

"Delivering Lasting Joy"

A Shoe Box Story—One of Millions

When a child's life is turned upside down, moments of true delight seem rare and fleeting. So when 11-year-old Amaica Clement received an Operation Christmas Child shoe box in Haiti, she welcomed having a reason to rejoice.

"I never received anything like this before," she said. "I was so happy because everything I had was destroyed in the earthquake."

Amaica and her family lost more than their home and possessions in the quake that devastated Haiti. Amaica's seven-year-old sister was killed. The grieving family was forced to live in a tent, sleeping on donated blankets, until Samaritan's Purse built its first group of 50 wood-framed shelters, wrapped with the distinctive blue plastic sheeting that gave the community its nickname, the Blue Village.

The young girl joined hundreds of excited children who filled the sanctuary of Second Baptist Church in Titanyen for an Operation Christmas Child distribution in December.

Amaica's box was filled with treasures. She received an orange jump rope, hair ribbons, and a stuffed animal. The jump rope was her favorite gift, but she was also drawn to the colorful Gospel booklet she received, titled *The Greatest Gift of All*.

The illustrated booklet shares God's plan of salvation, told by a father to his children, Nikola and Karin.

"I like the stories because they teach me how to do things the right way, according to the Bible," she said. "And I like the story of Nikola, because he accepted Jesus, like I did."

Amaica's love for the Lord is an encouraging sign for Haiti, demonstrating the importance of child evangelism and reminding us of Christ's words: "*Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these*" (Matthew 19:14, NIV).

She was among thousands of Haitian boys and girls who received Operation Christmas Child shoe box gifts during the 2010 holiday season. The gifts brought comfort and hope to these hurting children, many of whom lost family members and their homes in the 7.0-magnitude quake.

The shoe box gifts, now totaling more than 85 million since Samaritan's Purse launched the project in the United States in 1993, have been delivered to children in over 130 countries around

the world. For many thrilled boys and girls like Amaica, the boxes are the first Christmas presents they have ever received.

Most importantly, these tangible expressions of God's love open doors for us to introduce boys and girls to the real meaning of Christmas through Gospel booklets and the follow-up discipleship program, called *The Greatest Journey*. Millions of

"I never received anything like this before... I was so happy because everything I had was destroyed in the earthquake."

- Amaica, Haiti

Continued on next page.

2011 OCC Shoe Box Kick Off—Sun., Oct. 2

Delivering Lasting Joy

Continued from front page.

children have become faithful followers of Jesus and are encouraging their family and friends to journey with Him, too.

"I received many items from my box—pencils, school supplies, and other things," said 9-year-old Gemher from the Philippines. "I am very happy because we can't afford to buy those items. But the greatest gift I received was Jesus Christ."

8.17 Million Shoe Boxes

Last year saw a record number of shoe boxes collected—8.17 million, with the most shoe box gifts ever collected in the United States—over 5.5 million! This blessing touched the lives of countless children and their families. We'll never know the spiritual impact of our gifts until we reach heaven. But rest assured Jesus knows! Prayerfully consider your part in this worthy cause.

**Kick Off is Sunday, October 2
Collection by Sunday, November 13**



A Fall Work Day has been scheduled for **Saturday, November 5**, from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 3:00 p.m. On the agenda is the general sprucing up of the interior and exterior of the church. Men, women and young people are encouraged to come and have a good time fellowshiping together as we work to beautify God's house. Lunch will be provided.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Attention Men: The Men's Fellowship will meet for breakfast prior to the work day. No need to sign up—just come at 7:30 a.m. for a hearty breakfast prepared by our own Chef Kornhaus.



FUN NITE

Monday, October 31 • 5:30 PM

The annual Fall Fun Nite will be held on Monday, October 31, beginning with a fellowship meal at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a generous dish to pass. Table service will be provided. Following the meal there will be activities for all ages, including games and, weather permitting, a bonfire and hayride. Sunday School teachers will be organizing games for their classes. And, pumpkins will be available soon for the "Pumpkin Painting Contest" so be thinking about your creation based on a biblical character or story, prizes will be awarded.

All are welcome—so invite a friend or neighbor to share in the fun!

A sign-up sheet will soon be available in the foyer. Please indicate the number of adults and children high school age and younger that are coming.

Candy for Goodie Bags—

Each child attending Fall Fun Nite who is high school age or younger receives a bag of "goodies". Please help fill bags by bringing in candy. A collection box for the candy will be located in the foyer. Deadline is Friday, October 28.



Up Coming Events . . .

Dec. 3 Ladies' Christmas Brunch
(TENTATIVE)

Jan. 29 Snow Day