Helping in Jesus’ Name

Samaritan’s Purse
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RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT
Samaritan’s Purse Australia Ltd
ABN 84 070 722 404
NZ CHARITIES NO: CC36649

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY
Samaritan’s Purse Australasia
-Operation Christmas Child
ABN 80 152 505 621

SHOEBOX UPDATE

ISSUED FEBRUARY 2017

Please pass this booklet on to a friend!
We have experienced an unprecedented level of generosity from our supporters in 2016, as we received a record number of 346,592 Operation Christmas Child gift-filled shoeboxes to give to children in desperate need. The following pages give a brief description of each of the nations where we sent these wonderful shoeboxes.

Globally, over 11.4 million children received a gift-filled shoebox, bringing Good News and Great Joy to a record number of children. We thank the Lord for the wonderful support received worldwide; for this program not only blesses children, but also brings great blessing to local churches around the world that hand-deliver these gifts to the children.

The Greatest Journey discipleship program, which is offered with parental consent to many children who receive Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, continues to grow strongly. In the previous season, 38,568 children in our region enrolled in the 12-lesson course, and globally we are expecting over 4 million children to enrol in 2017.

Our other projects, including water, sanitation and hygiene; health and nutrition; education and vocational training; people at risk; animals, agriculture and livelihood; church resourcing; and disaster relief, continue to bless tens of thousands of people due to the wonderful generosity of our supporters in Australia and New Zealand.

A notable milestone of the year has been the funding of four brand new school buildings and one preschool building in Cambodia, currently being constructed and due to be opened in 2017. This brings the total number of schools constructed in Cambodia over the last four years to 20, and we are looking forward to continuing this much-needed construction program.

Another milestone is the rebuilding of eight kindergartens in Vanuatu that were destroyed during Cyclone Winston.

Please see a list of all our 2016 projects on pages 25 to 26 of this booklet.

A special project by Consumer News and Business Channel (CNBC)* has recognised Samaritan’s Purse and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (our sister organisation) as being in The Top 10 Charities Changing the World in 2016. Our international President, Franklin Graham said, ‘It’s an honour to be recognised because we take seriously the trust our donors put in us to make a significant impact – physically and spiritually – on people in need.’

Although this report refers to our headquarters in America, we follow the same policies regarding donors’ funds in Australia and New Zealand.

Above all, we thank the Lord for His great blessings and enabling us to reach many people in so many countries, without discrimination of gender, age, ethnicity, political or religious beliefs.

God bless you,

Jorge Rodrigues
Executive Director

**Vietnam**

- **Population**: 95,261,021
- **HDI*** (out of 188 countries): 116
- **Religion****: 
  - Buddhism: 81.8%
  - Catholicism: 7.9%
  - Other: 3.7%

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**Cambodia**

- **Population**: 15,957,223
- **HDI*** (out of 188 countries): 143
- **Religion****: 
  - Buddhism: 96.9%
  - Islam: 1.9%
  - Christianity: 0.4%
  - Other: 0.8%

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106,157 shoeboxes were sent to children in Cambodia in 2016.

21,165 shoeboxes were sent to children in Vietnam in 2016.

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*The Human Development Index (HDI) is a rank of a country’s average achievement in three key dimensions of human development: health, education and income. [http://hdr.undp.org/en](http://hdr.undp.org/en)

Fast Facts:

Population: 68,200,824
HDI*: 93 (out of 188 countries)
Religion**: Buddhism 93.6%, Islam 4.9%, Christianity 1.2%, Other 0.3%

98,480 shoeboxes were sent to children in Thailand in 2016.

Fast Facts:

Population: 44,209,733
HDI*: 81 (out of 188 countries)
Religion**: Orthodox Majority

20,671 shoeboxes were sent to children in Ukraine in 2016.
Fast Facts:

SAMOA

- Population: 198,926
- HDI*: 105 (out of 188 countries)
- Religion**: Christianity 76.8%, Other 23.2%

10,890 shoeboxes were sent to children in Samoa in 2016.

