endeavored to bring boys and girls and their families a message they had never heard before—the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The eternity-changing nature of their mission gave the team courage despite the obstacles.

“The motorbike would tip over 15 times every half mile because of the weight of the cartons,” Pastor Jacob said. Where the path became particularly gnarly, they carried the boxes, holding on to tree roots for support. But after crossing three rivers, the team rejoiced to make their final ascent into the village.

Pastor Jacob quickly gathered the children together for an outreach event to explain why they had come. Using colourful posters from Samaritan's Purse, his wife and daughter presented the Gospel to the children in a way they could understand, while at the same time Pastor Jacob shared a similar message of Good News with the parents. After a countdown, the boys and girls tore into their shoebox gifts with excitement, the fun items inside reinforcing to their little hearts how much God loved them.

The next day, Pastor Jacob and his wife invited the children to participate in The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship programme. As they shared the Bible lessons, the boys and girls learned to follow the God they had just heard about and even share His Son, Jesus Christ, with others. The children completed all 12 lessons and graduated from The Greatest Journey, relaying their Scripture memory verses to their neighbours who had come to watch the ceremony.

The Good News spread to more and more people throughout their community, drawing many to saving faith in Jesus Christ!

\*Name has been changed for security purposes.



Philippines



# 12

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

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

# 40 MILLION+

boys and girls enrolled since 2009.

# 1.9 MILLION+

volunteer teachers trained from  
local churches worldwide.

# 20 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, and do not  
forbid them; for of such is  
the kingdom of God."**

—Luke 18:16



Gabon

## Sending the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth

Four years ago, a 9-year-old girl in the Middle East received a shoebox gift, complete with items that quickly became her favourites: a cuddly toy bird and The Greatest Gift Gospel storybook. God stirred her heart as she read the stories, and she soon enrolled in discipleship classes through her church.

"After hearing the story of the cross and how Jesus died for me, I gave my life to Christ," she said. "I trusted Him fully."

Recently, she gathered 13 of her friends on the street and began teaching them the discipleship lessons she had learned. As a result, six of these boys and girls accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

When the girl's family moved a couple streets away, she started a second discipleship group with 13 new boys and girls. This time, five others came to faith.

**Through one shoebox gift, a dozen children are now sharing Christ with others!**

Reaching young evangelists like these sometimes means sending shoeboxes through [Build a Shoebox Online](#). These shoebox gifts are packed with special care to avoid cultural, religious, or customs challenges.

Samaritan's Purse plans to deliver shoebox gifts in

**1,000+** **HARD TO REACH PEOPLE GROUPS**  
by 2028.

**1,000+** **PACIFIC ISLANDS**

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

## EVANGELISM. DISCIPLESHIP. MULTIPLICATION.





