

July 25, 2020

It's Time to Shop for Operation Christmas Child

Looking for a way to take your mind off the humidity for a while? Consider this: Operation Christmas Child, the organization that sends gift boxes to children around the globe, is gathering items now to fill the traditional shoeboxes. Who doesn't love (and miss) shopping?

Many of us are familiar with collecting age-appropriate small toys, toiletries, coloring books, etc. —things that fit in a shoebox—sealing the box, adding the age and the gender of the child and then dropping the box off at a collection site. That much hasn't changed even in a time of a pandemic. But what may have changed somewhat is the ability to shop for items—although dollar stores are still considered essential---and the ability to do this project with grandchildren, scout troops and elementary school classes.

But, the need is still there. Operation Christmas Child began as an outreach of Samaritan's Purse, which last year collected more than 8.9 million shoeboxes in the U.S. And, combined with partnering countries, Samaritan's Purse distributed 10.5 million boxes to children in over 100 countries. Many of the recipients of the boxes also participate in a 12-week discipleship program, "The Greatest Gift", which has enrolled more than 19 million children since 2009.



For a list of items to include as well as Frequently Asked Questions, go to Samaritan's Purse website: www.samaritanspurse.org.

"These shoebox gifts are an expression of God's love and a way of sharing the gospel of hope and forgiveness throughout the world," explains Gail Greer who leads Redeemer Fellowship 's effort. This year the church has a goal of 150 boxes. During this time, Redeemer Fellowship team members Gail Greer, Cindy Mills and Dixie Songer will pick up donated items from your home and create the boxes for you. Email Gail at jagreer@bellsouth.net and she'll arrange to pick up from your porch or other outside location. Similarly, if your church family is collecting items, contact your church representative.

If you'd rather not shop, you can have a box packed for you—virtually! Go to the website; www.samaritanspurse.org; choose the items you want; pay for them and the shipping costs, and you're done! Even without the shopping, you'll forget about the heat and humidity. For a bit.