

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has hand-delivered over 77 million gift-filled shoeboxes to needy children all over the world. Through these shoeboxes, children are reminded of God's love and His plan and purpose for their lives. Since its inception, millions of children have come to faith in Christ through these simple shoebox gifts because of Operation Christmas Child's follow-up discipleship program, and each child has received a New Testament Bible in his or her native language.

These shoeboxes are not just about giving a gift to someone less fortunate than ourselves. It opens the door for missionaries and local churches to reach out to these children and give them the opportunity to hear the Gospel. **Jesus teaches us that the Great Commandment is to love one another.** These shoeboxes are a perfect demonstration of God's love for each of these precious children through the love of others when they receive these shoebox gifts. **Jesus also commands us to go into all nations and spread the Good News.** These shoebox gifts accomplish that, also.

There are over 2.2 billion children living in the world right now. Operation Christmas Child hopes to hand-deliver over eight million shoeboxes this year. These children, through receiving these shoeboxes and giving their lives to Christ, represent seeds planted for the church of the future. That is how vital this ministry is today.

Operation Christmas Child is a way for all of us to be missionaries and spread the love of God and the hope of salvation.