



GOOD NEWS, GREAT JOY.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

GUIDE 2024





OPERATION
CHRISTMAS
CHILD

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► **WHAT IS OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD?**

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organisation. This project is a hands-on way for you to demonstrate God's love to children in need across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and fun gifts.

We collect the gift-filled shoeboxes and send them to local partners around the world that use them as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. After receiving gift-filled shoeboxes, many children accept an invitation to participate in The Greatest Journey discipleship program and millions of children each year are making decisions to follow Christ (see page 4 for more information).

Since 1993, more than **220 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.

In 2023, Australia and New Zealand sent **218,215** shoeboxes to Cambodia, Ukraine, Philippines, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea. Globally, there were more than **11,330,126** shoeboxes collected and sent to over 100 countries and territories.

All of Samaritan's Purse's projects, including Operation Christmas Child, are given and provided with "no strings attached" and without regard to the race, creed, gender, religion or ethnicity of the beneficiaries.



Scan this QR code for more information on **Operation Christmas Child** resources or visit:
Australia: operationchristmaschild.org.au/resources
New Zealand: operationchristmaschild.org.nz/resources



Scan this QR code for more information about **Operation Christmas Child**
Learn more at: operationchristmaschild.org.au or operationchristmaschild.org.nz

THE GREATEST JOURNEY



▶ WHAT IS THE GREATEST JOURNEY?

The Greatest Journey is a 12-lesson discipleship course offered by local churches to many of the children who receive shoebox gifts. Children who participate in the program learn how to follow Christ and share Him with others. As they do, entire families and communities are transformed by the power of the Gospel, and churches are started. More than **40.5 million** children have enrolled in this program since 2009.

▶ A GRADUATION CELEBRATION

After completing The Greatest Journey, children attend a graduation celebration and receive a certificate. Most importantly, they are given a Bible that includes the New Testament and selected Old Testament stories along with a dictionary of Biblical terms and a map of Bible lands. Complete with illustrations, it is often the first copy of God's Word the child, or their family, will own. Family and friends who attend the ceremony hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Hearing the Good News and testimonies during their loved one's graduation reinforces the changes they have seen in the students' lives, and their families often come to faith in Christ.

▶ BELIEVERS MULTIPLY

Since 2009, more than **20.2 million** children have reported decisions for Christ while taking The Greatest Journey. These children as well as those who hear the Gospel at shoebox outreach events share their faith with friends and family—who in turn disciple others.

YOU CAN SEND A CHILD ON THE GREATEST JOURNEY FOR JUST \$10

Children will receive a colourful student workbook, a graduation certificate, a New Testament in their own language, and a trained teacher to mentor them in their community.



Scan this QR code for more information about **The Greatest Journey**
Learn more: samaritanspurse.org.au/tgj or samaritanspurse.org.nz/tgj

WAYS TO PACK



▶ HOW TO PACK A SHOEBOX

1. SHOEBOX: Start with a regular sized shoebox the approximate size of an A4 page or order pre-printed shoeboxes online.

2. GIFTS: Choose a boy or girl and age group (2–4, 5–9, or 10–14) and **fill** your shoebox with **fun** toys, clothing, hygiene items, and school supplies. Include a “**wow**” item such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal; then **personalise** your gift by including a note and photo.



▶ DO NOT INCLUDE

✗ ITEMS THAT LEAK OR MELT:

(these can spoil boxes) including toothpaste, shampoo, bubbles, and lotions.

✗ **FOOD OR LOLLIES OF ANY KIND:** (due to customs regulations) including medicines and vitamins.

✗ **USED OR DAMAGED ITEMS:** (due to customs regulations) including worn clothing and old toys.

✗ **BREAKABLE ITEMS:** including glass and porcelain.

✗ **SCARY OR WAR-RELATED ITEMS:** including halloween, war or pirate-related items such as toy guns, knives, military figures or skull and crossbones.

✗ **GAMBLING-RELATED ITEMS:** including play money or dice (unless included in a game).

✗ **RELIGIOUS LITERATURE:** including tracts and Bibles (many children are given an Operation Christmas Child evangelistic book at an outreach event in their native language).

3. DONATE: A donation of \$12.50 per box is essential to cover shipping and other project costs. For easiest processing, you can give online through our website, or you can give by completing the form in our 'How to Pack' brochure and enclose in your shoebox gift. If you use our online option, you can 'Follow Your Box' and discover the destination of your gift.

4. LABEL: Every shoebox gift must be clearly labelled. Visit the Donations & Labels page on our website to order your labels when you make your \$12.50 donation, or download the free label resource, or use the label included in The 'How to Pack' brochure. Please ensure the label clearly indicates if you packed for a boy or girl and which age category, then stick it on your shoebox!

