



In preparation for this Day of Prayer and Fasting, please take time to read and reflect on Hebrews chapter three and four.

“So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.” Hebrews 4:16

Let us remember that Jesus deserves the Glory. We, like Moses, have served faithfully, but the greater glory goes to God. In our weakness, we are prone to wander as the hymn writer so aptly expressed. The Holy Spirit is calling us today to “Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today”, so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.” Hebrews 3:12-13.

The wonderful promise is that as we trust God and continue to be faithful, “we will share in all that belongs to Christ” (Hebrews 3:14). It is important to know that attention to the Word of God will keep us trusting and faithful. “For the Word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.” Hebrews 4:12-13.

Because Christ is our High Priest, we hold firmly to what we know is true and what we believe. In so doing, we, on this day of prayer, come boldly to our merciful God and know that we and all those for whom we pray will receive his mercy and help when most needed. Amen!

Testimonies

Papua New Guinea

OCC Distribution to Buimo Jail Report

A week before the planned distribution, the prison chaplain approached the prisoners of the Buimo Jail and asked them for the names of their children. The prisoners were to tell their wives there would be gifts for the children. Some were skeptical. Perhaps this was a new church or a new mission, designed to trap them. Perhaps they had to pay for the presents. Perhaps it was just a story and there would be no presents. Not all took part.

We had no idea what to expect. We knew that anything was possible and were braced for it. We prayed a lot before this distribution, unsure how it would all take place. We had been told that visiting hours were 11am to 3pm on Saturday and Sunday, but only the wives, husbands, or parents could come. No children were allowed. We thought it was still a great thing to get the boxes into the hands of the fathers or mothers, so they would be able to pass them to the children.

When we arrived at the prison, the prison chaplain was waiting for us. We set up the shoe boxes on a long row of tables in an outdoor shelter located in a wire yard. We then waited for the women and mothers to arrive to visit. They were checked in at the guard house some distance away, and yes, we could see, some children were coming with them. We couldn't believe it! However, we were still unsure if they would be allowed onto prison grounds.

We had prayed beforehand and brought some extra shoe boxes. It was to be a small distribution, only 95 children expected, but we took a 130 with us. We hoped that some of the prisoners who were skeptical would hear rumors and bring their children anyway.

The women and children hung their bilums outside on the fence, and came into the designated courtyard with big pots of food for their family members. After the guards inspected the pots, the women and children sat on the ground in the shade, spreading out cloths or flour bags to sit on.

Meanwhile, there were some female inmates we needed to give boxes to, but they were not allowed to come and mingle with the male inmates. So three from our group carried boxes up the hill a little way, to where a group of female prisoners had gathered. Ladies sat on the ground in their familiar denim blue with red stripes. They all smiled warmly. We went to each person present, shook hands and greeted them, as is the custom. We told them these boxes were free gifts. They could not earn them and they could not buy them. It did not depend

what they have done. We wanted only to bless them and their children with this free gift, just like Jesus is a free gift. They needed only to accept Him into our hearts. God had not forgotten them here in Buimo. We told them that these boxes did not come from a church or a new group or mission but from people who loved them and want to bless them. And they came from Father God! Then we gave out the boxes to the ladies. One by one, they stood with their children and accepted the gifts, their eyes filling with tears. Wide smiles thanked us. One prisoner spoke at the end and prayed a blessing over us.

We three walked back to the main distribution area to find the rest of our group all red-eyed and choking back tears. The male prisoners were filing into the courtyard and were actually being allowed to be with their wives AND children! Little children squealed with delight and ran to hug their father's legs as they saw them enter. Some fathers reached down and grabbed their children, hugging them to their chest and twirling them around. Mothers cried. Some wailed. Grandmothers also sobbed with joy. These children had not seen their fathers since they came to Buimo. They sat together on the ground and began to eat together.

As they ate, the fathers were called by name. One by one, each man came forward and was given the boxes for his children. He shook hands with each of us, then turned and went back to give the gifts to his children. There was such a peaceful calm during the whole process. The boxes were not opened but the smiles were enormous. Some sneaked a peek under the corner of the lid, but most simply looked at the Greatest Gift of All booklet.

We distributed to two groups in two days. Wardens were also given shoe boxes for their children. We didn't even get to see the children open their boxes, but it didn't matter. It wasn't about what was inside the boxes but that those simple gifts tangibly displayed God's love to many families and opened doors of healing and restoration. God moved so mightily.

