

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD AND EASTER BASKETS

Whenever she was troubled, Jazmin would roam around her room, sorting through her belongings hoping this would settle her thoughts. During these times, she often came across the brightly colored shoebox gift she had received when she was six years old. She would find the shoebox under her bed or high on a shelf. God always knew when she needed the encouraging reminder that someone loved her enough to send this box to someone they did not know. She received the box at an Operation Christmas Card outreach event in Mazatlan, Mexico. The box was filled with school supplies and hygiene items, but the most special thing was a doll. She had always wanted a doll when her parents could afford one. When she opened her box and found the doll, she ran around showing it to everyone. It was as if the people who packed her box knew exactly what she wanted. Inside her box was a picture of the people who sent it and a prayer for her to know God gave His only Son for her and they hoped she would give her heart to God. Reading those words made her realize she had assumed since her parents were Christian, she was as well.

Sometime later, her parents had to leave her with her grandmother in order to get medical attention for her younger sister. While they were gone, she again starting working in her room and when she came across her special shoebox, she reread the letter and God spoke to her heart. Her family came home and she shared the letter and she thanked God for the return of her family.

As she grew in her faith, God had opportunities for her to share her faith. She assists with handing out shoe boxes when they come to her town. When she is old enough, she wants to become of teacher of The Greatest Journey, Operation Christmas Child's discipleship program. Through this 12 week course, children in over 100 countries grow in their faith and learn how to share it with others.

Jazmin, whose name means Gift from God, knows God had a purpose for her all along and the best gift is to accept Jesus in your heart and put your faith in Him.

This month we will collect items for children 10-14. Suggestions include for girls: sewing kits, manicure kits, scarves, costume jewelry, sunglasses, socks, and harmonicas; Boys: cars, deflated soccer ball and pump, balls, sunglasses, and caps.

Also, since Easter is over, look for items for next year's Easter baskets. You can find items at 75-90% off. We have eggs and grass but will need everything else.

Any questions about either of these ministries contact Marynell Wallace
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