



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SPIRITUAL 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 else about at least one of these stories.

CENTRAL ASIA: [PROVIDENTIAL MEETING CHANGES LIVES](#)

As Pastor Gadi returned from an Operation Christmas Child outreach event, he encountered two boys on the side of the road selling nuts. Having two leftover shoebox gifts in his car, he gave them to the boys and told them about Jesus Christ. As a result of this brief encounter, Amir trusted in Christ. He died just days later, but not before he told his family what Pastor Gadi had said. Two of his family members have since become Christians as well.

ECUADOR: [SHOEBOX GIFT DISTRIBUTION BRINGS NEW LIFE, NEW MINISTRY](#)

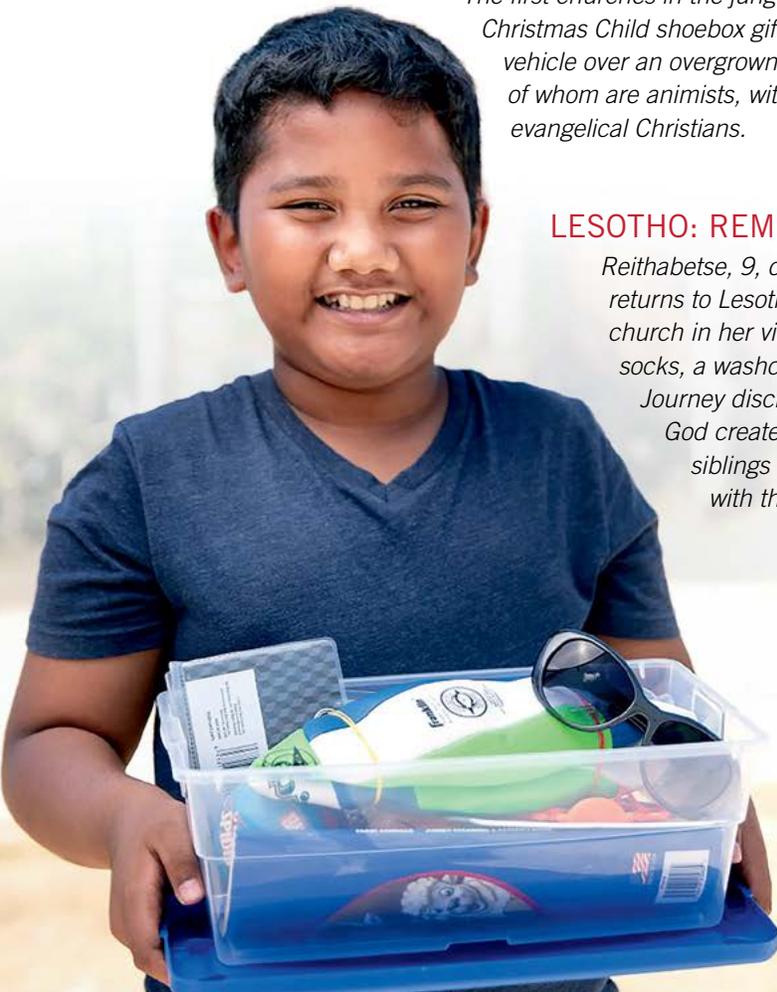
Jamyleth delighted to receive a shoebox gift as an 8-year-old. When she learned that the gift came from God, she received Christ as her Lord and Savior. She wished she could give a shoebox gift to every child in her village, but since she couldn't afford that she came up with an alternative. By saving her lunch money, she was able to buy treats to give to other children on a couple holidays each year. In time, she participated in distributing shoebox gifts and began training teachers of The Greatest Journey discipleship course in her area. She said of her shoebox gift, "It was the beginning of a new life."

LIBERIA: [SHOEBOX GIFTS GO EVEN WHERE THERE IS NO ROAD](#)

The first churches in the jungle villages of Vanyanpa and Bolo started in 2019, soon after Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts for their children were brought in on foot and by four-wheel drive vehicle over an overgrown motorcycle path. The villages are home to the Mano people—most of whom are animists, with less than 3 percent of the population considering themselves evangelical Christians.

LESOTHO: REMINDED OF GOD'S LOVE

Reithabetse, 9, doesn't know her father. Her mother works in South Africa and rarely returns to Lesotho to check up on her, so she lives with a grandmother from the church in her village. Reithabetse rejoiced to receive a shoebox gift filled with a doll, socks, a washcloth, soap, books, and pencils, and also participated in The Greatest Journey discipleship class. She marveled at Lesson 1 that described all the things God created, and soon gave her life to Jesus Christ. She also brought her siblings Karabo and Mamohlakoana with her to church. Every time she plays with the gifts from her shoebox, she is reminded of God's great love for her.





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MONGOLIA: BEARING FRUIT IN BARREN AREAS

Scattered along the border of Russia are small outposts in the desert located roughly 15 miles apart. Eight to ten families with a handful of children each live in these locations, and they rarely receive visitors. A volunteer named Enkhsaruul brought shoebox gifts to these isolated areas with the message of Jesus, God's Greatest Gift. "When we preached, some adults began to cry," she said. They had heard the Gospel when they were younger and were pleased to rededicate their lives to Christ. "Although they were living in the middle of nowhere, the Lord found them," Enkhsaruul said. As a result of these outreach events, 120 children received a gift for the first time in their lives.

PERU: "GOD ANSWERED MY PRAYER"

Delma, 12, participated in *The Greatest Journey* and wrote, "I feel very blessed because I learned to trust my life and everything I have to God. I asked the Lord that my parents would also come to know Christ, and that in the future everyone in my home would serve God. He answered my prayer because my mom accompanied me to church and other discipleship activities, and I felt like the happiest girl in the world. I'm so thankful for the way God is working."

PHILIPPINES: [A YOUNG GIRL COMES TO FAITH AND FAMILY FOLLOWS](#)

Athena, 8, received a gift-filled shoebox and participated in *The Greatest Journey*, where she gave her heart to Jesus Christ and learned how to tell others about Him.

THAILAND: CHURCH PLANTING THROUGH SHOEBOX GIFTS

In the village of Nong Luang, most residents follow another religion. Yet, a church in a neighboring area began praying for these villagers, asking God to bring them to salvation in Jesus Christ. The church members discovered that when they brought shoebox gifts for the boys and girls of the village, they were welcomed and given the opportunity to share the Gospel. "More than 100 children heard the story of God," said a ministry partner. After hearing this presentation, a villager named Uncle Somnuk invited members of the team to his home and he became their friend. He also began attending their church and soon received Christ into his life. As a result of this one person coming to faith and sharing with others, today 30 people from Nong Luang attend the neighboring church. The growing group hopes to buy land and build a church building in their own village soon.

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