Serbia

For most of the Roma (Serbia) children, [shoeboxes] were the only gifts for the season. Since their parents have no jobs, not even parents' employers could provide gifts (which is a custom here).

Starting in the middle of December to the middle of January, our church yard and other distribution areas were constantly full of children's voices and laughter. While giving children the shoeboxes, we were also able to talk to parents and give them the booklets. We informed them about the programs and church activities. As a result, some of the parents came to an Alpha course. Our entire work was noticed by local TV stations and newspapers. The shoeboxes opened many doors for us and in a way, have become our symbol. Even the city authorities and institutions have realized the importance of our work and it is much easier to make contacts with them now.

From a report by an associate from Arandjelovac

Philippines

We praise the Lord for the first distribution of gift boxes in Antipolo to 189 children on January 13. Nine churches responded to our call when the first shipment came. Five pastors, themselves, came to unload the boxes and the other four churches sent their representatives. It was on a Friday night when the containers were released. Overnight, these pastors and volunteers unloaded the boxes from the container vans to the warehouse. And though their bodies were sore because they were not used to doing such physical work, these pastors were still able to deliver their respective messages the following Sunday. And some of them even came back and sent volunteers to help unload the second shipment. All of this was done for the joy of seeing children's faces light up when they received the shoeboxes.

Poland

OCC distributors in the city of Rzeszow organized an evangelistic crusade. They invited some professionals from the area and officials from the villages where OCC boxes had been distributed last winter. Many people came, saying they had watched our volunteers and had seen their integrity which had become an inspiration for them. Three village officials gave their hearts to the Lord straight after the Word had been preached. They simply experienced the relevance of the Bible and saw the application for their lives.

Tanzania

Twenty children who joined the Evangelistic Assemblies of God Church, after receiving shoe boxes for the first time in the year 2001, have turned 20 years old this year and are part of the singing group in the church.

OCC has removed the religious barrier between Muslims and Christians in the Tanga region. This happened when Muslim children and their parents entered in the church for the first time to collect their shoe boxes.

“We have never seen tooth paste in our home for a year. Thank God, OCC has provided some for my children!”
(Words from a Pentecostal pastor in Coast Region Tanzania)

Praises and Prayer Requests

Argentina

Pray for the containers to be released from customs. Toxic lead testing has been done on the toys and the results have still not come in.

Pray for our partners who are very discouraged about these customs issues.

Bangladesh

Pray for the meetings held with the government officials to discuss exoneration of the boxes.

Belarus

Praise God for all the new Regional Teams and for their work in distributing the shoe boxes. We pray that they will continue to develop their plans and that they will seek God’s vision for their regions.

Pray for the churches as they continue to follow-up with their outreach work.

Pray for strength for the NLT as they complete all their work for the 2007 Campaign and as they begin to look forward to 2008 planning.

Bosnia

Praise God for the NLT and churches and their vision to reach out into the remote villages and for the safety and protection that was provided for this work.

Pray for the NLT and for the strength to begin planning for the 2008 campaign. Let God’s vision for OCC in Bosnia be known to them and that new people will be raised up to serve.

Cambodia

Pray for wisdom and discernment as the Australian Regional Director and the current NLT work together in finding a new NLT coordinator and Consignee.

Pray for the meetings planned for mid-February with the SP Cambodia office, NLT members and potential NLT members to discuss future plans and goals. (Training has now been held back until the NLT is finalized.)

Pray for the church of Cambodia, for its current leadership, and the mentoring and discipleship of the leaders of the next generation. Pray that OCC will be a great tool in bringing the church together and that it will plant seeds which will produce passionate, godly, generous and Kingdom-minded leaders. Praise God for the incredible and evident growth among so much past hurt and pain.

Pray that a healthy and close relationship will be formed between the SP Cambodia staff and the NLT members.

Chad

Praise God for the lives that have been saved as a result of the distributions and TMC.

Praise God that the booklets were delivered on time.

Pray that the Lord will help us truly reconcile during the civil unrest in Chad and peace would be established throughout the country.

Pray for the unity of Christians in Chad.

Pray for the protection of the containers until they reach their final destinations.

Pray for the 2008 distributions and preparation of the second phase of TMC (there is a training planned for March).

Pray for the good health of the NLT in Chad

Ecuador

Praise God for the blessing of being able to share the Gospel with more than 67,000 children in our country.

