

# Spiritual Impact Stories

## **THAILAND:**

Chadathip was impressed with the change in her daughter after she participated in the Operation Christmas Child discipleship program and accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior. "She learned to be responsible and her grades went up, and the teachers like her. Then I asked her what makes her different, and she said God changed her life. She said she prays and asks God to help her, and God listens to her prayers," said Chadathip. "So now I'm interested in wanting to know God. ... I'm very pleased to know that God cares for me and I want to know Him."

## **PHILIPPINES:**

Every night before she went to sleep, 10-year-old Jonalyn prayed fervently that God would provide her with shoes to wear to school. Her mother did not have enough money to buy her a pair. One Sunday morning she received a surprise at church when her teacher announced that God had blessed the children with some special gifts. She grew nervous and excited as the teacher handed her a colorful box. Inside was a pair of shoes that fit her exactly! "I was so happy and thankful to God that He answered my prayer through Operation Christmas Child," said Jonalyn. "Praise the Lord!"

## **ZIMBABWE:**

Thirteen-year-old Mary received a shoe box gift at a distribution in a rural church in Chinhoyi. Two weeks later she participated in the Operation Christmas Child discipleship program and received Jesus as her Savior. She wrote a thank you note expressing how much the Bible lessons had impacted her life: "From the lessons I came to know more about Jesus. I was eager to know more about the miracles He did and about His holy life. I want to follow Him and His commandments so that one day I will meet Him. I also want to help my two younger brothers to get to know Jesus too."

## **ANGOLA:**

From Adelaide, age 13: "You are doing good work because the shoe boxes you gave to the children brought happiness to the whole congregation. I mean parents and children both. Thank you very much. I wish a life full of prosperity, joy, and happiness for you and your family. May God bless you always."

## **MALAWI:**

Thirteen-year-old Kitty Chapambali experienced a remarkable change of heart that surprised even her after she enrolled in the Operation Christmas Child discipleship program and discovered how much God loves her. "I have learned to forgive. I have forgiven my father for deserting us for another woman. I was bitter and my schoolwork suffered too because I hated most people. I just felt life was unfair. Through the Bible lessons, I have peace. I give all my worries to God and it works. I have learned to read my Bible every day. I know God has forgiven me for hurting many people with my bitterness. Continue sending these lessons to help my friends."

## **MADAGASCAR:**

From Ricky, age 10: "I am not among those who received a gift through Operation Christmas Child. But my friend did, and my friend invited me to come to a Bible class. I never knew about Jesus before. I took part in the club. I enjoyed the songs and the lessons. Now I love Jesus so much."

**SLOVAKIA:**

"Our family is poor and with shame I confess to you that your Operation Christmas Child boxes were the first and only gifts we received in our lives."

**UKRAINE:**

"My name is Ruslan. I am 13 years old. I do not have a mother and dad. They died in 2002. You can't imagine how glad I am to get a gift and Bible lessons from you. Through all of it I understand that God exists in my life."

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:**

From a local pastor: "In the town of Azua two new churches were formed as a result of the Operation Christmas Child shoe box distributions, and they are doing follow up with the children through Bible lessons. One of the churches has 57 children and the other has 37. Some of the parents of the children are studying the lessons also."

**NICARAGUA:**

From Eliezer: "The gift box that I got touched me a lot because it included a letter and a picture of the child who sent me the gift. I'm attending Bible classes and I like them a lot. They teach me great things about God, how to love my enemies, how to study God's Word, and also to be obedient to God and to give my whole life to Him."

**CHILE:**

At the Pentecostal Mission Church of Valparaiso, Pablo and his mother were invited to come to the Operation Christmas Child distributions. They came to the party and Pablo received a shoe box gift and the book "The Greatest Gift." Pablo was invited to return the next week to participate in the discipleship program with Bible lessons. What is exciting is that Pablo's mother and father said they wanted to participate in the Bible club classes too! They accompanied Pablo to each class until the course was finished, and they received certificates along with their son.

**COLOMBIA:**

"Greetings to you all. I just want to tell you thank you for the Bible lessons that you sent us. I learned many things. I also received Jesus in my heart and learned to forgive, and today Jesus is my hero. I'm happy that all of my family is in God's hands."

**KAZAKHSTAN:**

From Narek, age 9: "I thank God for these great toys which He gave me. I am so happy. I received a letter and a picture from a boy whose name is Sam. Thanks to God and to Sam."

**PAKISTAN:**

"My name is Nadeem. I had no jacket at all and I always desired to have one. I was really glad when I received a jacket in my shoe box."

**INDIA:**

"After the tsunami, many people came to support our families. We used to get the same items again and again from different people. But our children got a gift box which took away all the tears of the tsunami from our family members. Their happiness is our happiness."