



CHRISTMAS IN JULY??

2022 United Methodist Christmas Shoebox Project

Sponsored by the North Alabama Disaster Relief Warehouse

For several years the Tennessee River District has participated in a Christmas Shoe Box ministry that is sponsored by the North Alabama Disaster Relief Warehouse. United Methodist Churches throughout the southeastern United States have worked together to provide our United Methodist missionaries and local pastors with Christmas gifts and the Christmas story to children they minister to. In 2020, over 13,000 boxes were distributed in 9 different countries: Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Ecuador and Mexico.

Last year, the entire legacy Memphis Conference joined in this project, filling over 2,000 boxes.

LET'S DO IT AGAIN THIS YEAR!!

Our 2022 project dates are July 15th – August 15th

Some of our churches are already involved with the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox project. It is not our goal to pull support away from other projects. The Christmas Story will be told across the world regardless of whose name is on the box. We wish you continued success in your ministry.

The exciting thing about this project is that it does not have to be a large group activity. Individuals can pick up a box, pack it, and bring it back to the church. Some churches gave a financial donation and a small group of people did the shopping and packing for the entire church. There are a variety of ways your church can participate even in these challenging times.

Here are the guidelines on what goes in our boxes:

Please be sure the boxes are age appropriate. Example: Marbles would not be appropriate for children under 4 due to a choking hazard. **Our shoeboxes are for children ages 2-12.** Do not include any clothing smaller than 3T or larger than child's size 14. Gently used clothing is acceptable but must be in good condition.

EACH BOX MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING: Flip Flops, 1-2 pair underwear, 1-2 pair socks, shorts and t-shirt (boys or girls) OR dress with shorts to wear underneath, full-sized bar of soap and wash cloth, toothbrush & small tooth paste, large tooth comb, 5 crayons, The Advent coloring book (provided by the project).

You may include some of these items to fill the box: small mirror, ponytail holders, barrettes, 4-6 pencils (ages 7+), a good pencil sharpener, small pad of paper, play jewelry (ages 7+), sewing kit (ages 8+), fishing kit (ages 8+), stuffed toy, small ball, Hot wheels/Matchbox cars, 4-6 marbles (age 5+), jump rope (age 5+).

Please DO NOT include the following items: liquids or creams, toy guns, toy soldiers, war toys, anything camo colored, books or Bibles in English, dice, Dominos, playing cards of any type, long sleeve shirts or pants, swimwear, food, candy, gum.

Helpful Ideas:

Fill your boxes but do not overfill. Bulging boxes are difficult to pack. Someone will have to open your box and remove items. Be sure to mark the age and gender the box is intended for (BOTH SIDES OF THE BOX). List the contents on the

Custom Manifest. Feel free to decorate your box but do not cover the Custom Manifest sticker. **Each box must have \$5 to cover shipping. Make checks payable to The Christmas Shoebox Project. DO NOT PUT MONEY OR CHECKS IN THE BOX.** I am asking that one person from each church serve as the quality control person and check the contents of each box before sealing.