Fast Facts:

FIJI

- Population: 915,303
- HDI*: 90 (out of 188 countries)
- Religion**: Christianity 54.1%, Hinduism 27.9%, Islam 6.3%, Other 11.7%

52,538 shoeboxes were sent to children in Fiji in 2016.
We were privileged to participate in an Operation Christmas Child distribution in a remote and extremely poor village in Cambodia, called Tatrei. The distribution was done on the grounds of a primary school that is being built by Samaritan’s Purse for the 181 children who currently attend school in two old, decaying wooden shacks. The community is very excited to see the new school building being constructed, and they brought their children to see us working there. The children played wonderful games prior to the Operation Christmas Child distribution; they played soccer against our team (and beat us!), even though some of them were barely of school-going age. The Good News of Jesus Christ was shared, and together with their shoeboxes, each child received a beautifully illustrated book containing the story of Jesus.

A few hours after the distribution, we were delighted to receive a visit on the school grounds by a mother with her beautifully dressed daughter, Srey (not her real name). Srey is three years old and the shoebox she received contained a gorgeous white satin skirt, pink blouse, and a lot of wonderful necklaces as well as a silver tiara. When Srey was dressed up at home with this beautiful ensemble, she was so joyous that she asked her mother, Please take me back to the strangers so that they can see me with my new clothes and take a photograph.$

Operation Christmas Child brings Good News and Great Joy, and that is what truly happened in Tatrei. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our supporters for partnering with us...
Samaritan's Purse President Franklin Graham delivered Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in Yangon, Myanmar, on November 19. He was in the country for a multiday evangelistic festival.

This year kicks off the work of Operation Christmas Child in Myanmar. Good news and great joy will be brought to more than 16,000 children through the outreach of 400 local churches.

"Christmas is all about giving. Christmas is about God giving us Jesus Christ His Son," Graham said to the children who participated in Saturday's Operation Christmas Child outreach event. "We've got a gift for you to celebrate God's gift."

At the distribution, Graham shared the Gospel and encouraged the children, who are living in one of Asia's poorest countries. More than 26 percent of Myanmar's population lives in poverty. Agricultural work is the dominant source of income yet its unpredictable, unreliable nature leaves many families struggling to survive.

This Southeast Asian nation has also known its share of natural disasters. Last year, when the country suffered catastrophic flooding that critically affected 1.6 million people, Samaritan's Purse worked through church partners to provide emergency aid. We responded again this year when monsoon season left areas of the country underwater. Operation Christmas Child is poised to communicate God's love to children throughout Myanmar, many of whom have never before had an opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"A shoebox is a tool for evangelism," Graham said. "The box is an opportunity to share the Gospel."

Among the shoebox recipients was War War. She only sees her relatives a few times each year, and although she misses them, she said children at the orphanage have become like family. War War wants to attend college and become an English translator. "The [shoe] box is an opportunity to share the Gospel."
In a small village in Paraguay, the ‘Heart of South America’, Fernando shyly came up to our distribution team to thank us for bringing him an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. He explained his parents would not let him go to church, but today he had heard about Jesus for the first time. ‘More than anything, I want to hear about Jesus,’ he said. ‘Please tell me more.’

Caught up in Fernando’s enthusiasm, our leaders shared as much as they could in the short time they had left there. As the conversation went on, talk turned to something else deep in Fernando’s heart—his favourite football team. Sadly, they had not won a match in a long time. With laughter, we suggested he start looking for another team to support. But Fernando stood firm. ‘You have to learn to lose well,’ he said, and shrugged. ‘Jesus teaches us that even when things are bad it will get better, just like when He rose from the cross.’

What an incredible response from a child who had only learned about Jesus for the first time that day. How wonderful it was to see God’s love, shining so brightly in the heart of South America!
Pastor Sophea Sem is one of the most prominent pastors in Cambodia because of his church planting activities, the fast growth of his main church, and also, because he is the international coordinator for Operation Christmas Child.

