

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

GUIDE 2026

IT'S ALL ABOUT

JESUS!





GUIDE 2026

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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

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!



► WHAT IS OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD?

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, a nondenominational evangelical Christian organisation. This project is a hands-on way for you to demonstrate 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 **244 million** children in more than 100 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many boys and girls, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love.

In 2025, Australia and New Zealand sent **212,401** shoeboxes to Cambodia, Philippines, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Ukraine. Globally, **12,205,900** shoeboxes were 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 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 **52 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 **27 million** children have reported decisions for Christ while taking *The Greatest Journey*. These children 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



HOW TO PACK

▶ HOW TO PACK A SHOEBOX GIFT

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.

✗ **SOAP:** Due to increasing customs regulations and challenges in many countries, all types of soap will **no longer** be allowed in shoebox gifts.

✗ 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 own 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, 12-26 October for Australia, or 19-24 October for New Zealand.** Visit our website to find one near you.





► **PACK A SHOEBOX ONLINE** provides an additional opportunity to give gift-filled shoeboxes to children in need around the world. You can demonstrate God's love to a child without leaving your home!

THERE ARE TWO PACK A SHOEBOX ONLINE OPTIONS:

1. BUILD A SHOEBOX ONLINE

For \$45 you can build a shoebox online. Select a gift for a boy or girl and choose an age group. Each shoebox will include a starter kit of school supplies and personal care items, together with your choice of 'wow' items, clothing and accessories, toys and activities. You can add a personalised note and upload a photo that will be printed and included in your shoebox. Build a shoebox online for one child or for a number of boys and girls of different ages.

2. GIVE A PRE-PACKED SHOEBOX

Local laws and customs in some countries make sending shoeboxes there difficult. For \$40, Give a Pre-Packed Shoebox provides the opportunity to pack for and distribute gift-filled shoeboxes in these countries, ensuring even more children receive an expression of God's love. Sharing Good News and Great Joy to the ends of the earth!

Your Pack a Shoebox Online donation includes purchase of goods, packing, local and international transport, training of local churches and *The Greatest Gift* and *The Greatest Journey* booklets.

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/ and scroll down to the "Get Involved" section.
3. Select the option to **Build a Shoebox Online** or **Give a Pre-packed Shoebox** and follow the instructions provided.
4. Proceed to the checkout to complete your order.
5. Once you have completed your order we will arrange for your shoebox to be packed and then sent to a child for you! We want everyone to have the opportunity to demonstrate God's love to a child!

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**



PARTNER WITH US

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.

► INFORMATION FOR CHURCHES

WHAT IS OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD?

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, a nondenominational evangelical Christian organisation. This project is a hands-on way for you to demonstrate God's love to children in need 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 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?

Shoobox 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 **37 million** children have graduated from this program since 2009 and over **27 million** children in more than 100 countries have made decisions to follow Jesus!

Operation Christmas Child is about evangelism, discipleship and multiplication, providing an opportunity for your church to partner in mission with churches in receiving countries around the world. Packing a simple shoebox gift is having an eternal impact not only on children, but families and whole communities are 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 12-26 October for Australia and 19-24 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 How to Pack a Shoebox brochures and pre-printed shoeboxes that can be ordered online. PowerPoints, videos, stories and images are also available online to support your involvement.

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, pray for the children who will receive your shoebox gifts to be open to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

NEXT STEPS?

Register your church. Identify someone who could run the project in your church (Project Leader) and complete the form from the QR code or links below:



Scan this QR code to **Register for 2026** or visit:
operationchristmaschild.org.au/register or operationchristmaschild.org.nz/register



► INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

WHAT IS OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD?

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, a nondenominational evangelical Christian 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 offers a two-fold outcome for your students. It provides the opportunity for you to teach your students about generosity, alongside being a simple way of sharing the Gospel with your students and inviting them to participate in sharing Jesus with children all over the world! Your students will fill shoeboxes with gifts that will be sent to children in need who may never have received a gift before.

HOW TO RUN THIS PROJECT AT YOUR SCHOOL?

1. MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

National Collection is 12-26 October for Australia and 19-24 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 How to Pack a Shoebox brochures and pre-printed shoeboxes that can be ordered online. PowerPoints, videos, stories and images are also available online to support your involvement.

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, pray for the children who will receive your shoebox gifts to be open to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

NEXT STEPS?

Register your school. Identify someone who could run the project at the school (Project Leader) and complete the form from the QR code or link below.



Scan this QR code to **Register for 2026** or visit:
operationchristmaschild.org.au/register or operationchristmaschild.org.nz/register



GET INVOLVED

► YEAR-ROUND VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers serve throughout the year with Operation Christmas Child in a number of different roles but all with one mission—to bring the Gospel to children in need around the world.

YEAR-ROUND CONNECT VOLUNTEERING

Are you passionate about Jesus and sharing the Gospel with children, or do you know someone who is? Year-round Connect Volunteer opportunities provide an opportunity for you to use your talents and abilities as part of a local team to promote and foster community involvement in Operation Christmas Child. Use your gifting in leadership, relationship building, logistics, prayer or administration to bring the Good News to children all over the world.

SEASONAL VOLUNTEERING

Throughout the year Operation Christmas Child requires seasonal volunteers to help in a variety of practical ways to ensure gift-filled shoeboxes reach children in need around the world. Whether behind the wheel as a driver or assisting with processing and collection, you can contribute your skills and time to make a meaningful impact.

► NEXT STEPS?

If you are interested in volunteering with Operation Christmas Child, head to our website to fill out an Expression of Interest form and one of our Operation Christmas Child team members will contact you.



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



GET INVOLVED

► 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 in Australia and New Zealand.

Volunteering at one of Operation Christmas Child's processing centres is a great opportunity to serve as an individual or as part of a group. It's a fantastic activity for schools, church and corporate groups, family and friends, youth groups and teams to come together, have some fun and make a meaningful impact.

► 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

2025

OVERVIEW



12,205,900

SHOEBOXES PACKED WORLDWIDE*

212,401

SHOEBOXES PACKED IN AUS & NZ*

71,223 NSW/ACT 16,603 SA/NT

35,630 QLD 12,432 TAS

31,700 VIC 13,840 NZ

25,343 WA 5,630 ONLINE

* In 2025

SHOEBOXES* FROM AUS & NZ WERE SENT TO:

138,110 CAMBODIA

24,773 FIJI

10,444 UKRAINE

10,470 SOLOMON ISLANDS

25,341 PHILIPPINES

3,251 SENSITIVE COUNTRY

Country name undisclosed for security reasons



THE GREATEST JOURNEY IN 2025



6,040,488

Children enrolled



4,624,054

Children graduated



3,556,556

Decisions for Christ



3,429,297

Children praying/sharing with family & friends



330,969

Teachers trained



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

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Australian Office

Phone: 1300 884 468 Email: info@samaritanspurse.org.au Web: operationchristmaschild.org.au

New Zealand Office

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