5. PRAY: Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your shoebox gift and for their family and community to be transformed by the Gospel.

6. DROP-OFF: Take your shoebox gift to a local drop-off location during **National Collection, 14 - 26 October for Australia, or 21 - 26 October for New Zealand.** Visit our website to find one near you.

PACK A SHOEBOX ONLINE



► PACK A SHOEBOX ONLINE

If you are unable to physically pack a shoebox, we are pleased to share that you can now Pack A Shoebox Online without leaving your home! For just \$35 you can select a shoebox to be packed for a boy or girl and age group, and we will arrange to send the shoebox for you.

HOW TO PACK A SHOEBOX ONLINE:

1. To Pack a Shoebox Online scan this QR code →



OR

2. Visit operationchristmaschild.org.au or operationchristmaschild.org.nz to donate by clicking the “Pack A Shoebox Online” button or select from the drop-down menu.
3. Choose to pack for a boy or girl, select an age category, and add the quantity of shoeboxes.
4. Proceed to the checkout to complete your order.
5. Once you have completed your order we will arrange to pack your shoebox and send it to a child for you! We want everyone to have the opportunity to bless a child!

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PACK A SHOEBOX ONLINE

There are some countries where local laws and customs make it difficult to reach with our shoeboxes. Pack a Shoebox Online provides us an opportunity to pack and distribute in these countries, ensuring children receive an expression of God’s love.

The \$35 includes purchase of goods, packing, transport and distribution in the country. Pack a Shoebox online is available in Australia and New Zealand. You can pack as many shoeboxes as you like for boys and girls of different ages.



Scan this QR code for more information on **Pack a Shoebox Online**

Learn more: operationchristmaschild.org.au/pack-online or operationchristmaschild.org.nz/pack-online

PARTNER WITH US



Participating in Operation Christmas Child provides an opportunity for church communities to live out their faith through partnering with us to give children in need an expression of God’s love and an invitation to a journey of discipleship.

► INFORMATION FOR CHURCHES

WHAT IS OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD?

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan’s Purse, an international relief organisation. This project is a hands-on way for you to demonstrate love to children around the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and fun gifts. We collect the gift-filled shoeboxes and send them to local churches around the world that use them as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

WHY GET INVOLVED?

Shoebox gifts are bringing joy to children in need, but also opening opportunities for the Gospel to be shared. Many of the children who receive shoeboxes accept an invitation to participate in a 12-lesson discipleship program called The Greatest Journey. Over **28.5 million** children have graduated from this program since 2009 and over **20.2 million** children have made decisions to follow Jesus in more than 100 countries!

Your church can use Operation Christmas Child as an international mission’s project. Packing a simple shoebox gift is having an eternal impact not only with children, but families and whole communities making decisions to follow Christ! Your partnership will reach more children with the Gospel.

HOW TO RUN THIS PROJECT IN YOUR CHURCH?

1. MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

National Collection is during 14 - 26 October for Australia, and 21 - 26 October for New Zealand. As a church, you could collect shoeboxes during the collection time, or select a “**Celebration Sunday**” for all shoeboxes to be dropped-off.

2. SHARE:

Tell your church, small group or youth group about Operation Christmas Child. We have resources available for you, including a How to Pack a Shoebox brochure and pre-printed shoeboxes that can be ordered online.

3. COLLECT AND PRAY:

Collect shoeboxes and ensure the \$12.50 donation per shoebox has been included to provide for shipping and other project costs (this can be donated online or included as cash in the shoebox). Most importantly also pray for the children who will receive your shoebox gifts to be open to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

NEXT STEPS?

Register the church. Ask for the best contact details of someone who could run the project at the church (Project Leader) and complete the form here:

operationchristmaschild.org.au/register or operationchristmaschild.org.nz/register



Scan this QR code to **Register for 2024**



PARTNER WITH US

► INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

WHAT IS OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD?

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organisation. This project is a hands-on way for you to make a difference for children in need across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and fun gifts. We collect the gift-filled shoeboxes and send them to local partners around the world that use them as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

WHY GET INVOLVED?

This project provides a two-fold outcome for your students. It provides the opportunity for you to teach your students about giving and is a simple way of sharing the Gospel with your students and with children all over the world! Your students will fill shoeboxes with gifts that will be sent to children in need that may never have received a gift before.

HOW TO RUN THIS PROJECT AT YOUR SCHOOL?

1. MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

National Collection is during 14 - 26 October for Australia, and 21 - 26 October for New Zealand.

As a school, you could collect shoeboxes during the collection time, or select a "Celebration Day" for all shoeboxes to be dropped-off. You could consider offering a prize to the class that packs the most shoeboxes or make a fun day and wear Christmas shirts!