Praise God for the ministry 'Alas de Socorro' (Wings of Help) that has helped us through the years to get the containers into the country through their negotiations with the government.

Pray for the customs process. We have changed consignees this year which has changed the process we have used in the past and the government has modified several laws dealing with customs.

Pray for the churches and ministries that have joined OCC this year, specifically for the provinces of El Oro, Imbabura, Cotopaxi, Tungurahua, Chimborazo and Pastaza.

Pray the churches and ministries will effectively administer the discipleship program and it will be a blessing to the children, their families, and the church.

Equatorial Guinea

Praise God for the example of faith and patience in the midst of material poverty and need; this is a reality in the church of Equatorial Guinea.

Pray for a refreshing vision and training for the NLT.

Gabon

Pray that God would move in the hearts of the appropriate government officials and administrative and religious leaders in Gabon so they will see the positive aspects of OCC. Pray that through this, we will gain their cooperation for exonerating, transporting, storing and distributing gifts to the children.

Pray that OCC Gabon would find a base from which we might work more efficiently.

Pray that God would provide workers for the follow-up of the children so that many Good News Clubs can be created.

Pray that God would sustain and protect the National Leadership Team as they prepare for the coming season and that they will be fully motivated to carry out their responsibilities.

Guatemala

Pray for the NLT as they fight for exoneration. Due to a change in government, they were not able to get exoneration for the boxes. The process was started again now that the new government is in place. Please pray that the process will go smoothly.

Pray for shoebox distributions being planned for the northwest area of the country. It is a large area, full of small villages – the people there are known for being somewhat aggressive and closed to the gospel. Pray that God would prepare the hearts of the children who will receive the gifts. Also pray for safety of the NLT and other volunteers who will be involved in the distributions.

Guinea

Praise for the arrival of the containers and the granting of exoneration.

Pray for safety and provision for the distributions in the forest area, a geographical region with difficult access.

Haiti

Praise God for the unity of the Regional Team in Cap Haitian.

Pray for quick, efficient import procedures and exoneration for the boxes.

Hungary

Pray for efficient follow-up work among the children who have recently heard the Gospel through the shoebox programs.

Pray against the increasing indifference and unholiness.

Pray for true repentance and change of circumstance for the gypsy people in Hungary and the neighboring countries. Also, pray for wise and patient workers to reach out to this needy people group.

Iraq

Pray for the Lord's guidance in facilitating the shipping and arrival of gifts.

Pray that the NLT and the Iraq churches will be protected as they seek to serve the Lord.

Ivory Coast

Praise God for the enthusiastic participation of many church federations with the ministry of OCC.

Pray for the consolidation of peace and the process of reconciliation between the north and south within the country.

Kosova

Pray for the church in Kosova to gain a clear vision for how God would use it in the coming year, both to disciple believers and transform society.

Pray for young believers who are facing pressure from their families because of their new faith.

Pray for the growth of unity and humility among the churches and church leaders of Kosova.

Pray for KPEC (Kosova Protestant Evangelical Church), a national evangelical fellowship representing 35 churches and organizations.

Pray for those who are suffering from poverty and unemployment. It is estimated that unemployment or underemployment may be as high as 47%.

Pray for a peaceful and timely resolution to the status of Kosova. The people of Kosova continue to seek recognition as an independent country. International negotiations have bogged down in gridlock and the new government is considering a unilateral declaration of independence.

Pray that God would continue to raise up believers and gift them to serve as pastors, leaders and church planters.

Kyrgyzstan

Pray for the safe arrival and clearance of the containers.

Pray that the NLT will be able to mobilize volunteers to assist with the shoe box distributions.

Pray that OCC continues build friendships and reach out to the communities through the local churches.

Liberia:

Praise God for the new NLT and their vision to reach out into the remote area of the Lofa Country to reach all needy children. We also give thanks that all the containers were cleared without any difficulties.

Pray for the safety of the NLT, their volunteers and distribution partners.

Pray that all the small churches and Christian organisation that have become involved in OCC will be able to take advantage of the distribution events and build relationships.

Mexico

Praise God that He protected the life and the integrity of our brothers in Christ that experienced the floodings in the state of Tabasco. This is the worst natural disaster we have ever experienced in Mexico. Praise God for the support given to the Coordinator of OCC when he lost practically everything he owned in the disaster.