His church has developed a program aimed at church planting across the seven regions where Operation Christmas Child is currently being distributed, and because of donors like you, Samaritan’s Purse Australia has been able to fund the first stage of this program.

Pastor Sophea has asked each of the Operation Christmas Child regional leadership teams in Cambodia to identify five evangelistically minded leaders, and to invite them to travel to Pastor Sophea’s church in Phnom Penh for church planting training.

The initial training took place in December 2016, and over 35 people were trained and sent back to their regions with resources and assistance to initiate local bible study groups that will hopefully develop into church plants. We are very encouraged by this initiative of the local church in Cambodia, and would love to stand alongside them over the next few years to help this vision of church planting to become a reality.

If you would like to see a video of Pastor Sophea describing his plan for church planting, please go to samaritanspurse.org.au.

**SECTOR PROJECT STATISTICS**

**SEP 2015 – AUG 2016**

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- Cambodia: 16,442
- Fiji: 3
- Solomon Islands: 5
- Vietnam: 11,718

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- Fiji
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- Vietnam

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**Countries**

- Cambodia
- Fiji
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- Vietnam
Right now, all the 6th graders are saying they want to continue on to 7th grade, which is the start of middle school. This is unprecedented, as there is normally a high dropout rate in most villages: although 83.2% of students complete 6th grade*, only 31.9% enrol in middle school*. The results at Kauk Prech have been so good that the middle school is no longer big enough to accommodate the number of children from this school and other schools in the region, so we are now planning to build four extra classrooms in the middle school.

All the schools in the Banteay Meanchey province where Kauk Prech is located were recently evaluated by the provincial education department for good school management, quality teaching practices, and community involvement. Kauk Prech ranked second highest in the whole province! The transformation of the school has been so stunning that a major international charity worked together with Samaritan’s Purse to bring principals from schools all over the province to Kauk Prech for an exposure visit, to see what is happening at this school so that other schools can benefit from the experience.

We are very thankful to the Lord for these amazing results.

EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL TRAINING

In 2015, we built Kauk Prech school in Cambodia and last year, we implemented the 'We Can Read, We Can Write' program to improve literacy rates. The impact on the students has been truly amazing.


WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) invaded the Sinjar area in August 2014, killing and kidnapping thousands of Yazidis - an ethnic minority group in Iraq. Many of the families in Sinjar fled to Sinjar Mountain, where they held out against ISIS, but most of them eventually fled to the towns and villages surrounding Dohuk, where they now live in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, unfinished buildings, or relatives’ homes.

Samaritan’s Purse drilled one borehole and installed three kilometres of water distribution pipe to help the families still on Sinjar Mountain in October 2015. However, the area is in need of new or repaired water infrastructure for it to be viable for people to return. To further help this persecuted group, Samaritan’s Purse is now rehabilitating another water borehole, which will enable 200 families to gain access to clean water. In addition, Samaritan’s Purse is also providing fuel to run 11 boreholes that have already been rehabilitated, providing water for another 1,000 families for the next six months.

Our team in Northern Iraq values your continued prayer as they work to support and care for the suffering people on Sinjar Mountain.

Often our water projects are relatively easy to implement, but occasionally we meet unexpected obstacles.
We began working in Mongolia with the nomadic herders a number of years ago. Harsh winters caused the demise of 60% of the nation’s herds – approximately 7 million head of cattle – and one in five families lost their entire herd.

Our work continues as we attempt to help families such as the Sukhtsoodols become sustainably independent. Besides supplying breeding stock to affected tribes over the years, we have also taught tribesmen to plant hardy feed for the animals and last year, we expanded our efforts by helping the locals to form Agricultural Cooperatives Mongolia (ACM).

We found that due to the harsh environment, herders were generally not very good at farming vegetables and lacked the required skills for successful vegetable farming. Vegetables are so vital to supplement the herders’ nutrition and to generate cash crops to enable them to educate their children. Through training initiated by some of our Australian supporters, herders like the Sukhtsoodol family learned to build rudimentary hothouses and to farm vegetables successfully, inside the hothouses and on open land.

