



Operation Christmas Child Impact Stories

Below are a few examples of how God is at work around the world through Operation Christmas Child. As you read, be encouraged by the power of a shoebox gift and be sure to tell someone about at least one of these stories.

NIGERIA:

IDOL WORSHIPPERS BECOME EVANGELISTS THROUGH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

"The danger zone." That's what people called a community in Nigeria where people pledged allegiance to witchcraft and idolatry. For years, Pastor Peter* had sown Gospel seeds in this difficult area but, it seemed, with little effect. A fledgling church existed, though it struggled. That all changed, however, when he partnered with Operation Christmas Child to bring 150 gift-filled shoeboxes to the boys and girls living in the danger zone. When Ruby, the daughter of a shrine leader, received a shoebox gift, it prompted her whole family to start coming to church! Pastor Peter started *The Greatest Journey* lessons with some of the shoebox recipients, and since then, idolatry practices have dropped off and 100 children now attend Sunday school. "Thank God for Operation Christmas Child," he said. "The church work was made easy through the boxes."

PARAGUAY: SPARKING REVIVAL THROUGH SHOEBOX GIFTS

"Jesus was dead but now He lives," said 9-year-old Alex. "He doesn't live like my dad or my pastor—I can't touch Him. But He lives inside my heart." Alex accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior when local church volunteers presented the Gospel at an outreach event, and now he vows to attend *The Greatest Journey* to learn more about who Jesus is and how he can grow in a personal relationship with Him. This 12-lesson discipleship course, led by a trained volunteer teacher, guides shoebox recipients through the Bible and encourages them to share Jesus, the reason for the joy in their hearts. Alex will soon join over 398,000 children who have graduated from *The Greatest Journey* in Paraguay since 2013. Through this exciting evangelism and discipleship process, churches all over Paraguay are gaining a fresh awareness of the life-changing power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

CAMBODIA: 'THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BRINGING ME TO JESUS'

Makara, 14, shed a tear when a ministry partner shared the Gospel at an outreach event, because he did not know the love of God she talked about. His parents had divorced five years earlier. But when he received a shoebox gift brimming with balls, toy cars, pens, pencils, and other fun items, tears of joy came instead. He excitedly came back for classes of *The Greatest Journey* and partway through the course, he said, "I have asked forgiveness from God and asked Him to come to my heart and save me from my sin and be my Savior. I know now that Jesus is in my heart. He gives me hope. Thank you so much Operation Christmas Child for bringing me to Jesus!"

PHILIPPINES: THE GREATEST GIFT BOOKLET LEADS TO SALVATION

"I am Jherlen, 12, one of the recipients of an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. I am one of those who witnessed and experienced the wonderful gift this program brings. I learned a lot that helped me to better understand the life of Jesus and salvation. Through the stories in *The Greatest Gift* booklet I received with my shoebox, I saw the true concept of salvation, that Jesus died for my sins and rose again. I am happy because I am one of the millions of children who received this and was given the opportunity to meet and be friends with Jesus. I will share this Good News with many so that they, too, can know Jesus and be saved."





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KENYA: ONE ANSWERED PRAYER PROMPTS 20 CHILDREN TO ATTEND CHURCH

On her way home from school, Setian, 9, used to pick up stubs of pencils on the ground so she could do her homework. Her parents could not afford to buy her new ones because they were unemployed. Setian attended an Operation Christmas Child outreach event where she heard the Gospel and prayed for what she needed before opening her shoebox gift. Inside, she found pens and pencils! Setian told her parents about Jesus. They accepted His salvation by faith and began attending church with their daughter. Setian also shared the Gospel with her friends, and today 20 other children are coming to church as a result of her invitations.

GEORGIA: SCRIPTURE MEMORY CARDS LEAD A FAMILY TO FOLLOW CHRIST

Giorgi, 11, scattered little square green cards all over his home. Each card containing a Bible verse and an illustration from *The Greatest Journey* discipleship workbook helped him to stand at his graduation and easily recite all 12 verses highlighted in the course. "I love all the stories about Jesus, and it was easy for me to find a place for each memory card in my house," Giorgi said. "I had a great journey through Bible stories every day at home." As Giorgi shared the lessons from *The Greatest Journey* with his family, they began to attend church together with him. Today, each of them follows Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior!

**Name changed for security*

To read more stories of spiritual impact through Operation Christmas Child, visit samaritanspurse.org/occ-latest.



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