

## He Needed Pencils

Tatenda, 11, was in his last year of school. His father died when he was 4, and his mother had struggled for years to make ends meet for his school fees, clothing and food. But his mother had taught him to trust God for all his needs and to continue to pray.

Two weeks before exam time, Tatenda mentioned to his mother once again the school supplies he needed for the tests – two pencils, an eraser, a ruler and two pens. “God is faithful” – that’s all his mother could say.

The following Sunday at church, the pastor announced that visitors were coming from Operation Christmas Child. Tatenda received a gift box and a gospel booklet. On the way home, he couldn’t hold back the excitement of finding out what was in the box. He opened it and shouted with joy at the sight of a 12-pack of pencils, a 10-pack of pens, a calculator and socks. He and his mother sat by the roadside and carefully looked at the rest of the contents of the box. There were two t-shirts, a wristwatch, two toothbrushes, two tubes of toothpaste, soaps, towels and sweets.

His mother sang the *God Is Faithful* chorus all the way home. Just at the right time, God had answered their prayers. Everything Tatenda needed – and then some – had been provided. The next morning, Tatenda’s mother went to their pastor and shared with him how God had touched the lives of her son and herself.

Over and over again, stories surface about how God directs shoe boxes filled with items that meet the needs of those who receive them. That will be the case again this year as Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home participate in Operation Christmas Child. We are down to the final four days of this project. The end of the day on Monday, November 20, is the deadline for collection of the boxes. They will then go to Samaritan’s Purse processing centers, and on by a variety of transportation means to the hands and hearts of children in more than 100 countries.

It isn’t too late to encourage our associates, families, churches, schools, businesses and civic clubs to join us in this endeavor.

There are more Tatendas depending on the faithfulness of a loving God.

--Beecher Hunter