The Sukhtsoodol family learned quickly, and their harvest has been increasing annually to the point that last year they harvested 1.2 tonnes of nine kinds of vegetables, some of which were sold at market and others were consumed.

We are truly grateful to our wonderful supporters in Australia and New Zealand, who in Jesus’ name enable us to reach as far away as Mongolia.

In response to an urgent United Nations request, Samaritan’s Purse International has sent an emergency field hospital equipped with two operating rooms, over 50 beds, and more than 40 staff to the plains of Nineveh east of Mosul.

This is for the treating of injuries from gunfire, mines, and other explosives as many dozens of civilians are harmed daily in the conflict against ISIS in Iraq. In January, we started the deployment of a mobile medical team to serve alongside the Samaritan’s Purse disaster response team and national staff, who are providing physical and spiritual relief in Jesus’ name. Many of those treated by our mobile team have been without medical care since ISIS took over the area two and a half years ago.

More than 130,000 people have been displaced by the Mosul offensive thus far, and need immediate assistance. Since October we have been distributing World Food Programme rations in multiple evacuation camps—providing monthly supplies of salt, sugar, cooking oil, chickpeas, rice, flour, and beans—to thousands of displaced families. We have also started to distribute water blankets, tarps, hygiene kits, cooking kits, and shoes to displaced families, as well as returnees to towns and villages now clear of ISIS. In many cases, terrorists filled wells in these villages with explosives, destroying access to safe drinking water. Samaritan’s Purse is supplying water filters to families who have returned home, seeking to rebuild their lives.

To support our work in Iraq, please visit our website samaritanspurse.org.au.
Our mission is to help communities with the initial recovery, such as helping to clean up, clearing obstacles left behind from the disaster, mopping up homes and sometimes doing some repairs to homes, such as gyprocking. However, we do this only as resources are made available to us, and we help homeowners who are in financial need.

We recently had disaster relief specialist trainers come to Australia from Samaritan’s Purse International Headquarters, to help train Australians/New Zealanders in international disaster relief. These skills for international disaster relief are somewhat different to those required for domestic disaster relief, however some of the training is applicable.

Some of those people trained have indicated that they would like to assist with domestic disaster relief if needed. That is very welcome as we are still very short of domestic disaster relief volunteers. If you are interested in being a part of our domestic or international disaster relief volunteer teams, please go to samaritanspurse.org.au for more information.

In 2016, our domestic disaster relief department was given a reprieve in that there were no major disasters in Australia where our services were needed. In Australia, we deploy as second responders after the State Emergency Service (SES), fire service, and police have cleared the disaster zones.

Samaritan’s Purse Disaster Relief truck is fully equipped for deployment when disaster strikes.

Of the 11 health professionals who went to Cambodia, there were six registered nurses, one paramedic, one occupational therapist, one physiotherapist and two general practitioners. Local pastors were available at the clinics to offer spiritual support and prayer.

We are planning several short-term medical trips in 2017. If you are a medical professional and our first short-term medical team from Australia and New Zealand went to Cambodia.

In 2016, we continued with our maternity ward building program in remote villages in Cambodia. We also assisted in the building of a nurses’ training facility in South Sudan, and sent our first Australian/New Zealand short-term medical team to Cambodia in November 2016.

Of the 11 health professionals who went to Cambodia, there were six registered nurses, one paramedic, one occupational therapist, one physiotherapist and two general practitioners. Local pastors were available at the clinics to offer spiritual support and prayer.

We are planning several short-term medical trips in 2017. If you are a medical professional and...
With the help of our supporters, we’ve been running a program for several years at Lai Chau Orphanage in Vietnam, to ensure the children have a balanced diet.

Our aim is not only to see Lai Chau Orphanage become completely self-sustainable in providing all the nutritional needs of the children, but also to see as many of the kids as possible learn the necessary skills to support themselves and their families, when they leave the orphanage and are integrated into their community.

