



# Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

## Effortless Giving Ideas

1. **Determine a monthly offering amount** for Shoebox gifts and shipping. (Remember that this amount is not your tithe. This is an offering after your tithe.)

This can be a monetary or homemade offering. Children LOVE homemade gifts. So don't let a lack of funds stop you. See Lea for some great homemade gift ideas on a shoestring (or no) budget.
1. **Commit** to a giving habit. For example use 50% of your offering amount for gifts and 50% for a donation to the Samaritan's Purse Fund to pay for purchase of boxes and shipping. (Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse)
2. **Pray now Pray Often** for the children who will receive shoebox gifts. Pray that they hear and respond to the message of salvation. Pray for those who minister to these children. That they will not grow weary in this hard ministry. Pray for protection for the shoeboxes and all those who touch them. Pray that millions come to know Christ through OCC.

## Monthly Gift Focus!

**February - Hats, scarves, gloves & stuffed animals.** All of these items are on sale after February 14th. Many times for 50-75% off.

**March - Quality crafts, games & puzzles.** During Spring Break parents are looking for something to do with their children. Often you can find affordable craft sets at a great price. Games and puzzles should be small enough to fit in a shoebox.

**April - Toys, balls and tools for BOYS.** This month we're all about growing young men. Focus on stuff for boys. Remember that war toys cannot go. See the back for more items not allowed.

**May - Toys, dolls and hair supplies for GIRLS.** Its time to pamper some little girls. Its time to think of gifts that will make a little girl smile.

**June - Hygiene and Toiletries.** Bars of soap, toothbrushes, combs and brushes, wash clothes, band aids, wet wipes. These all make great additions to any shoebox.

**July - Sunglasses, caps, umbrellas and bags.** Everyone needs a little eye protection and something to carry all their new goodies in.

**August - School supplies and coloring books.** May children cherish what we consider the basic. Like their own set of pens, colors and a notebook. I guarantee it will make both boys and girls smile.

**September - Flashlights, batteries and Bibles.** Lets light up their world with God's Word and some literal light.

**October - Clothing items like flipflops, t-shirts and socks.** These items can really bring physical comfort to hurting children.

**November - Life straws and water filters** - Contaminated drinking water kills hundreds of thousands of children each year. Giving them the gift of clean water is a beautiful reminder of a loving God who offers them living water and eternal life.

## DO NOT INCLUDE

Each year we see hundreds of boxes at the Packing Center with gifts that cannot be shipped. These gifts are taken out and donated to local charities.

*Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans*

