

Introduction to the Christmas Shoe Boxes for Mexico Project

Brighten a child's life this Christmas

Again this year, the Rocky Mountain District Missions Mobilization Committee is encouraging your participation in providing "Christmas Shoe Boxes" for impoverished children in Mexico. As you may know, these are boxes that are filled with age and gender appropriate toys, personal care items, Spanish New Testaments and Salvation plans.

The RMD Missions Mobilization Committee continues to work with the National CMA Mexican church to investigate and provide direction and support for the possibility of expanding CMA church plantings into the many as yet un-reached areas of Mexico. Additionally, some RMD pastors have taken on these impoverished areas for missions work. By supporting these local "Shoe Box Projects" we can potentially help move this international need forward as a district ... while bringing great joy and the Word of God to kids who have little else.

The boxes that we prepare in 2009 will be distributed to children in Juarez, Mexico. It is hard for us to imagine the poverty these children live in – tar paper shacks and dirt floors. For many children, the brightly wrapped shoe box is the only Christmas present they will receive.

Shoe boxes need to be gathered by November 8 and shipped by November 15.

Feel free to cut and paste and edit the following information from this document
(or any other provided to assist this program) for your bulletins and other announcements.

Introducing the Christmas Shoe Boxes for Mexico Project

This year, we'll be participating in the "Christmas Shoe Boxes for Mexico Project" for Mexico project for impoverished children in that country. We will be filling shoe boxes with and gender appropriate toys, personal care items, Spanish New Testaments and Salvation plans.

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Leading our local effort for this project is _____

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

- Use regular shoe boxes
- Cover box and lid with bright Christmas paper (other paper is acceptable)
- Fill with anything that children like that will fit in the box. Each box should be age related. See criteria below: Some suggestions might be:
 - Small notebooks
 - Pencils
 - Rulers
 - Toothpaste
 - Small hard candies
 - Combs
 - Small hair brushes
 - Toothbrushes
 - Small bars of soap
 - Samples – Shampoo, hand lotion etc

Age Criteria:

Toddlers 2-4

Small toys such as stuffed animals, blocks, pull toys, etc. T-shirts, shorts, etc.

Boys 5-9, Boys 10-12

Marbles, yo-yos, tops, small cars, any small toy, socks, baseball caps, crayons, balls, t-shirts

Girls 5-9, Girls 10-12

Little dolls, jacks, jump rope, small games, hair decorations, small color books, crayons, balls, t-shirts

Teenagers

Baseball caps, hair do-dads, small games that are self-explanatory, combs, brushes, t-shirts, or polo-type shirts, socks, flip-flop sandals, watch

Unisex items

Small note books, pencils, markers, crayons, rulers, candies, combs, etc.

Personal Hygiene items are also encouraged: a bar of deodorant soap, a toothbrush and tooth paste could be included in each box.



Niño	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bebé	<input type="checkbox"/>	Niña	<input type="checkbox"/>
		2 - 4	<input type="checkbox"/>		
		5 - 9	<input type="checkbox"/>		
		10 - 12	<input type="checkbox"/>		
		Jóvenes	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Please mark the boxes to indicate boy or girl and age group. Note the tag sample.

You can use red ribbons for boys, green ribbons for girls, and white ribbons for teen boxes.

DO NOT INCLUDE:

Damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers; aerosol cans

These are only suggestions. There are many other options. Have fun with this project!

Recommended Deadlines:

Collect by November 8 – for shipment by November 15 to:

Iglesia Encuentro Con Dios

5904 Falcon Ave

El Paso, TX 79924

What should go in the boxes/details:

Perhaps most importantly, the first thing that goes in every box is a Spanish Language Salvation Plan.

If possible, Spanish Language Bibles or New Testaments should also be included in each box. Even if a child is too young to read, the Bible will probably get to a parent or other villager. Inexpensive Spanish Bibles and New Testaments can be found at the American Bible Society at www.bibles.com or from the International Bible Society at www.ibsdirect.com, 1-800-524-1588. IBS may have Spanish Bibles for as little as .75 each in a case of 50.

These resources also have some lovely, yet inexpensive pamphlets and story books about Christ that would be a source of delight and knowledge for children. Feel free to use your imagination and resources regarding Christian insert material as you see fit.

TOYS

small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS

toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

OTHER

Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

Remember...please pack your boxes with a specific age and gender in mind! See page 1 for suggestions. There are many other options and these children have almost nothing, so most items are appreciated.

Bright Christmas wrap adds to the joy of the event for the children. Use only paper with no bows as they get crushed in the shipping.

Please tape a gift tag securely to each box. Tags can be photocopied as required.

Through your generosity and love for Christ, we can make this the best Christmas ever for the children of these villages.

