



MONTHLY PRAYER UPDATE



Children in Belarus taking part in The Great Journey!

The Greatest Journey: *God Answering Prayers in Belarus*

In Belarus in 2016, a church used The Greatest Journey for the first time after a shoebox gift distribution. Everything had been prepared expecting around 30 children to come. However, only one mom came with three children. All three attended classes regularly, and at the graduation, they received certificates and the New Testament. The mom and kids continued to attend the church. In 2017 Olga (that mom) came to the pastor's wife with a question: "Are we going to have this program again this year?" The pastor's wife did not know how to answer. So, she said, "If the children come, we will do the program."

So Olga's mother began to work on it. She has created a group on Facebook and was inviting everyone she could think of to this program. As a result, ninety children showed up! That became a problem because the church building was small. Nevertheless, they accommodated them all. Also on the second floor of their tiny building, they organized a seminar for parents on how to bring up children.

After The Greatest Journey classes were over, many children continued to attend church. And the parents started a small group in the church for fellowship. Olga was baptized and is an active member of the church now. We praise God for OCC and the doors it opens up.

Be Encouraged: True Relief in a World of Trouble

In God's Word, we are warned that in this fallen world we will experience trouble, worry, and anxiety. But, the Lord Jesus doesn't leave us on our own. He invites us to come to Him and bring to Him all of our problems because He is all powerful to handle them and He is always our answer. Jesus reaches right down into the realness of our everyday life and struggles as He offers this awesome invitation, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28).

This same invitation of supernatural relief is echoed by the Apostle Peter as he points us to Jesus as the true source of our daily rest, "Cast all of your anxiety on him because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7). We know that Peter was a fisherman by trade and was very familiar with the exercise of casting nets into the sea. These nets, often weighted around the edges, were not light and required a full effort and both hands to cast them out of the boat into the water. This is the picture that Peter wants us to see concerning our own worries and anxieties. Yes, they are heavy and weighted but Jesus invites us to cast them upon His shoulders and let them fully rest of Him so that our hands are free to serve, worship, and fully embrace our joy.

In our contemporary context, we often think of "casting" a single fishing line and then reeling it back again. Too often, this is how we have dealt with our worries and anxieties. We intend to give them to the Lord but then we quickly take them back and attempt to carry them in our own power. In our daily times of prayer, we all need to practice "casting" all of our anxieties and worries on Jesus in the same manner that Peter would throw a heavy fishing net into the sea. And Peter encourages us even further by telling us that Jesus "cares for us" and deeply desires to give His people rest and relief. When we daily cast our anxieties on Jesus we experience freedom and joy, and God gets the glory.

Operation Christmas Child International Prayer Requests: Eurasia

Week 1: February 1-7 Bosnia and Hercegovina

- Please pray for the Holy Spirit to protect, empower and guide our new Regional Team members and teacher trainers.
- Praising the Lord that The Greatest Journey group that was stopped by a local religious leader has been able to start again and the Holy Spirit is working on the hearts of the opposition.
- Pray that The Greatest Journey groups that are still continuing will finish strong and produce many, grounded disciple of Jesus Christ who will also be active evangelists and multipliers for the Kingdom.
- Please pray that God will continue to supernaturally grow the Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry in these countries and raise up more qualified teachers.

Week 2: February 8-14 **Moldova**

- Please pray for God's hand of power and anointing on the newly selected Regional Team Members and the Spirit's unity within each team.
- Praise the Lord for the very first National Connect Conference in the country and that the Holy Spirit will produce long-lasting eternal fruit out of this national event.
- Please pray for all of The Greatest Journey teachers that they will depend on the Holy Spirit for their ministry and that they will learn well the Resources 2.0 material and effectively disciple the children.
- Please ask the Lord Jesus to raise up new churches who will partner in the Great Commission ministry of Operation Christmas Child.

Week 3: February 15-21 **Philippines**

- Praising God for the awesome National Connect Conference He recently provided! Please pray with us that the Holy Spirit will use all of the training, coaching and fellowship to strengthen all of our teams and help us make more and more disciples of Jesus Christ this year.
- Asking the Holy Spirit for His joy, guidance, unity and protection on all of our six Senior Regional Leadership Teams in the country.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit continues to provide fruitful partnerships with effective warehousing companies for an anointed distribution of all shoebox gifts this year.

Week 4: February 22-28 **Serbia**

- Asking the Holy Spirit to produce much spiritual fruit out of the successful National Connect Conference that God blessed us with.
- Please pray for God's hand of protection and guidance on our new Regional Leadership Team that was recently selected.
- Pray for the Spirit's perfect and abundant wisdom for all of the teams and all of the planning that is currently going on for the new Operation Christmas Child season.
- Thank the Lord for the Ministry Partners He has raised up and that they will continue to partner with Operation Christmas Child and that the Lord will raise up new Ministry Partners this year.