

**PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MISSIONS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Rev 23 June 2016

Approved by Session 07/11/2016

OVERVIEW:

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is a project of Samaritan's Purse, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity located in Boone, North Carolina. The objective of OCC is to bring the Gospel to children of the world; children who may not otherwise receive it. Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are gift boxes packed annually by church members throughout the country. The contents are fun, functional and meaningful, and for many bring the message that someone far away cares. The boxes are delivered by churches, during the third week of November, to local drop-off locations. Samaritan's Purse supplements the gift contents with "The Greatest Gift," a colorful presentation of the Gospel in native languages throughout the world. As the shoebox gifts are distributed on the receiving end, local pastors or church leaders present the Gospel in a fun way designed for kids while family and friends listen in.

RESOURCE INFO:

www.samaritanspurse.org

Operation Christmas Child details, ideas, resources, videos, stories, photos, FAQs can all be found online at the Samaritan's Purse web site.

PPC OCC SHOEBOX PARTICIPATION:

- 15 Aug -- No later than mid-August, order any materials needed from Samaritan's Purse to advertise event to congregation, and facilitate participation in the program. All items are available online at the Samaritan's Purse web site.
 - Have ordered handouts in the sanctuary for 6 Nov. Coordinate with PPC secretary for inclusion in folder Bulletins.
- 15 Aug -- Confirm local drop-off location, for 21 Nov delivery.
- 4 Nov -- Advertise in PPC Weekly Email program details and shoebox packing info.
 - Include gift suggestions.
 - Reminder, the shipping \$\$ needs to be included in the envelope; placed in the box. The label indicating contents suitable for which gender, which age to be affixed on top of the box.

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- Quantity and quality important, some kids only ever receive one box and they cherish the contents for years.
- Boxes can be actual cardboard shoeboxes, or the plastic boxes with lids purchased at any discount store (approximately \$1). The plastic boxes become useful for multiple purposes after Christmas.
- Will collect packed shoeboxes each Sunday, 13 and 20 Nov 2016.
- 6 Nov -- Advertise in printed Bulletin program details.
- 6 Nov -- Have a ministry moment during worship to open the program and augment information provided in email and printed bulletin.
- 13 Nov -- Collect shoeboxes.
- 20 Nov -- Collect shoeboxes.
 - Have a ministry moment where children in the church bring all boxes (13 and 20 Nov boxes) to the front of the church, so the total impact of the church giving can be viewed.
 - Request assistance from others to put boxes in transport vehicle after worship.
- 21 Nov -- Volunteers deliver shoeboxes to local drop-off location.

LESSONS LEARNED:

Capture lessons learned in a post-event meeting. Adjust next event accordingly.