Christmas Shoe Boxes For Mexico Project

Involving Your Congregation

1. **Enlist** a Christmas Shoe Box Project Manager for your church. Ideally, you may want someone (pastor, pastor's wife, youth pastor, missions director or member of your congregation) to take ownership of the project. Having a 'point-person' who has a heart for this special mission can help encourage others to participate, and can communicate on a weekly basis the tremendous need of the Mexican children and the opportunity we have to share with them.
2. **Prayer...Prayer** will be vital to the success of this program. Consider bring prayer for this special mission project into the praise and prayer portion of your service. Also, ask this to be prayed for throughout the duration of the project. If you have a prayer chain or prayer section of your bulletin please include it. Ask for prayer for the success of the project not only at your local church, but at the District level as well. Our successful involvement as a District can potentially help move CMA Church planting efforts forward and may provide additional interest for missions work in needed areas in Mexico.
3. **Shoe box dedication Sunday.** Consider having a Shoe Box dedication Sunday, November 8 or 15. Stack the boxes on your altar or a prominent place where the worship service is held so the boxes can be prayed over and dedicated to the Lord. Pray that the Lord will direct the delivery of the boxes and that not only will the trinkets bring joy to the children, but that children and adults would come to know Jesus Christ.
4. **Special Offering.** You might want to consider having a special offering for the project. From the offering, items could be purchased for the boxes. This way every one can participate...even those who don't want to shop and pack boxes on their own.
5. **Pulpit Announcements.** Please consider weekly reminders from the Pulpit.
SAMPLE: "This year, we're participating in the RMD Missions Mobilization Committees' Christmas Shoe Box Program for needy children in Mexico. The children in these villages where these boxes will be distributed have virtually nothing. Most live in cardboard shacks with dirt floors. Infrastructure is practically non-existent and in the majority of the cases, your gift of the shoe box is all these children will receive. We'll be including Salvation Plans and New Testaments (if you are) in these boxes in their language. What an opportunity to share Christ's love with these kids and the Gospel Word. I hope you'll be part of this exciting opportunity!"
6. **Bulletin Announcements.** Please consider weekly bulletin announcements. Feel free to cut and paste material from the document entitled: Introduction, or any of these provided documents for your announcements.
7. **Involve your Sunday School** Classes and Youth.
For younger kids, consider locating Mexico on a map and discussing what it might be like to live there. Study Mexico and look at pictures. Talk about what the Mexican living conditions in these poor villages might look like.
8. **Have a Sunday School** class talk about age and gender appropriate items, then shop and pack as a class.
9. **This can be a super project for Youth** (Junior High and High School). Here are some ways the Youth can participate:
If you'd like to purchase items for boxes but don't want to pack and wrap yourself, have the items given to the youth and have them pack and wrap.
If you'd prefer to make a contribution, you can have the Youth even do the shopping.
Want to pack your own box, but not wrap it? Drop your boxes off and let the Youth wrap it.

El Plan De Dios Para La Salvación

Amigo mío: Te voy a hacer la pregunta más importante de tu vida. El gozo o la tristeza que experimentes en la eternidad dependen de tu respuesta. La pregunta es: ¿Estás salvado? La pregunta no es cuán bueno eres, o si perteneces a alguna iglesia, sino ¿estás salvado? ¿Estás seguro que irás al cielo cuando mueras?

Dios dice que para ir al cielo, tienes que nacer de nuevo. En Juan 3:7, Jesús le dijo a Nicodemo, "Os es necesario nacer de nuevo". Dios nos da en la Biblia el plan de cómo nacer de nuevo, o cómo salvarse. Su plan es muy sencillo y tú puedes salvarte el día de hoy. ¿Cómo?

En primer lugar, amigo mío, debes reconocer que eres pecador. "Por cuanto todos pecaron, y están destituidos de la gloria de Dios" (Romanos 3:23). Por cuanto eres pecador, estás condenado a la separación eterna de Dios. "Porque la paga del pecado es muerte" (Romanos 6.23). Esta muerte incluye una separación eterna de Dios en el infierno. ". . . está establecido para los hombres que mueran una sola vez, y después de esto el juicio" (Hebreos 9:27).

Sin embargo, Dios te amó de tal manera que dio a su Hijo unigénito, Jesucristo, como tu sustituto. El pagó por tu pecado en la cruz y murió en tu lugar. ". . . por nosotros Dios lo hizo pecado [A Jesús, quien no conoció pecado] para que nosotros fuésemos hechos justicia de Dios en él" (2 Corintios 5:21).

Jesús tuvo que derramar su sangre y morir por ti. "Porque la vida de la carne en la sangre está", (Levítico 17:11).

"Sin derramamiento de sangre no se hace remisión" (Hebreos 9:22).

"Mas Dios muestra su amor para con nosotros, en que siendo aún pecadores, Cristo murió por nosotros" (Romanos 5:8).