Praise God that all of the Regional Trainings given by different members of the NLT were carried out with wonderful results.

Praise God for the evident increase of prayer warriors at the national level, strengthening the national prayer network.

Pray that a deep feeling of responsibility will be instilled in all of the participating partners and they will be able to fulfill all their required responsibilities for the project.

Pray that prayer would remain a fundamental part of the life of all the churches and ministries participating in OCC.

Montenegro:

Praise God that the shoe boxes were given out without any significant problems and pray that the churches will be able to use the distribution events to encourage people to find out more about the Gospel message.

Pray for wisdom for the youth leaders and teachers who are working with children in kid's clubs and Sunday Schools.

Mozambique

Pray for the last container to be cleared safely.

Pray for volunteers to step out in faith to support the NLT and distribution partners.

Namibia

Praise the Lord for the transport of the boxes from the port to the regions.

Praise God for the tax exemption and the arrival of the containers.

Pray that the Lord will bless the NLT with unity and peace.

Pray that the Lord will prepare the hearts of the children and protect them from spiritual attack during the distribution.

Pray for wisdom in selecting and recruiting the right people for the RLTs in the Karas and Omaheke Regions.

Nepal

Pray exoneration for the boxes will be granted in spite of the difficult challenges presented to the NLT.

Nicaragua

Pray for distributions starting this week in El Rama as well as for the safety of the NLT.

Niger

Praise God that the Greatest Gift of All booklets were exonerated without difficulty.

Pray for peace in Niger. A rebellion in the north is badly hurting the country. Please pray that the two factions, the government and the rebels, will make peace. (The government considers the rebels armed thugs and refuses to dialogue with them.) On January 20, 2008, the rebels attacked a provincial center, taking many prisoners including the regional governor.

Pray for exoneration for our two containers of gifts.

Pray for distributions that are to take place in the interior, in the regions of Maradi, Tahoua and Dosso, as well as in the capital city of Niamey.

Pray that the team will be fully prepared and vitalized for the coming distribution season.

Nigeria

Praise God for the successful distribution boxes in Nigeria. Thank God for the mass turn out of children and the orderliness of the distribution.

Pray for a smooth integration and transition of NLT members.

Pray for timely registration of the OCC project in Nigeria.

Pray for effective handling of gift boxes, monetary provision through local funding, and many decisions for Christ through the distributions.

Pakistan

Pray that Pakistan will be able to achieve a Letter of Exoneration from authorities for the OCC distributions in 2008. Huge amounts of requests for shoeboxes were received from church pastors all over Pakistan who have scheduled the distributions in their children Sunday Schools.

Pray for the Lord's divine peace to be revealed all over the nation. Since July 2007, there has been instability, chaos, and panic in Pakistan due to terrorist suicide attacks and political instability.

Papua New Guinea

Pray for discernment and leadership as we look to the future of OCC in Papua New Guinea. Pray that God will raise up NLT leaders who will join existing ones and that together, the NLT will be an example to other Christian leaders as they confront great cultural pressures and traditions.

Praise God for the opportunity the Regional Director has had to spend time in Melbourne with some OCC partners who are home on furlough from Papua New Guinea. Pray for the next steps taken as a result of what the Regional Director has been able to learn from his time with them.

Poland

Praise God for the timely delivery of German boxes as well as smooth logistics and distributions.

Praise God for German donors who were so faithful in sending gifts to the children of our country.

Pray for wisdom for our NLT to understand God's will as we design a strategy for next year.

Romania

Praise God that all the trucks carrying boxes came into the country and were distributed before Christmas!

Praise God for the churches in Romania who worked to proclaim the Gospel. This is a blessing, knowing that different denominations were working together for the growth of God's Kingdom. Please pray that this good partnership continues!

Pray for a great spiritual revival in Romania. Considering that Operation Christmas Child was brought into Romania some years ago and that every year, new locations have been targeted, we can easily say the Gospel has been spread all over the country. There is also the Franklin Graham Festival coming in Timisoara... May God touch people's hearts!

Pray for strategy for the 2008 OCC campaign. May God give us wisdom to find His leading!

Senegal

Praise God for the eternal impact of OCC among the street children.

Pray that the Lord will raise up a new National Coordinator.

Serbia

Praise God for the special effort made to reach the children that have never before received such a gift. Around 1000 shoeboxes were distributed in eight villages in Dragacevo County. These children live a very hard life.

Sierra Leone

Praise God for renewed focus on the formation of a new NLT.

Pray for the healing of the country after so many years of war.

Swaziland:

Praise God the tax exoneration was provided this year and the containers cleared customs without difficulty.

Pray for resources to be mobilized to assist the churches as they reach out into their communities to build new relationships through OCC.

Tanzania

Praise God that the clearing process was smooth compared to what is used to be in the past; we know this is a result of prayer.

Pray that God will engage the hearts of the local people so they will have a love for the needy and a desire to reach out to children in the remote areas of Tanzania.

Pray for protection for both the volunteers and shoe boxes since most of African countries are about to start distributions.

Thailand

Praise God for the distribution team that traveled to Thailand in January.

Praise God for the NLT Operation Coordinator's faithful work in looking after these teams for the past few years. Pray for her as she serves on the NLT and also for her leadership in other ministry areas.

Pray for a time of healing, unity, and refocusing during the NLT meetings scheduled in February and for the Regional Director as he coordinates these.

Pray that the NLT Coordinator would be wise and open to God's direction as he leads the NLT.

Togo

Pray that Togo will continue to stabilize and that the leaders will lead with justice before the Lord.

Pray that this year, OCC will have an unprecedented impact not only on the children of the nation but on the nation as a whole.

Uganda

Praise God for the great opportunity we have had to reach the children in Northern Uganda with the special love of Jesus through a simple shoe box. This year we will reach over 8000 children who have been affected by the war in Northern Uganda for the last twenty-two years. These are children who have been born during the war and have never known peace since they were born. These children have lived in Internally Displaced Camps (IDPs) all their life time and are able to hear about the love of Jesus through Operation Christmas Child.

Praise God for the special distribution this year in Uganda. Churches are being touched and given a great opportunity to reach even the most remote areas in the country because the shoe box has made it easy to share the love of Christ in a tangible way.

Ukraine

Pray that the businessmen whose hearts are open to charity will prosper in our city and country.

Pray that we can find sponsors and donors for our Center's projects in this country.

Pray that our government situation stabilizes itself and incorporates the support of charity within the country.

Pray for many opportunities for professional training within the field of our work. Pray for the growth of the organization in general including inspiration for ideas, projects, volunteers and sponsors.

Uruguay

Praise God that 98% of the church volunteers who participated in training.

Praise God for all the volunteers, churches and the consignee who have all collaborated and volunteered to make entrance, unloading, and distribution of the boxes and material possible.

Pray for the NLT of Uruguay that God would continue to strengthen and help them to perform their work with excellence each day and that their meeting with the Canadian team in February would be productive and unifying.

Pray for strength and unity for each church that is hosting evangelistic events for distributions.

Pray for punctuality and organization in creating the post-distribution report.

Vanuatu

Praise God for incredible first time distributions in Vanuatu and for the many children who experienced the joy of a gift and the significance of Jesus for the first time.

Praise God for the Mueller College students who recently traveled to Vanuatu for distributions. Pray that God would water the seeds planted from their mission experience.

Pray for Mueller College, SP Australia and the Vanuatu Christian Council as we work together in seeing an NLT formed in Vanuatu.

Pray that God's choice of leaders will be placed in the right positions on the NLT in His timing and that as each step is taken, God's hand would open and shut the right doors.

Pray that the church of Vanuatu would quickly embrace OCC and realize its great potential. Pray for the pastor of the church, our main contact, as he may be key in the selection of the NLT and future distributions in Vanuatu.

Venezuela

Pray that the NLT in Venezuela will receive exoneration. The government has ended the treaty that allowed the NLT to gain exoneration for the shoeboxes in the past. The NLT has appealed their case and is waiting to hear back if it will be granted.

Vietnam

Pray for the Vietnam Country Director and the OCC Head Coordinator as they lead the work of SP and OCC in Vietnam. Praise God for the wisdom and strong, godly example so clearly evident in their work and leadership.

Pray for the OCC Head Coordinator as he constantly negotiates with government officials regarding clearance of containers. Pray for favor, patience and wisdom.

Pray for wisdom as we work toward the vision of a fully functioning NLT for Vietnam and for the next steps that will be taken towards this during the Regional Director's visit in February.

Praise God that this season boxes were released at the last minute, proving His perfect timing.

Pray for the Vietnam Country Director and family as they wait on pending test results for his wife, Pat. Pray for healing for the benign tumor found on her adrenal glands.

Zambia

Praise God for NLT training in the Northern and Luapula Province. It was wonderful to see how the high impact module materials were very helpful in the process of selecting, recruiting and training as well as how the groups embraced the Principle Objectives, Core Values, and Mission statement.

Praise God that our custom documents were cleared without any delays.

Pray for strength and protection as NLT members move from one district to another for trainings and distributions.

Pray that the clearing process with the Ministry of Finance will go smoothly and relationships would be developed with the agents.

Pray that we would be able to relay the Gospel in the most clear and practical way as we distribute these shoe boxes.

Australia

Pray specifically for unity within the NLTs as there have been a number of recent challenges among the team members in our region.

Pray for wisdom and discernment for the Australian Regional Director as he provides NLT training and works with each team to build new strategies with an increased focus on empowering the local churches.

Canada

Praise God for the safety of volunteers and staff at the Processing Centers this past season.

Pray for wisdom and guidance for researching and implementing the new processing system.

Pray that key corporate relations will continue to strengthen and develop.

Pray for the building of new relationships with transport companies in Ontario and British Columbia and that the meetings with these partners would go well in regards to changes for next season.

Pray for wisdom and direction as new positions are filled and transitions take place with the Collection Centers.

Germany

Praise God for the more than 3,600 registered volunteers, plus thousands of unregistered supporters, who informed donors and media of updates during the season and organized donations, shoebox collections, processing and transportation.

Praise God for the donors who gave 472,880 shoe box gifts plus donations to cover expenses and get the new season started.

Praise God for the positive response from partnerships and the media.

Praise God for our NLTs in Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland, Slovakia and West-Bank who have worked hard on a volunteer bases to get the distribution network set up, the distributors trained, customs prepared and organized, and the funds raised.

Praise God for the new Moldovan NLT who facilitated its first OCC season.

Pray for committed and faithful prayer supporters for our ministry.

Pray for practical ideas and open doors for the Lord's name to be carried to our donors through our Collection Center network and volunteers.

Pray for the recovery and new strength for all staff and volunteers, nationally and internationally.

Pray for our German office in a challenging time of transition: Unity, new vision, commitment and identification with the goal to reach the world with Christ as his ambassadors.

Pray that the NLTs may be inspired with new visions and strategies to continue the OCC ministry.

Netherlands

Praise God for our complete team. In the last year, more than half of our team was added. With the addition of the team comes extra pressure to our office budget so please pray for wisdom as we face possible financial challenges.

Pray for the pastors and ministries who are working with the Muslims in our recipient countries. One pastor declared that, initially, Muslims wanted to chase them out of the area and churches were burned by radical Muslims. The final report states that after the distribution, relationships improved.

"Before the distribution they used to call us 'Caphir.' That means unclean person. Now they address us as 'Ministers of God.'"

United Kingdom

Praise God for the number of boxes collected during the 2007 campaign - it exceeded last year's quota! We pray that they will all be delivered safely to the children and that they will all be blessed by the gifts that they receive.

Praise God for the thousands of volunteers throughout the UK who, through their faithfulness, worked tirelessly throughout the years and the 2007 campaign period.

Pray that God will make his vision known to us in the 2008 campaign and that He will be would be done.

United States Field Offices

Mid-Atlantic Region

Praise God that we have a new manager serving the Mid-Atlantic volunteers.

Praise God that we have four additional Volunteer Area Teams, with a total of sixteen teams.

Pray that the our office and the Volunteer Area Teams have wisdom and God's favor as they serve the Lord.

North East Region

Praise God for our two new Volunteer Area Coordinators for Vermont and Massachusetts. This is the first time we have had coordinators in these areas.

Pray that God will give direction and guidance with Volunteer Area Team prospects to lead and serve them well.

Northwest

Praise God for the three new Volunteer Area Teams this year. We anticipate God doing great things through each team member.

Praise God for the hundreds of responses received from the short term volunteer sheets during processing season and we are eager to follow up with each of them.

Florida Region

Praise God for providing us with two Volunteer Area Coordinators.

Pray for the volunteer recruitment meetings in Jacksonville and Orlando.

Pray that we will have wisdom in selecting two new Volunteer Area Coordinators.

Upper Midwest Region

Praise God that we have a good lead contact for a new Volunteer Area Coordinator in Cambridge, MN.

