



Prayer Network Update

JANUARY 2020



Whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.

—Matthew 21:22

RIGHT: Children in Malawi anxiously await opening their Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts.

God Uses Operation Christmas Child to Draw Children to Christ in Malawi

In the largely illiterate community of Chigombe, people are prone to alcoholism. Aware of the need in these families, a ministry partner named Rose hosted an Operation Christmas Child outreach event to share the Gospel and deliver shoebox gifts to children. As a result, 48 children put their faith in Jesus Christ. Their parents not only thanked Rose for the precious gifts, but asked if they could learn about Jesus, too! This led nine parents to become believers as well. The Greatest Journey, our 12-lesson follow-up discipleship course, is now being taught to 23 children in the community, and Rose is hosting a Bible study for adult women as well.

A woman named Mesi* lives in another village in this southern African nation. Her husband adheres to another religion, but she boldly follows Jesus and teaches The Greatest Journey to local boys and girls. Last year, 103 children from her husband's religion graduated from the course. This year, Mesi anticipates distributing shoebox gifts and offering the course to an additional 106 children, 80 of whom do not know Jesus.

Even though the parents of these children are not Christians, they encourage their sons and daughters to attend the classes because of the changes that take place in their lives. These families also warmly welcome the Bibles The Greatest Journey participants receive at graduation. Praise God for how He is using Mesi to reach out to this community, and pray that the Gospel will continue to spread in this nation of more than 19 million people!

*Name changed for security

Learn more at samaritanaspurse.org/occ

FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PRAYER NETWORK PARTNERS ONLY. PLEASE DO NOT SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA.



PRAYER IS FOR EVERY MOMENT OF OUR LIVES, NOT JUST FOR TIMES OF SUFFERING OR JOY. PRAYER IS REALLY A PLACE, A PLACE WHERE YOU MEET GOD IN GENUINE CONVERSATION.

Billy Graham

Operation Christmas Child International Prayer Requests: **SOUTHERN AFRICA: January 2020**

WEEK 1: JANUARY 1-4

ANGOLA

- Praise God for a successful volunteer conference in October. More than 130 volunteers left encouraged and fully equipped for the upcoming season.
- Pray for the volunteers who attend the upcoming vision meetings as well as ministry partner and teacher trainings.

BOTSWANA

- Praise God for our volunteer conference in October, which equipped and strengthened a total of 111 volunteers to be good stewards of the Gospel.
- Ask for divine connections and favor within the San tribe communities as they are an unreached people group in Botswana.
- Thank the Lord for the completion of The Greatest Gift booklet in the San tribal language of Naro.
- Pray for our upcoming trainings for Operation Christmas Child ministry partners and teachers. Ask that they will be encouraged and fully equipped for the new season.

ESWATINI (formerly Swaziland)

- Praise God for the newly recruited and selected National Leadership Team.
- Thank the Lord for the 5,100 children enrolled in The Greatest Journey this past season.
- Pray for the recruiting and selecting of our National Leadership Team prayer and resource coordinator.
- Pray for the children who will receive shoebox gifts during the upcoming season to respond positively to the Gospel.

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WEEK 2: JANUARY 5-11

LESOTHO

- Thank the Lord for the boys and girls who enrolled in The Greatest Journey this past year.
- Praise God for the 4,830 children who decided to follow Christ.
- Pray for powerful and effective trainings for ministry partners and The Greatest Journey teachers.

MADAGASCAR

- Thank the Lord for our volunteer conference this past October where 84 volunteers were encouraged and equipped for the next Operation Christmas Child season.
- Praise God that we will be receiving 171,120 gift boxes during this upcoming season.
- Pray for complete healing for the National Leadership Team resource coordinator as she has been going through cancer treatment.

MALAWI

- Praise God for using The Greatest Journey to reach over 80,000 children.
- Thank the Lord for the successful recruitment and selection of volunteers to grow the evangelistic programs in the regions of Blantyre and Lilongwe.
- Ask for effective partnerships that will result in evangelism and discipleship among children.
- Pray for God's intervention in Malawi's political controversy. Ask that humility, love, and tolerance will reign.

WEEK 3: JANUARY 12-18

MOZAMBIQUE

- Praise God for the newly recruited and selected National Leadership Team.



ABOVE: Cartons of shoebox gifts make their way to children in Malawi.

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- Thank the Lord that we were able to attend our first volunteer conference in September.
- Pray for the 14,800 children who will hear the Gospel through Operation Christmas Child, and ask that they would receive Christ.

NAMIBIA

- Praise God for a very successful volunteer conference. More than 130 volunteers were refreshed and encouraged.
- Thank the Lord for the selection of a new Regional Leadership Team in the Khomas region.
- Praise God for the over 27,000 children who enrolled in The Greatest Journey.
- Pray against road accidents and for the protection of Operation Christmas Child volunteers as our teams travel around conducting training events.

SENSITIVE COUNTRY

- Praise God that a total of 47 children enrolled in The Greatest Journey.
- Thank the Lord for four children that live in a spiritually dark community. They started The Greatest Journey class, received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, and went on to graduate from the course. Pray that they would continue to grow deep in their faith.

WEEK 4: JANUARY 19-25

SEYCHELLES

- Praise God for several graduations of The Greatest Journey.
- Ask for the right ministry partners to work with us this new season to achieve our target of 1,500 children hearing the Gospel.
- Pray for a passionate team to train and inspire others in the vision of reaching children in Seychelles for the Gospel.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Thank the Lord that over 85,000 children enrolled in The Greatest Journey this season.

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- Praise God that more than 65,000 of these boys and girls decided to believe in Jesus.
- Pray for the recruitment and selection of a new Regional Leadership Team in Gauteng.
- Pray for the upcoming vision meetings as well as ministry partner and teacher trainings. Ask that each volunteer will be encouraged and fully equipped for the upcoming season.

WEEK 5: JANUARY 26-31

ZAMBIA

- Praise God for the newly recruited and selected National and Regional Leadership Teams based in Lusaka.
- Pray for a quick learning period for our new teams.

ZIMBABWE

- Praise God for 16 new churches that were planted through Operation Christmas Child outreach events this season, and for existing churches that grew and were strengthened through them as well.
- Praise God for over 40,000 child evangelists who graduated The Greatest Journey this season and are geared to pass on the Gospel message to the ends of the earth.
- Pray for The Greatest Journey trainings to inspire teachers to be passionate about discipling children.

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