



Operation Christmas Child Impact Stories

The best way to engage someone to participate is to share an impact story. Here are a few stories you can use to inspire others to partner with Operation Christmas Child in sharing the Gospel with children around the world.



The Jungles of Peru: Reaching the Unreached

Deep in the jungles of the Amazon live a tribe called the Chapra. They had never heard about Jesus until a man met their Chief and was able to minister to him while his son faced a life-threatening illness. The Chief put his faith in Jesus Christ and his son was miraculously healed. His encounter with the power of God transformed his life and he wanted to share with his entire tribe. Operation Christmas Child ministry partners committed to reaching the Chapra by working with the younger generation to translate The Greatest Gift booklet in to their language. This was the very first time the Chapra had their language in print! The tribe has ignited a passion to grow in their new faith in Jesus Christ and is making plans to reach up to 15 more tribes deep in the Amazon.



Benin/Now Living in Texas: A Pair of Shoes in an OCC Gift Changes Everything!

Coffi never owned shoes as a child. When Coffi received his shoebox, he not only received his first gift ever, he found his first pair of shoes – and they fit perfectly! Later, through a letter stuck to the lid of his shoebox, Coffi was able to connect with the family who packed his shoebox, and started a friendship that lasts to this day. And in 2023, Coffi finally had the opportunity to meet the Watkins family for the first time in person for an American Christmas holiday.



Cambodia/Now Living in Virginia: Students Become Teachers of *The Greatest Journey*

Lyda didn't have a father and grew up in extreme poverty in Cambodia. At 12 years old, Lyda received a shoebox gift and put her faith in Jesus Christ. Years later, Lyda became a teacher for The Greatest Journey discipleship program. Many of the children she taught are now also serving as teachers for The Greatest Journey! Today, Lyda lives in Virginia and enjoys packing shoebox gifts with her daughter, serving as a Project Leader in her church in South Carolina, and sharing her testimony to encourage others.



Chile: A Shoebox Gift Brings Great Joy to a Family Who Lost Everything

Fernanda's family was changed forever as their house was destroyed when the Valparaiso fire swept through their community. While the local church had also lost everything to the wildfire, the church immediately searched for ways to raise the spirits of the children recovering from this devastating disaster. Thankfully, the community organized an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift outreach event. Cries of joy could be heard from the children in attendance. Fernanda received her own shoebox, and this simple gift brought the hope and great joy of the Gospel to her and the rest of her family when they needed it the most.





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Panama City, Panama:

11-year Old Overcomes Leukemia and Now Teaches *The Greatest Journey*

11-year-old Maykel received a shoebox and began our discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. During this time, he was diagnosed with stage 3 leukemia and doctors warned he wouldn't live many more days. The discipleship teacher came to visit him and continued his lessons in the hospital. The teacher prayed with him and his family continually and he was miraculously healed! He now teaches The Greatest Journey!



Nigeria:

Idol Worshippers Become Evangelists Through Operation Christmas Child

"The danger zone." That's what people called a community in Nigeria where people pledged allegiance to witchcraft and idolatry. For years, Pastor Peter had sown Gospel seeds in this difficult area but, it seemed, with little effect. A fledgling church existed, though it struggled. That all changed, however, when he partnered with Operation Christmas Child to bring 150 gift-filled shoeboxes to the boys and girls living in the danger zone. When Ruby, the daughter of a shrine leader, received a shoebox gift, it prompted her whole family to start coming to church! Pastor Peter started The Greatest Journey lessons with some of the shoebox recipients. Since then, idolatry practices have dropped off and 100 children now attend Sunday school. "Thank God for Operation Christmas Child," he said. "The church work was made easy through the boxes."*



Kenya: One Answered Prayer Prompts 20 Children to Attend Church

On her way home from school, Setian, 9, used to pick up stubs of pencils on the ground so she could do her homework. Her parents could not afford to buy her new ones because they were unemployed. Setian attended an Operation Christmas Child outreach event where she heard the Gospel and prayed for what she needed before opening her shoebox gift. Inside, she found pens and pencils! Setian told her parents about Jesus. They accepted His salvation by faith and began attending church with their daughter. Setian also shared the Gospel with her friends, and today 20 other children are coming to church as a result of her invitations.

Georgia: Scripture Memory Cards Lead a Family to Follow Christ

Giorgi, 11, scattered little square green cards all over his home. Each card containing a Bible verse and an illustration from The Greatest Journey discipleship workbook helped him to stand at his graduation and easily recite all 12 verses highlighted in the course. "I love all the stories about Jesus, and it was easy for me to find a place for each memory card in my house," Giorgi said. "I had a great journey through Bible stories every day at home." As Giorgi shared the lessons from The Greatest Journey with his family, they began to attend church together with him. Today, each of them follows Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior!