



2023 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

SPECIAL REPORT



GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

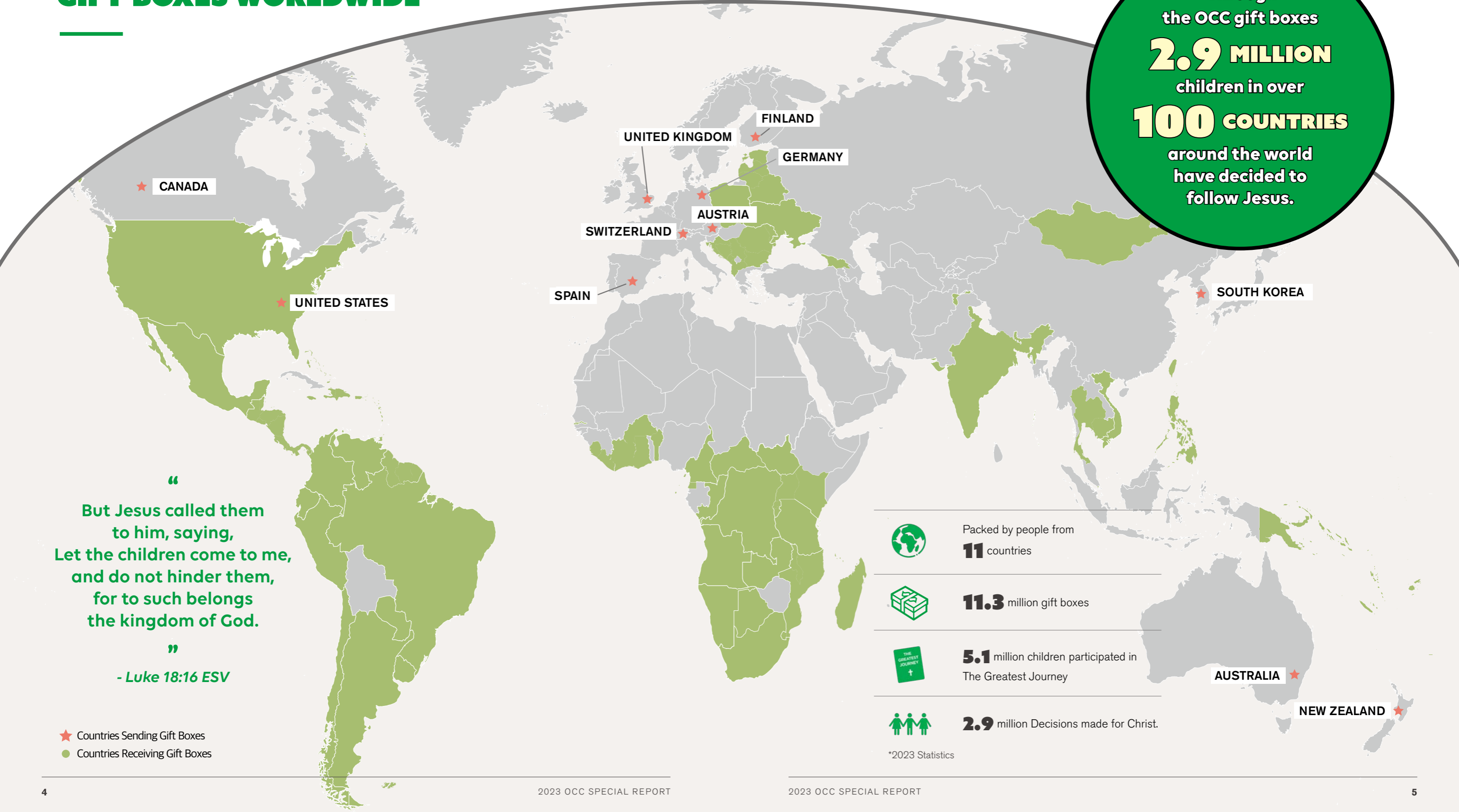
A simple gift box can change

Children's Lives 

The greatest gift
given with a **simple gift box**

COLLECTING COUNTRIES FOR OCC GIFT BOXES WORLDWIDE

Through
the OCC gift boxes
2.9 MILLION
children in over
100 COUNTRIES
around the world
have decided to
follow Jesus.



“
But Jesus called them
to him, saying,
Let the children come to me,
and do not hinder them,
for to such belongs
the kingdom of God.
”
- Luke 18:16 ESV

★ Countries Sending Gift Boxes
● Countries Receiving Gift Boxes



Packed by people from
11 countries



11.3 million gift boxes



5.1 million children participated in
The Greatest Journey



2.9 million Decisions made for Christ.

*2023 Statistics



WHY PACK AN OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD GIFT BOX?

The ripple effect of a single gift box



A multi-generational missions ministry



The Gospel is shared with the gift box



The ministry supports the local church as they engage their communities

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARING THE GOSPEL

In a remote village in southern Madagascar, deeply entrenched in animism and superstitions, the local pastor shared the eternal hope of the Gospel through OCC gift boxes. Pastor Soja is now helping to start new churches in several villages that were once hostile to the Gospel.



A PATHWAY OF ANSWERED PRAYERS

Elena and her daughter fled from ongoing conflict in Ukraine to seek refuge in Poland. Fear gripped them as they faced the unfolding situation, but they prayed, trusting God to protect their family. The OCC gift box they received brought great comfort and joy to Elena's family, reassuring them of God's presence and care.



THE GOD WHO KNOWS EVERY NEED

A 13-year-old in South Africa desperately needed new clothes. He was so excited to find an outfit just his size in his gift box. Touched by God's provision, his mother accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior, and they are attending the church that hosted the Operation Christmas Child outreach event.

TOGETHER WE CAN IMPACT LIVES

Since 2020, Samaritan's Purse Korea has shared The Greatest Gift with children in Mongolia, Gabon, the Philippines, and children suffering from the war in Ukraine.



2020

36 Churches and groups
packed 2,934 gift boxes for Mongolia

2021

108 Churches and groups
packed 10,271 gift boxes for Mongolia, Gabon,
and the Philippines

2022

212 Churches and groups
packed 35,675 gift boxes for Ukraine,
and the Philippines

2023

297 Churches and groups
packed 37,786 gift boxes for Ukraine, Mongolia,
and the Philippines



TRANSFORMED BY HOPE

This last May, Samaritan's Purse Korea, together with local Ministry Partners, shared gift boxes with children living in the remote Iloilo region of the Philippines. Dave received a gift box and heard about the hope and salvation found in Christ. He also was able to attend "The Greatest Journey" discipleship classes, bringing him joy that transcends his circumstances.



PARTNERING IN MINISTRY IN MONGOLIA

In Mongolia, more and more churches are sharing the love of Christ with children through the gift box ministry of Operation Christmas Child. They no longer see the ministry merely as the work of Samaritan's Purse, but rather through partnership, see this as their own ministry as well. This past year, over 54,000 gift boxes went to children in Mongolia and over 12,000 were discipled through The Greatest Journey.



“

I have been participating in the Operation Christmas Child gift box ministry since 2021. I remember packing the boxes with anticipation. I hope the gifts are shared with children who want to know Christ's love, and I pray that the Operation Christmas Child ministry will be precious before the Lord.

”

- Rev. Dong wook Kim (HISWILL)



THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE OCC GIFT BOXES TO BECOME DISCIPLES OF JESUS

THE GREATEST JOURNEY

LEARNING ABOUT JESUS, WALKING WITH JESUS, AND BECOMING EQUIPPED TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

After children receive their gift box, they are invited back to 'The Greatest Journey', a 12 lesson follow-up discipleship program led by trained local teachers. Through this program, children can get to know Jesus, grow in their faith, and learn how to share their faith with their friends and family. When children complete The Greatest Journey and graduate, they receive a certificate and Bible.

WHAT DO THEY LEARN?

The 12 lessons focus on three main areas: understanding the Gospel, growing in the Gospel, and sharing the Gospel.

- **UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL** | Chapters that introduce Jesus.
- **GROWING IN THE GOSPEL** | Chapters that teach about believing in and following the Lord.
- **SHARING THE GOSPEL** | Chapters that teach about sharing God's love with others.

Ernesto, a boy from Mexico, wanted to go to church but didn't have shoes. However, he couldn't give up on the graduation ceremony of 'The Greatest Journey' that he had been eagerly awaiting. Walking barefoot on the rough ground covered with dirt and dust, two friends approached Ernesto. "You can borrow my shoes."

For Ernesto, who lived with his elderly grandmother after being rejected by his parents, new shoes were a luxury. On the day of graduation from the discipleship program, Ernesto's church friends gifted him shoes. It was a moment when the value of God's love and neighborly love learned through 'The Greatest Journey' became real in his life.

“
It's a long-term spiritual growth program that impacts not just children, but families and communities as well. That's the power of the Operation Christmas Child gift box.
”

CELEBRATING THE OCC MINISTRY TOGETHER

2023 OCC GIFT BOX VOLUNTEER EVENT "THE POWER OF A SIMPLE GIFT"

We inspect every gift box to ensure the safety and quality of the items inside before sending them to children worldwide.

Samaritan's Purse held a volunteer event titled "The Power of a Simple Gift" at the Swiss Grand Hotel in Eunpyeong-gu, Seoul.

Around 600 volunteers participated over four days. They carefully processed 24,768 gift boxes, significantly contributing to overseas missions with their efforts. Acting as the hands and feet of Jesus, the volunteers completed the inspection work and finished their service by laying their hands on the gift boxes praying for the children who will receive them.

Additionally, various Christian illustrators participated at the event showcasing their work, and a mini-concert featuring HisWill and Bumkey was also held.

540,000
VOLUNTEERS
processed gift boxes
worldwide, including
approximately
500
VOLUNTEERS
in Korea.



“
My gift box contained a Bible, and amazingly, it was a Tagalog translation, the language of the Philippines. I was so happy and amazed because I wanted to continue studying the Bible.
”

- Alex, a boy from the Philippines

“I realized that from the training, and even during the packaging process, they prayed and did everything with the heart of God. It felt great to be involved.”

- Kim Young-chan, Principal of Durejulgi School





FASHION COMPANY PS1103, CEO CHOI SO-HYUN

When I was busy working, I couldn't even dream of going on missions. I think this is a really great way of doing missions where busy professionals can also participate. Please join us in thinking of this as missionary work to build the next generation.

SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL KIM MIN-JIN

After finishing the college entrance exam, I was scrolling through social media and saw a volunteer recruitment ad, so my friend and I decided to come. Even though I also enjoy volunteering at other places, the PC event left a special impression because we prayed and shared testimonies in between serving. I hope more people can join in the future.



LOVELY CHURCH IN GIMPO, OVERSEAS MISSION TEAM MEMBER, KIM SOO-JIN

I noticed that someone had donated and filled the gift boxes with flashlights filled with batteries. So, I thought it would be great if the children in the mission field could enjoy the bright light until the batteries ran out.



VOLUNTEER, OH HYUN-SEOK

One day, I happened to learn about volunteering for the Processing Center via Facebook. Seeing the pictures of the children receiving the boxes touched my heart, so I decided to sign up. In January 2020, my daughter went to heaven. She was very sick, and it happened due to a medical accident during childbirth. I used to pray desperately before falling asleep because I missed her so much.

I am completely deaf and before volunteering, I prayed for a grateful heart and a joyful heart. And truly, He gave me that heart as a gift. It felt like a gift from God because I felt like I was being used.



A MONGOLIAN EXCHANGE STUDENT, ESTHER

I also remember receiving a gift box from a Pastor in Mongolia when I was in the 5th grade. Learning that there are OCC gift boxes in Korea, I also felt the desire to share the Gospel with children in Mongolia, Ukraine, and the Philippines. It felt so good to receive gifts in a box for the first time. I hope that the children who receive the gifts will also be very happy and come to know Jesus through that joy.



CHRISTIAN ILLUSTRATOR, CHORONG

When I arrived, I began to deeply experience the love of the Holy Spirit. Participating as a volunteer gifted me with so much of God's love and grace. I was so grateful that I could participate as the thought of children receiving these gifts brings me joy!

SHARING THE JOY CAMPAIGN #WHATSINMYBOX?

Samaritan's Purse launched the OCC gift box campaign 'WhatsInMyBox' from September to November 2023. Various influencers participated by packing OCC gift boxes, writing letters, and experiencing the ministry. They then encouraged participation from the general public, churches, and organizations.



ENGAGING THE HEART WITH ALL SENSES - WHAT'S IN MY BOX?

"Often, things that cannot be expressed in words are expressed through music. That's why we prepared a kalimba, an instrument, so that the child receiving the gift can enjoy using their other senses."



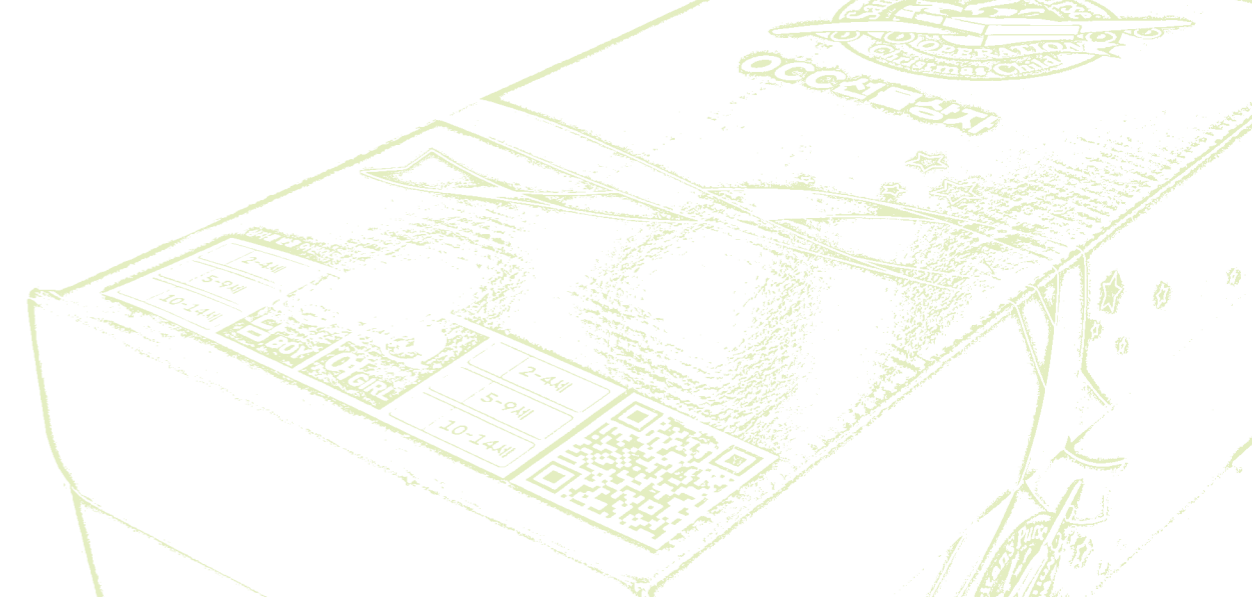
Popular singer Jadu and jazz pianist Oh Hwa-pyeong, known for their fresh and sophisticated style, participated in the heartwarming campaign of OCC gift box #WhatsInMyBox, sharing the gifts they prepared. Engaging hearts and spreading emotions, Jadu and Oh Hwa-pyeong, as musicians, included instruments and sketchbooks for children in the gift boxes, expressing the hope that their lives, once dark, would be illuminated by God's covenant rainbow.

PASTOR MICHELLE'S WARM AND FRIENDLY "WHAT'S IN MY BOX"

"In an era where giving and receiving gifts has become too convenient by taking place heavily on a digital platform, preparing the gift box first hand felt like shopping for a friend."



Rev. Michelle Woo, a passionate Worship Pastor at Bundang Manna Church, introduced how to pack OCC gift boxes, filled them with sincere prayers for the children who would receive them and poured her heart into the boxes.



BUMKEY AND JIAAN'S EXCITING WHAT'S IN MY BOX?

"We've been on short-term missions but participating in missional activities at home with my son was a very meaningful experience."



Singer Bumkey, known for his unique voice and rhythm, and his smiling son, Jian (9 years old), joined the #WhatsInMyBox campaign, purchasing and packing gifts, and even including heartfelt letters. "Friend, I hope you like my gift from Korea, and I want to tell you that God loves you."

DOUBLE THE JOY - RICKY KIM'S WHAT'S IN MY BOX?




"How can such happiness be given with such a simple box? Nevertheless, the gifts really miraculously filled the children's needs!"



Ricky's lovely children, Taerin, Tao, and Taela, and wife, Ryu Seung-joo, together filled the gift boxes to be overflowing with warm prayers. However, above all, the Kim family shared that the most significant gift was the 12-step discipleship program the local children will receive along with the gifts.

HOW ARE OCC GIFT BOXES DELIVERED LOCALLY?



Special transportation methods are used to deliver gift boxes to the most remote and isolated locations.   

To reach remote areas away from the city, motorcycles, tractors, and trains are utilized, and even canoes and boats are used to transport gift boxes across lakes.

Sometimes, generators are loaded onto motorcycles that travel for three hours to meet children in villages without electricity.

In muddy mountain trails, elephants or horses are sometimes loaded with gift boxes, while camels also cross deserts, delivering the Gospel along with gift boxes.

Until the day when every child embraces the Gospel in their arms, Samaritan's Purse runs tirelessly, even to the most remote and rugged places, carrying the Gospel in a gift box.



2023 COUNTRIES RECEIVING OCC GIFT BOXES

10.6
MILLION TO
OCC GIFT BOX
OVER 100 COUNTRIES

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Benin | South Africa | Paraguay | Ukraine |
| Cameroon | Zambia | Peru | Bahamas |
| Central African Republic | Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) | Uruguay | Belize |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | Ghana | Bulgaria | Guyana |
| Equatorial Guinea | Liberia | Croatia | Haiti |
| Republic of the Congo | Guinea-Bissau | Estonia | Jamaica |
| Burundi | Costa Rica | Latvia | New Caledonia |
| Kenya | El Salvador | Lithuania | Solomon Islands |
| South Sudan | Nicaragua | North Macedonia | Suriname |
| Uganda | Dominican Republic | Moldova | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Angola | Guatemala | Montenegro | Turks and Caicos Islands |
| Botswana | Honduras | Poland | Tuvalu |
| Eswatini | Mexico | Romania | United States |
| Lesotho | Panama | Serbia | Cambodia |
| Madagascar | Argentina | Slovakia | Fiji |
| Malawi | Brazil | Armenia | Papua New Guinea |
| Mozambique | Chile | Belarus | Philippines |
| Namibia | Colombia | Georgia | Thailand |
| Seychelles | Ecuador | Mongolia | Vietnam |

Not including countries with restricted access.
(For security reasons, the names of these countries will not be disclosed.)



OCC GIFT BOX DONATION AND PARTICIPATION GUIDE



Join in with your family, friends, and church community to participate in Operation Christmas Child!

Experience the joy of filling the gift boxes and engaging in effective missions work by sharing the Gospel. Share the joy with your loved ones as you participate in spreading the love of God to the ends of the earth!



Order your OCC Gift Boxes

We provide empty OCC gift boxes for free. Please fill the box with items and send it to the designated location.



Funding OCC Gift Boxes (₩40,000/box)

With a donation of 40,000 won, Samaritan's Purse will fill a OCC gift box on your behalf and deliver it to an unreached child.



Supporting OCC Overseas Shipping and Discipleship (₩20,000/box)

The donation will be used for the international shipping of OCC gift boxes, the production of 12-lesson discipleship training materials, and the training of local teachers.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE DONATION GUIDE

Recurring Donation | Make a monthly donation by selecting a specific items and amount.

One-time Donation | Support the areas that need help the most or where you wish to contribute with a one-time donation.

Prayer Partner | Become a prayer partner of Samaritan's Purse Korea.

Contact us

E-mail: dm@samaritanspurse.or.kr

Tel: 02-2105-1800

*A donation receipt can be issued for in-kind and cash donations excluding the gifts inside the OCC gift boxes.

*New donors will receive a welcome kit with information about the organization and its ministries by mail. (Only if a mailing address is provided)



Become a Prayer Partner



Donate

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복음을 전하는 통로

Our mission is to proclaim Jesus
through all these ministries.



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Samaritan's Purse

Seoul, Jongno-gu, Jong-ro 47, SC Building 13th floor | 02-2105-1800 |
www.samaritanspurse.or.kr

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