2. SHARE:

Tell your students in class, chapel or assembly about Operation Christmas Child. We have resources available for you, including a How to Pack a Shoebox brochure and pre-printed shoeboxes that can be ordered online.

3. COLLECT AND PRAY:

Collect shoeboxes and ensure the \$12.50 donation per shoebox has been included to provide for shipping and other project costs (this can be donated online or included as cash in the shoebox). Most importantly also pray for the children who will receive your shoebox gifts to be open to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

NEXT STEPS?

Register the school. Ask for the best contact details of someone who could run the project at the school (Project Leader) and complete the form here:

operationchristmaschild.org.au/register or operationchristmaschild.org.nz/register



Scan this QR code to **Register for 2024**



GET INVOLVED

► YEAR-ROUND VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering with Operation Christmas Child can take many forms but has one purpose—to bring the Gospel to children in need around the world.

If you meet someone who is passionate about Jesus and sharing the Gospel with children, let them know about year-round Connect Volunteer opportunities with Operation Christmas Child!

Volunteering with Operation Christmas Child provides a wonderful opportunity for people to be part of a local team that promotes and fosters community involvement with the global Samaritan's Purse project.

By serving year-round with Samaritan's Purse through Operation Christmas Child, every Connect Volunteer will be a part of proclaiming the Gospel in more than 100 countries. Use your talents and abilities together with other Connect Volunteers around the world to bring Good News and great joy to children in need and their families through shoebox gifts.

There are many roles available for serving, including;

- Area Coordinator
- Church & Community Relations
- Logistics
- Prayer
- Student Relations
- Office and Administration

► NEXT STEPS?

If they are ready to apply, have them complete their details online and one of our Operation Christmas Child team members will contact them shortly with more information.



Scan this QR code for more information on **year-round Volunteering**
Visit operationchristmaschild.org.au/volunteer or operationchristmaschild.org.nz/volunteer to get started.





GET INVOLVED

2023 OVERVIEW

► VOLUNTEER AT A PROCESSING CENTRE

Before the millions of shoebox gifts collected each year can bring hope and joy to children around the world, each one has to be carefully inspected and prepared for international shipment by volunteers. Volunteers serve annually at shoebox processing centres across Australia and New Zealand.

Volunteering with Operation Christmas Child is a great corporate volunteering initiative, as well as a fantastic activity for schools, churches and family and friends groups. Organisation teams, church congregations, youth, Bible study and high school groups (over 13 years old) often sign up to volunteer and have a wonderful time.



► HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

Sign up for our volunteer alerts and when volunteering registration opens you will be notified.



Scan this QR code for more information on **Volunteering at a Processing Centre**
 Visit operationchristmaschild.org.au/volunteer or operationchristmaschild.org.nz/volunteer to get started.

11,330,126
SHOEBOXES PACKED WORLDWIDE*

218,215
SHOEBOXES PACKED IN AUS & NZ*

71,202 NSW/ACT	18,196 SA/NT
38,006 QLD	13,314 TAS
32,358 VIC	14,107 NZ
24,550 WA	6,482 ONLINE

* In 2023

SHOEBOXES* FROM AUS & NZ WERE SENT TO:

95,949 CAMBODIA	26,848 FIJI	10,611 UKRAINE
63,044 PNG	15,281 PHILIPPINES	6,482 SENSITIVE COUNTRY

Country name undisclosed for security reasons

THE GREATEST JOURNEY IN 2023

5,114,528 Children enrolled	3,644,933 Children graduated	2,787,422 Decisions for Christ	2,829,844 Children praying/sharing with family & friends	240,500 Teachers trained
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GOOD NEWS, GREAT JOY.



AUSTRALIA FIELD MINISTRY LEADERS		
NSW & ACT	Phone	0410 684 303
	Email	nsw@samaritanspurse.org.au
QLD	Phone	0423 598 925
	Email	qld@samaritanspurse.org.au
VIC	Phone	0414 106 301
	Email	vic@samaritanspurse.org.au
SA/NT	Phone	0409 566 587
	Email	sa@samaritanspurse.org.au
WA	Phone	0414 106 302
	Email	wa@samaritanspurse.org.au
TAS	Phone	0414 106 300
	Email	tas@samaritanspurse.org.au
NEW ZEALAND FIELD MINISTRY LEADER		
New Zealand	Phone	+64 2 7499 2325 or 008 726 274
	Email	nzadmin@samaritanspurse.org.nz

Australian Office

Ph: 1300 884 468 E: info@samaritanspurse.org.au

New Zealand Office

Ph: 0800 726 274 E: info@samaritanspurse.org.nz

