



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Operation Christmas Child?

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief organization. Operation Christmas Child makes it possible for millions of hurting children living in the midst of poverty, war, disease, and natural disaster, to experience God's love through shoe boxes filled with gifts. These shoe boxes open doors for presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ by working in and through local churches where possible, offering children's literature and through culturally appropriate evangelistic and follow-up programs.

How many shoe boxes were collected in 2010?

In 2010, 640,714 shoe boxes were collected in Canada, while nearly 8.2 million were collected worldwide.

Samaritan's Purse is a non-denominational Christian organization. How does that affect the distribution of shoe boxes in various countries around the world?

Every gift-filled shoe box is given unconditionally, regardless of religion, gender, or race, in a way that practically demonstrates the love of Jesus Christ around the globe. Although we make no effort to hide our Christian beliefs, a child's confession of faith is not a prerequisite to receiving a box. If children are interested in learning more about the story of Jesus, a voluntary 12-lesson discipleship program, called *The Greatest Journey*, is offered through a local church partner. The discipleship program is only offered where culturally appropriate and only with permission to do so.

Do you put Christian literature in each gift-filled shoe box?

Christian literature is never added to gift-filled shoe boxes (shoe boxes that contain Christian materials packed by participants are accepted and sent to countries where they are culturally appropriate). A story booklet, titled *The Greatest Gift of All*, is offered to children separately from the shoe box when culturally appropriate. The booklet tells the story of God's greatest gift to the world – His son Jesus Christ. In countries that do not permit Christian materials to be offered, shoe boxes are still distributed.

What is the suggested \$7 donation per shoe box used for?

Thanks to the generous support of our volunteers and corporate partners across Canada and around the world, the Operation Christmas Child project is able to operate year-round based on a \$7 donation per shoe box. The donations are used to cover the cost of domestic and international shipping, to provide resources and training to our volunteers who organize the collection and distribution of shoe boxes, to equip the local church in distributing countries with resources to provide further spiritual and physical aid, to raise awareness about the project in Canada that encourages people to pack gift-filled shoe boxes and volunteer. Additional donations are used to cover unexpected project costs and to help Samaritan's Purse provide additional humanitarian aid to children and their communities.

What countries are the gift-filled shoe boxes from Canada sent to?

Shoe boxes from Canada are distributed primarily in 12-20 countries in Central and South America, West Africa, and the Caribbean. This year, the list of specific countries that will receive a shipment of shoe boxes from Canada includes: Costa Rica / Guatemala / Haiti / Nicaragua / Argentina / Chile / Paraguay / Uruguay / Venezuela / Equatorial Guinea / Guinea Bissau / Senegal / Sierra Leone

*"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*

Mark 10:14, NIV