



Into the Amazon

with Shoebox Gifts and the Gospel

In the jungles of Peru about 100 miles from the closest town, Operation Christmas Child hosted the first of many outreach events for the children of a community rife with alcohol abuse and ancestor worship. Known as the Chapra, this ethnic group lives isolated from the outside world.

Chapra boys and girls riveted their attention on the colorful posters Samaritan's Purse had brought on the weeklong journey upriver to illustrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ—a message that had only recently reached their region. The team surprised each child with their own shoebox full of toys and other fun items as well as *The Greatest Gift* Gospel booklet—the first printed resource in their language.

A Chapra father and son, Masorashi and Moises, had recently learned about Jesus Christ through a missionary. Giving their hearts to the Lord, they wanted the 31 Chapra communities around them to have that same life-changing hope. Masorashi began pastoring, but his message started to multiply exponentially when Operation Christmas Child helped him produce a Gospel resource in his own language!

One Chapra mother said the Gospel booklet helped her daughter, Kati, share the Good News with others. “She tells her friends about Jesus,” the mother said.

In less than a week, Operation Christmas Child hosted 15 events in 12 Chapra communities.

As a result, 1,058 children received a shoebox gift and a copy of *The Greatest Gift* in their own language. Follow-up discipleship lessons for the boys and girls are now being held in these communities.

“Having the opportunity to have the booklet *The Greatest Gift* translated into their language is something that is incredible,” said a missionary partner of Operation Christmas Child who helped with the translation. “It’s something that will transcend generations.”



For more of the Chapra story, scan
or visit samaritanpurse.org/occ-peru





Gift Suggestions to Get You Started

Gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are delivered together with **the Good News of Jesus Christ** as expressions of God's immense love for a child. ***So be sure to make them ...***

FUN: Include a quality "wow" item to delight the child, such as ...

- Soccer ball with pump
- Dolls and stuffed animals

FULL: Fill with school supplies and personal care items, such as ...

- Pens, pencils, crayons, and notebooks
- Sunglasses and flashlights

PERSONALIZED: Make sure every shoebox is unique and covered in prayer. Include a note of encouragement and photo of you, your family, church, or group to further personalize the gift. These personal letters often are children's favorite shoebox items!

You Can Even Learn Where Your Shoebox Went!

A donation of \$10 per shoebox is **critical** to help cover collecting, processing, and shipping gifts to equip local churches for evangelism and discipleship.

If you give that donation online through **Follow Your Box**, you can discover the country destination of your gift!



**"Every box is an
opportunity for a child to
hear God loves them."**

—Franklin Graham,
President,
Samaritan's Purse



Pictured with granddaughter Georgia

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