



SEND GOOD NEWS AND GREAT JOY

PACK A SHOEBOX

 Samaritan's Purse®
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

OCC History

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.

In the summer of 1993, Samaritan's Purse President Franklin Graham received a call from a man in England asking if he'd be willing to fill shoeboxes with gifts for children in war-torn Bosnia. He forgot about the promise until he received a call back around Thanksgiving asking about the gifts.

Franklin asked his friend, the late Pastor Ross Rhoads of Calvary Church of Charlotte, to see if he could help with the need. A Sunday shortly afterward, Pastor Rhoads demonstrated for his congregation how to fill a shoebox with simple gifts and encouraged them to include a letter to the child as well. Within weeks, the church had 11,000 shoeboxes lining their hallways.

Due to their generosity and additional gifts from Canada, Samaritan's Purse sent 28,000 shoebox gifts to children in the Balkans that Christmas. Through these gifts, OCC communicated to children and their families what the angel said to the shepherds about Jesus' birth: *"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people"* (Luke 2:10, ESV).

Every year since, Operation Christmas Child has collected shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world. Since 1993, more than **188 million children** in more than 170 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love.

Local churches around the world partner with OCC to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ at festive outreach events where children are surprised with these shoebox gifts.

This whole process is made possible by individuals who pack shoeboxes full of gifts for children in need. More than 9,000 year-round volunteers also get the word out about the Samaritan's Purse project across the U.S. In addition, some 80,000 short-term volunteers serve in more than 4,000 drop-off locations open across the country every year during National Collection Week. Each shoebox collected then travels to one of eight processing centers to be inspected and prepared for international shipment by 90,000 volunteers. All of this is supported by the 30,000 volunteers in our prayer network.

Together we are working to see *"a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb"* (Rev. 7:9-10)

NATIONAL
COLLECTION
WEEK
NOV.
15-22

PACK A SHOEBOX

 Samaritan's Purse®
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF