

# SHOEBOX NEWS



*'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven.'* *Matt. 5:16*

**2015/16 EDITION - UPDATE**

# 900,008

**shoeboxes sent from the UK to**

Albania    Macedonia  
Belarus    Romania  
Bosnia    Serbia  
Central Asia    Swaziland  
Latvia    Middle East  
Liberia    Ukraine  
Lithuania    Zambia

## *With love from Jed*

In 2010, after filling his shoebox with gifts, Jed stuck a photo of himself and his siblings inside the lid of his box and wrote "with love from Jed". In 2011, Jed's Mum Debs received an invite from Jane (a volunteer at the Chesterfield warehouse) to take part in a sponsored event for OCC.



When Debs explained that she was taking her son Jed to play football, Jane said she had had been searching for a mystery Jed since someone took a photo of a boy in Liberia opening a box from Chesterfield with "with love from Jed" in the lid. Jed and his family were overjoyed to see the photo of their shoebox. "It is such a small thing that we can do that brings so much joy. We love choosing the things, packing them up and praying for the recipient too." explained Debs.



## *Shoeboxes for Refugees*

At an immigration camp in Macedonia this year, children (many of whom had fled from their homes) received some Christmas joy in the form of a simple shoebox gift. Our partners described the scene. "The area is crowded with many tired but evidently excited children, curiously trying to find what is going on. They have heard something beautiful will happen but they wonder what. There is a big Christmas tree in the middle, with lots of boxes under it... The distribution starts. Screams of excitement and indescribable joy avalanche as boxes are opened from those exhausted small hands which now have turned into excited opening machines! In this big crowd my attention was attracted by one girl with dirty but still beautiful face and big green eyes. She was sitting on the bench so calmly, slowly unpacking the box and enjoying every moment..... maybe the only moment of happiness since she left her home."

**The local Church together with Samaritan's Purse, have been working with the refugees offering food, clothes and other relief items to ease their journey.**



*Globally, 11,213,010  
shoebox gifts were sent to  
children in over  
100 countries - amazing!*

### The Greatest Journey Programme

Each shoebox is a tangible expression of God's amazing love - but a shoebox is just the beginning. It's also an opportunity for our church partners to invite children to learn about Jesus through The Greatest Journey.

The Greatest Journey consists of 12 fun, interactive Bible based lessons taught by trained local teachers within their communities and churches.

Children who complete the course will experience a Graduation ceremony where they will receive a certificate and a New Testament Bible in their own language. We are able to train the teachers, provide all the study materials and a New Testament Bible for just £5 per child.

### Shoeboxes and Storm Desmond

"Sunderland was always going to be a very challenging export. 11,246 shoeboxes (1,080 cartons) to be moved 100m from an old school building to a waiting lorry. The export was on Saturday 5th December, the day Storm Desmond appeared! Heavy trolleys, once empty would blow down the street, and at one point the rear doors of the lorry broke free like a huge sail! 5 hours later and every carton was safely on board the lorry.

Special thanks to Lou Jefferson, Phil Saul and the team who packed the lorry perfectly - astonishing given the conditions."

Ian Proudler (Regional Manager for North East)



*Why don't you pack a  
shoebox this year?*

*Here's how to get involved....*

- 1 Get an empty medium sized shoebox and wrap the box and lid separately in decorative paper.
- 2 Decide if your gift is for a boy or a girl and the age category and attach the appropriate label (from our leaflet/website) on the outside of the lid.
- 3 Fill your shoebox with a variety of new gifts that a child will love. Why not add a personal note and photo, and you may also like to pray for the child who will receive your box?
- 4 Include a £3 shipping donation for each shoebox you fill. If you make this payment online, you can print out a barcode and place it inside your shoebox on top of the contents. This will enable us to tell you the **country** your shoebox gets sent to.
- 5 Secure your shoebox with an elastic band and take it to your nearest drop off point between 1-18 November. All sites will be listed on the website from October onwards at : [www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk](http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk).

### COMING SOON!

**Look out for our 2016 campaign film where we go back to Liberia to distribute shoeboxes after Ebola ravaged the nation, and see the impact of The Greatest Journey programme on the local community.**

Release date: May 2016

### Your Shoebox Story

**Vika grew up in an orphanage in the Ukraine.** She told us 'I still remember that feeling of excitement and hope I had when we received a shoebox. We were super excited! I got a little doll, a notebook, toothpaste/toothbrush, soap, a colouring book, a letter and a picture of a family, chopsticks, hairbands, hairbrush, pencils, pens, candy and a little soft bear! It was awesome



Now 27, Vika packs shoeboxes for children just like her. She recently received a photo of a little girl who received one of her shoeboxes. "I can't describe in words how blessed I am to be a part of it! I've been there and I know what it feels like to have no parents, to have nothing. God is an awesome God and I would like to encourage each of you to make a shoebox, and to share hope and love with all these children around the world."



### Pray & Give Thanks

- For each step in the journey of a shoebox: packing, donating, collection, processing, shipment and delivery
- For the shoebox recipients and their families in the countries we deliver to – that they may know God's love and care in their lives
- For those children who get to take part in The Greatest Journey programme, that they will get to discover Jesus and begin their own journey of faith
- For year-round and seasonal volunteers who facilitate this project around the world
- For providing over 135 million shoebox gifts since 1993, and pray for many more children to experience the hope and joy that a shoebox brings this coming season
- For thousands of churches, schools, businesses and organisations that partner with us
- For the many individuals who lovingly pack shoeboxes each year to ensure that a child on the other side of the world will know that they have not been forgotten

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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