

Amazing Stories

People are responding to Operation Christmas Child in amazing -- and inspiring -- ways, as the final push of our campaign unfolds this weekend and on Monday. Stories about parents and children buying gifts for children half a world away, with a prayer that the recipients will have a happy holiday, are told over and over again as the boxes come in at the Campbell Center in Cleveland. I'm sure similar accounts are being related at our facilities all across the country.

The spirit of Christmas is alive and well in the hearts of Americans, and it is vividly defined in their participation in Operation Christmas Child.

Last week, I was invited to talk about the project on WMBW, a Christian radio station in Chattanooga, and I told the story of Lorrunda Kote', the young woman from South Africa who several years ago had prayed for a year that she might receive a Barbie Doll for Christmas. When her parents told her there was no money for Christmas presents, she was crushed. But when Samaritan's Purse delivered shoe boxes to Lorrunda and her two sisters, she opened her gift package to discover a Barbie Doll.

She describes how she was so touched by God's goodness, that out of all the shoe boxes being delivered in many countries, she received the gift that she had prayed for, and that the box sent by a girl from North Carolina changed her opinion of Americans.

After the broadcast, a woman in Georgia who had heard it called Kelly Wilcoxon in my office to say that she had been collecting Barbie Dolls, and had accumulated a total of 50. She asked where she could bring them to donate to Operation Christmas Child, and this week she delivered them -- still in their presentation boxes. That was a considerable sacrifice, and it warmed our hearts to know what she had done. Now, 50 girls somewhere in the world will have an experience similar to that of Lorrunda.

Monday, November 22, is the final day for collection of the shoe boxes. Encourage family members, volunteers, associates and people of your churches and communities to prepare boxes. There is still plenty of time this weekend for people to go shopping and be involved.

On Saturday, November 20, Samaritan's Purse has asked for a moment of prayer for Operation Christmas Child -- at 2 p.m. Eastern time, 1 p.m. Central time, 12 p.m. Mountain time and 11 a.m. Pacific time.

You are encouraged to pray for:

- The worldwide task of collecting, processing and shipping millions of boxes, that God will grant His guidance and protection.
- Ministry partners in some 100 countries, that God will bless their efforts as they deliver the gifts and share the Good News.
- The children who receive the gifts, that they will experience God's love and respond to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

--Beecher Hunter