Missions & Relief | 27 November 2026 | English article

Latest: Operation Christmas Child Plans First Venezuela Delivery - 20,000 Shoeboxes Airlift Set for Dec 1

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"I don't want a box. I want parents."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Samaritan's Purse has been given permission to fly shoebox gifts directly from the United States into Venezuela for the first time ever - and the first airlift, carrying 20,000 shoeboxes, is set for 1 December. The boxes, packed by families and churches across America during National Collection Week, will reach children in a country still rebuilding after back-to-back earthquakes in June. It is a small cargo by the standards of world relief - and a very big first.

Franklin Graham, the president and chief executive of Samaritan's Purse, tells the story of a boy he met in a refugee camp, a child who had lost both parents in war. When workers offered him a shoebox gift, the boy said something Graham has never forgotten: "I don't want a box. I want parents."

Inside that box, the boy found a photograph of the couple who had packed it. Letters followed, then a visit - and about a year later, the couple adopted him.

"This is a kid who said, 'I don't want a box. I want parents.' Well, God put the parents in the box," Graham said.

Operation Christmas Child Venezuela: First-Ever Direct Airlift

National Collection Week, when Americans drop off packed shoeboxes at churches and community centres, ended on Monday 23 November. Around 5,000 drop-off locations across the United States took part, and every box handed in would recieve the same careful handling before its long journey. The 2026 global goal is 12.8 Million shoebox gifts - up from 12.2 Million collected worldwide in 2025, of which 10.9 Million came from the United States.

Each box starts with an ordinary family at a kitchen table. A shoebox is filled with small toys, school supplies, soap and a personal note, then sealed, prayed over and dropped off - and from there it joins millions of others on a journey to a child its packers will never meet.

The Venezuela delivery is the new development. Samaritan's Purse has sent more than 330,000 shoeboxes into Venezuela over the past 20 years, but never directly from the United States - until now, when permission was granted for the 1 December airlift. The boxes are part of the relief effort after the back-to-back earthquakes that struck Venezuela in June 2026.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

Continue on FaithStories -- the complete article, with sources and related stories:
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/news-1208.html?utm_source=pdf_guide&utm_medium=organic_pdf

More from FaithStories

FaithStories - Home
https://faithstories.onrender.com/

(Spanish) «Su sufrimiento nos duele»: los obispos de Centroamérica abrazan hoy a los 140 sacerdotes nicaragüenses exiliados
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/es/news-1215.html

(Portuguese) Adore Movimento reúne 1.500 pessoas em Manaus e vira encontro mensal de adoração
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/pt/news-1216.html

(French) Aujourd'hui : Mgr Noblot accueille les agriculteurs de France en pèlerinage à Lourdes
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/fr/news-1217.html