Nuestra mente no alcanza a comprender cómo Jesús fue juzgado por todos nuestros pecados, pero Dios así lo afirma en su Palabra. Así que Jesús pagó por tu pecado y murió por ti. Esto es verdad, Dios no puede mentir.

Amigo mío, "Dios . . . ahora manda a todos los hombres en todo lugar, que se arrepientan" (Hechos 17:30). Este arrepentimiento es un cambio de mente, es aceptar delante de Dios que eres pecador y necesitas apropiarte lo que hizo por ti en la cruz.

En Hechos 16:30-31, el carcelero de Filipos les preguntó a Pablo y Silas: ". . . Señores, ¿qué debo hacer para ser salvo? Ellos dijeron: Cree en el Señor Jesucristo, y serás salvo . . .". Simplemente cree que él pagó por tus pecados, murió en tu lugar, fue sepultado, y resucitó. Esta resurrección le asegura al creyente que tiene vida eterna cuando recibe a Jesús como su Salvador personal.

Simplemente tienes que creer que él pagó por tus pecados, murió en tu lugar, fue sepultado y resucitó por ti. Luego invócalo. "Porque todo aquel que invocare el nombre del Señor, será salvo" (Romanos 10:13. "Todo aquel" te incluye a ti. "Será salvo" no significa que quizá sea salvado, sino que afirma que será salvado. "Mas a todos los que le recibieron, a los que creen en su nombre, les dio potestad de ser hechos hijos de Dios" (Juan 1:12).

En Lucas 18:13 encontramos que el pecador oró: ". . . Dios, sé propicio [misericordioso] a mí, pecador". Seguramente te das cuenta que eres pecador. Ahora mismo, dondequiera que estés, dirígete a Dios y con tus propias palabras ora así:

“Dios, sé que soy un pecador. Creo que Jesús fue mi sustituto cuando murió en la cruz. Creo que su sangre derramada, su muerte, sepultura, y su resurrección fueron para mí. Lo recibo ahora como mi Salvador. Te agradezco el perdón de mis pecados, el regalo de la salvación y la vida eterna, por su gracia misericordiosa. Amén.”

Abrázate de Dios y su Palabra, y reclama esta salvación por fe. Cree, y serás salvo. Ninguna religión ni ninguna obra buena puede salvarte. Recuerda, Dios es el que salva.

Resumiendo, el plan de Dios es sencillo: Tú eres pecador. A menos que creas que Jesús murió en tu lugar, pasarás la eternidad en el infierno. Si crees en él como tu Salvador, crees que fue crucificado, sepultado y que resucitó por ti, recibirás por fe el perdón de todos tus pecados y el regalo de la salvación eterna.

Quizá piensas que esto no puede ser tan sencillo pero sí lo es, la Palabra de Dios lo afirma. Amigo mío, cree en Jesús y recíbelo como tu Salvador hoy.

Si este folleto no está perfectamente claro, léelo varias veces, pídele a Dios que te ayude a entenderlo, y no lo deseches hasta que lo entiendas y esta salvación sea tuya. Tu alma vale más que el mundo entero.

“Porque ¿qué aprovechará al hombre si ganare todo el mundo, y perdiere su alma?” (Marcos 8:36). Asegúrate de ser salvo. Si pierdes tu alma, también perderás el cielo y lo perderás todo. Permite que Dios te salve en este momento.

Dios tiene el poder para salvarte para siempre. El también te va a permitir que vivas una vida cristiana victoriosa. “No os ha sobrevenido ninguna tentación que no sea humana; pero fiel es Dios, que no os dejará ser tentados más de lo que podéis resistir, sino que dará también juntamente con la tentación la salida, para que podáis soportar” (1 Corintios 10:13).

No confíes en tus sentimientos, pues ellos cambian, afírmate en las promesas de Dios, que nunca cambian. Después de que has sido salvado, hay tres cosas que tienes que practicar diariamente para crecer espiritualmente: Ora, de esta manera hablas con Dios; lee la Biblia, así es como Dios habla contigo; comparte esta salvación que has recibido con otros.

“Por tanto, no te avergüences de dar testimonio de nuestro Señor,” (2 Tim. 1:8). “Si alguien me confesare delante de los hombres, yo también le confesaré delante de mi Padre que está en los cielos” (Mateo 10:32).

EL PLAN DE DIOS PARA LA SALVACION

Un Asunto de la Vida o la Muerte

Más Versículos Bíblicos

Juan 3:16, 1 Pedro 2:24, Isaías 53:6, Santiago 1:15, Romanos 10:9-10, Efesios 2:8-9, Proverbios 27:1, 1 Corintios 15:3-4, Juan 10:27-30, 1 Juan 5:13

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