

Why We Pack Shoeboxes

We must always be mindful of why we participate in this ministry. Samaritan's Purse uses the shoebox gifts as a means of reaching children (and families) to share the Gospel. Before opening the shoeboxes, children hear the story of Jesus. In addition to a shoebox gift, each child receives the storybook, *The Greatest Gift*, that shares the message of salvation. The booklet contains 11 scripture stories plus an invitation to follow Christ. The children take their gift and booklet home to share with family and friends. It is estimated that 9 people are touched by 1 single shoebox gift. How awesome is that!

Many children are invited for an additional study, *The Greatest Journey* which is a 12-lesson course. Through this study the participants have the opportunity to learn more about Jesus, to learn scripture, to learn how to follow Christ each day, and how to share Him with their family and friends.



The Importance of \$9.00 Shipping

Anyone who has mailed a package to anywhere knows that shipping costs are enormous. Up until boxes are loaded onto vehicles to be shipped to final destinations, all handling and transportation is provided by volunteers. The \$9.00 donation is also used to cover the cost of *The Greatest Gift* and *The Greatest Journey*. Remember, each child receives a copy of *The Great Gift* in his/her native language.

Packing a Shoebox

Our packing party for **2019** has been set for **October 19**. Mark your calendar to join others from our church and community to pack shoeboxes. The intent of packing shoeboxes is for individuals/ families to:



- set a goal for number of boxes to pack & plan accordingly
- shop for WOW items and fillers for your boxes (*keep at home*)
- participate in monthly collection of essentials (*take to church*)
- encourage others to get involved
- bring your WOW gifts & fillers to the party to pack your boxes

Suggested WOW items:

- Larger stuffed animals
- Soccer ball & small pump, extra needles
- Baby dolls
- Barbie dolls
- Clothing such as t-shirts, caps, outfits, flip flops
- Tools, flashlights with batteries, fishing kits
- Sewing kits with fabric, bead kits
- Vehicles (i.e. construction machines, cars, trucks)



Operation Christmas Child: Monthly Collections-Essentials

February: washcloths

March: small stuffed animals

April: soap boxes & soap (Ivory recommended)

May: toothbrushes & covers (for brush portion)

June: (older children) - composition books or 3-prong folders with notebook paper
(younger children) - simple coloring books/plain white paper

July: pencils & covered pencil sharpeners

August: (for ages 2-9) - 24 ct. crayons
(for ages 10-14) - colored pencils

September: combs & brushes

Operation Christmas Child Suggested Fillers

February: gloves, socks, mittens, hats, scarf's, underwear

March: toys, Yo-yos, games (checkers, tic-tac-toe, bingo, etc.)
plastic animals, cars/vehicles, jump ropes, puzzles, musical instruments

April: bandaids, tissues, bandanas, underwear, cinch sacks

May: small cups, water bottles, eating utensils

June: school supplies (see list below)

July: school supplies (see list below)

July: school supplies (see list below)

August: school supplies (see list below)

September: deodorant, hair accessories, nail clippers/files, jewelry, sunglasses



School supplies: pencil pouches, erasers, Play-Doh, water colors, drawing paper, mini staplers, pens, colored markers, calculators, scissors, glue sticks, construction paper, stickers, ruler

* Note: Pencil pouches are often included as a means of storing school supplies such as pencils, pens, scissors, erasers, etc.

Changes in 2019...

Our shoebox ministry in 2018 was such a huge success, passing our goal of 500, the goal for 2019 has been set for 600 shoeboxes. We have done so many things to assure this success and do not want to become too complacent with our efforts.

A few changes include:

- An essential item needed for each shoebox will be collected each month but there will also be a list of suggested filler items.
- Collection will be for an entire month, meaning that monthly emphasis item can be brought in throughout the month. Boxes will be in key locations throughout the church in which items may be placed.
- On the last Sunday of the month, Operation Christmas Child will still be an emphasis and the red wagon will be near the cross to gather any remaining donations.
- Donations for shipping can also be made monthly by designated offerings to LBC as shipping for OCC.
- You can donate \$\$ for items and let others do the shopping.



Reminders...

- NO used items
- NO liquids
- NO candy/gum/food

Visit Samaritanpurse.org/occ to learn more!

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Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

God blessed us in 2018 with the ability to pack 650 shoeboxes and for that we are thankful. We should continue to pray for the recipients of each box from our church. All shoeboxes are not distributed by Christmas; it may be months before all the boxes processed in 2018 are distributed.

Where Did Our Shoeboxes Go?

We know the boxes from our church were shipped on November 30 to **Senegal** which is in Africa. Pray that lives will be changed after hearing the Gospel Story and then receiving a shoebox. Pray that entire families and communities will be led to knowing and accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior.



What Now?

It is never too early to begin thinking about shoeboxes. Some began shopping for 2019 before the shoeboxes for 2018 were even processed/shipped. Hopefully, during the holidays, thoughts were about the **WOW** items for each shoebox. **January's** shoebox emphasis will be on the **WOW** items for 2019. Each shoebox should contain a **WOW** gift. This is the item a child will grab first, hang onto, and use or play with over and over. Make sure to have a **WOW** item for every shoebox you pack. You will bring these to the packing party for your shoeboxes.

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