



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2025



STATISTICS FOR BULGARIA

Shoeboxes distributed: 30,336

Children enrolled in
The Greatest Journey: 9,533

The Greatest Journey Teachers
trained: 572

Number of children enrolled in The
Greatest Journey who made faith
commitments: 2,215

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

—Matthew 21:22

PRAYER NETWORK UPDATE



100 Shoeboxes. 100 Children. One Life-Changing Message in Bulgaria

A message from one of the Operation Christmas Child team in Bulgaria.

We want to share with you, with deep gratitude and great joy, what God did through the distribution of 100 Christmas shoeboxes from Samaritan's Purse.

From the moment the boxes arrived, we sensed God leading us to a primary school. When we spoke with the principal, it became clear that God had already gone before us and prepared the way. She warmly welcomed the initiative and gave us complete freedom to distribute the shoeboxes as an evangelistic celebration. The school is the only one in the region where religion is taught.

On December 23rd, just before the Christmas holidays, we visited five classes, two first-grade classes, two second-grade classes and one fourth-grade class.

We didn't simply leave the shoeboxes at the school. We went into every classroom, personally placed a gift into each child's hands, and, most importantly, shared the story of Jesus and the hope of the Gospel.

The children joined in the celebration too. One second-grade class sang a beautiful song about Jesus, while another performed the traditional Bulgarian *răchenitsa* dance. We also had the opportunity to share the Gospel with the teachers and give them books and Gospel materials prepared by the church.

After leaving the school, we visited several families living in poverty in the surrounding neighbourhood. More shoeboxes were given, more homes were reached, and once again, the gift opened the door to share about Christ. And then came the most incredible news. Of the 100 children who received a shoebox, 93 have now registered for The Greatest Journey, and some have already begun!

WOW! Let's take a minute to think about that. 100 shoeboxes became 100 opportunities to hear about Jesus. 100 gifts opened doors into a community. 93 children took another step to discover God's Word. This is why every shoebox matters. A shoebox may seem like a simple gift, but in God's hands it can open a door, reach a family, and give a child the opportunity to hear the Gospel and experience the love of Jesus. We thank God for every open door and every child who heard the Good News. And we thank every person who packed, prayed, gave, transported and supported these shoeboxes. You may never meet the child who receives your box or know their story, but your simple act of packing can have an impact far beyond Christmas, and far beyond what you can see. So let's pack more. Let's pray more. Let's believe for more. Because behind every shoebox is a child, and behind every child is an opportunity for the Gospel. One shoebox can make a difference. Imagine what God can do through thousands more.

Prayer request for Bulgaria

Pray for open doors for the Gospel — that churches, schools and communities across Bulgaria would welcome opportunities to share the love of Jesus, and that many children and families would hear and respond to the Good News.

Pray for the children who receive shoeboxes — that each gift would remind them that they are loved and valued, and that many would continue into The Greatest Journey, growing in their understanding of God's Word and putting their faith in Jesus.

Pray for Bulgarian churches and ministry leaders — for strength, wisdom and boldness as they reach children, families and those living in poverty. Pray that God would use the local church to bring lasting hope, transformation and new believers throughout Bulgaria.

Additional prayers

Pray for Nepal

Pray for those affected by the flooding, for families who have lost loved ones, homes, possessions and livelihoods. Pray for comfort, strength and practical help as communities begin to recover.

Pray for churches and Samaritan's Purse teams, for wisdom, protection and resources as they serve families affected by the floods. Pray that their practical support would open doors to share the hope and love of Jesus.

Pray for children and vulnerable families, that God would protect those most at risk and provide for their needs. Pray that, even in the midst of devastation, children and families would encounter the hope of Christ and know that they are not forgotten.

Pray for

Pray for those affected by Ebola, for healing and protection for those who are sick, their families and vulnerable communities. Pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones and strength for those facing fear and uncertainty.

Pray for healthcare workers and the Samaritan's Purse teams for wisdom, courage, protection and the resources they need to care for patients and prevent further spread. Pray for those working tirelessly on the front lines.

Pray for the Church to be a light in the crisis, that churches and ministry partners would bring practical help, compassion and the hope of Jesus to communities. Pray that God would open doors for the Gospel even in the midst of suffering.

Pray for the upcoming Operation Christmas Child season

Pray for targets to be reached and exceeded, that God would inspire churches, schools, families and individuals to pack more shoeboxes than ever before, so that even more children can hear the Gospel.

Pray for every child who will receive a shoebox, that each box would be much more than a gift; that it would open a door for the Gospel and lead children to discover the hope and love of Jesus through The Greatest Journey.

Pray for every person involved, for staff, volunteers, church collection centres. Pray for unity, energy, provision and boldness, and that God would use every shoebox to accomplish His purposes and reach children around the world.