Pray for the upcoming volunteer recruitment meetings in the next few months which will involve a lot of traveling- pray for safety and protection. Also, pray for people to attend the meetings and for them to clearly hear the call of God to be more involved with the project.

Southwest Region

Praise God for the very high rate of return with our Volunteer Area Teams.

Praise God for the successful Collection and Processing season.

Pray that God will fill the current leadership positions open on the Volunteer Area Teams.

Pray for wisdom to see where God is moving to start new Volunteer Area Teams.

Lower Midwest Region

Praise God that three new Volunteer Area Coordinator positions are filled.

Praise God for the high percentage of long term volunteers who are a blessing to work with.

Pray that the staff and Volunteer Area Coordinators going to Lima, Peru would come back and effectively communicate God's activity in the transformation of children's lives and their families.

Pray for wisdom and God's favor in enlarging the collection network and securing those sites and coordinators.

Pray for relationship building with new churches

Pray that our volunteers will make it a priority to attend all training opportunities.

TX/ LA Region

Praise the Lord for several churches that emerged during National Collection Week who want to join the collection network.

Praise God for the many year-round volunteers who promote the ministry of OCC throughout the year.

Pray for our Texas Coastal Bend Area Coordinator who lost her daughter to a long illness on Christmas Day.

Pray that the Lord would choose the right person to lead our region as Director.

United States general praises and request

Praise God for the containers that have cleared in Namibia, Belize, Columbia, Peru, Trinidad, China, and the Philippines.

Praise God for the media success in 2007. There was a 29% increase in coverage.

Praise God for the timely distribution of media materials.

Praise God for the successful and efficient Volunteer Team System in the Boone Processing Center.

Praise God for the ten new Volunteer Area Teams added in January 2008, bringing the total to 130 teams.

Praise God for the deepened volunteer experience in the Processing Centers.

Pray for successful Special Distribution trips to Peru and Ukraine.

Pray for the successful launch of the OCC Volunteer Extranet, a web page with volunteer resources and information.

Pray for wisdom concerning aligning the details for the OCC CONNECT Conferences, volunteer recruitment and encouragement. Pray that there would be unity, enthusiasm, and high attendance.

Pray for new partnerships to develop within Community Relations and God would provide wisdom and discernment to reaffirm and strengthen existing partnerships.

Pray that the Field staff and management will continue to evaluate and adjust policy and procedures to enhance communications, provide greater unity, and vision for 2008.

Pray that the Logistics team would be able to continue building the Gifts In Kind.

Pray that the Logistics trainings would clearly communicate the importance of empowering the Collection Centers to work with the Relay Centers, the importance of completing documentation, and the proper usage of resources.

Pray that the Operations team would be able to smoothly implement the Team System into more Processing Centers.

Pray that the Operations team would be able to set up, test, and employ the bar coding system in the Processing Centers.

Pray that the Operations team will be able to complete technology updates in the US field offices which will include training the staff how to properly use the new programs.

Pray for the Native American Ministries Coordinator who is experiencing several health issues. He has also experienced great loss as far as losing family members in the last couple of years. He has been left with the huge task of raising his niece and nephew after the loss of his sister.

Pray that the Juba Arabic Greatest Gift of All booklets will arrive in South Sudan on time for the distribution.

Pray that the OCC Discipleship Program and materials have an eternal impact on the lives of many children and for the transitions occurring within the program.

Pray for the staff and volunteers who work with our strategic partners to supply OCC with evangelistic and discipleship material to NLTs around the world.

Pray for wisdom and discernment in the process of selecting International Field Representatives for South Asia and East Asia as well as for a Regional Manager.

Pray that the NLT, RLT, and Distribution Partner trainings be facilitated with excellence this year.

Pray that ministry will be maximized in each region of the world with a can-do mindset.

Pray for continued unity both in thoughts and goals within Operation Christmas Child, both domestically and internationally among staff and volunteers.

Pray for the shipments in transit to safely arrive at their destinations and clear customs.

Pray for the upcoming International Coordination Meetings in Ireland and Calgary with all OCC Affiliate Offices. Pray for traveling safety to the meetings, unity among the offices and staff, and quality relationship building.

Pray for successful recruitment and training of the International Field Representatives.

Pray that each person involved with Operation Christmas Child world wide will be focused on advancing the Kingdom of God through their work with this project.

Pray for physical and spiritual protection for all volunteers and staff within Operation Christmas Child.