Approximately half of the children at Lai Chau Orphanage are physically and/or mentally disabled. Due to the stigma surrounding disability in Vietnam, many of these children were abandoned by their parents, whereas others have lost their parents in an accident or due to illness. The orphanage staff are doing a wonderful job teaching valuable skills to some of the older children, such as 18-year-old Kho, 16-year-old Canh and 13-year-old Khua, all of whom have told us of their excitement in learning skills that have enabled them to support themselves and their families when they leave Lai Chau.

With your help, we would like to see Lai Chau become a place where young people grow up strong and with the life skills to support themselves and their families.
## Sector Projects

**SECTOR** | **PROJECT NAME** | **COUNTRY** | **BENEFICIARIES** | **PEOPLE AT RISK**  
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---  
**Disaster Relief** | **Disaster Rebuild Program** | Vanuatu and Fiji | 10 kindergartens |  
**Disaster Rebuild Program** | **European Refugee Response** | Greece | 144 boys |  
**Disaster Rebuild Program** | **Emergency Water** | Sri Lanka | 100 children |  
**Disaster Rebuild Program** | **Cyclone Winston Response** | Fiji | 35 girls |  
**Disaster Rebuild Program** | **Medical Emergency Response** | Ecuador | 25 children |  
**Disaster Rebuild Program** | **Medical Emergency Response** | Vanuatu and Fiji | 25 children |  
**Disaster Relief** | **Rakiraki Kindergarten** | Fiji | 72,289 people |  
**Disaster Relief** | **Nalauwaki Kindergarten** | Fiji | 72,289 people |  
**Disaster Relief** | **Hurricane Matthew Response** | Haiti | 72,289 people |  
**Disaster Relief** | **Medical Emergency Response** | Iraq | 72,289 people |  
**Water, Sanitation & Hygiene** | **WASH for Communities** | Cambodia | 2,018 people |  
**Water, Sanitation & Hygiene** | **Water for Families** | Cambodia | 4,000 people |  
**Water, Sanitation & Hygiene** | **Spring Box** | Fiji | 500 people |  
**Water, Sanitation & Hygiene** | **Bringing Water to Snuni** | Northern Iraq | 4,800 people (1,200 households) |  
**Water, Sanitation & Hygiene** | **TOTAL BENEFICIARIES** | | 11,718 people |  
**Animals, Agriculture & Livelihoods** | **Winter Disaster Recovery** | Mongolia | 125 people |  
**Animals, Agriculture & Livelihoods** | **Agricultural Cooperatives** | Mongolia | 275 people |  
**Animals, Agriculture & Livelihoods** | **TOTAL BENEFICIARIES** | | 400 people |  

*Your gift to Where Most Needed equips us with the resources - including personnel, materials, supporting services, buildings and equipment - to fulfill our mission of relief and development. All donations of $2 or more to Samaritan’s Purse Relief and Development Projects are tax deductible for Australian taxpayers only.*

**Our Commitment:** Donations received in excess of the need for any project or sector will be applied to a similar project or sector.

## Giving Options

**Please accept my gift in the amount of $**  

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*This is a: [ ] Monthly Partner gift or [ ] One-time gift*  

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*Cheque: Please enclose a cheque payable to ‘Samaritan’s Purse’ OR Visa MasterCard American Express Diners*  

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*Signature*  

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*Card Number* (Please enclose a cheque payable to ‘Samaritan’s Purse’)*  

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*Phone*  

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*Email*  

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*Samaritan’s Purse Australia Ltd*  

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*ABN: 80 162 895 623*  

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*Not tax deductible.*  

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**Relief and Development**  

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**Christian Ministry**  

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*Samaritan’s Purse Australia–Operation Christmas Child*  

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*Not tax deductible.*  

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*PLEASE USE BLACK INK AND PRINT WITHIN THE BOXES IN BLOCK LETTERS**  

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*MY GIFT TO HELP THOSE IN NEED*  

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*I would like to give a special gift of: $ [ ] Where Most Needed* (tax deductible for Australian taxpayers)  

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*$ [ ] Operation Christmas Child* (not tax deductible)  

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*Please make my gift monthly*  

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**Relief and Development**  

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