



# Coast Guard News

SEMPER PARATUS

OCTOBER 2007



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To Equip ...  
To Win ...

**FELLOWSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES  
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HELPING YOU  
MAKE THE  
MOST OF THEM**

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— OCTOBER 2007

Masthead photo courtesy of  
**U. S. Coast Guard —**  
CGC BOUTWELL while  
deployed to North Pacific  
Coast Guard Forum

## Getting Ready to Show GOD'S LOVE This Christmas

by Vic Primeaux

**O**peration Christmas Child may not yet be a household name, but it surely deserves a place on our "Christmas planning calendars." In



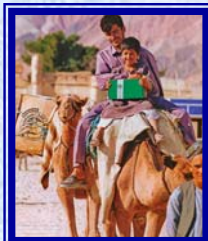
so many words, it would be a tremendous blessing to many children around the world if a whole bunch of us decided to take an active part—as we approach the upcoming Christmas Holidays—to open our hearts and roll up our sleeves and get actively involved in this very meaningful and tangible expression of God's love to desperately needy children all around the world!



**Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse** of which Operation Christmas Child is one of its many Christian programs, helps a child in Africa open a gift shoe box. Franklin is one of the sons of the Reverend Billy Graham.

Last year Operation Christmas Child delivered over seven million gift shoe boxes packed with love to children in over 120 countries around the world. Inside each shoe box was a full-color story booklet, in the child's own language, of the story of the first Christmas—God's greatest gift, Jesus Christ, and His sacrificial love for us.

Gift shoe boxes were delivered far away and hostile places such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan ... and others



Excited kids showing their delight as they bring home their gift shoe boxes by foot or by camel!



Standing behind some of the packed gift boxes for last year's Operation Christmas Child campaign are **Vic Primeaux** and **OCS Penny Koons**, ISC Seattle. The big-hearted Coastguardsmen and civilian employees of the 13th District Office and Pier 36/ISC Seattle complex donated over 60 boxes during last year's event! The use of see-through, hard plastic boxes with snap-on lids is a real prize for the children since most of them don't even own a box of any kind in which to keep the handful of items considered most precious and valuable to them.

were delivered to needy, inner city children living in absolute poverty.

Take a few minutes to call 800-353-5949 or, even better, go to the detail-filled website <http://www.samaritanspurse.org> and look in the right column for the Operation Christmas Child link. Here you can fill in your zip code to find the nearest drop-off point for the filled gift



shoe boxes ... and you can click on "Order Materials" to get all the supplies and informational DVDs about the ministry and great tips about packing a shoe box.

This is an awesome way to get shipmates, officemates, or church/Bible Study group members to be joyfully involved in focusing on a very special charity that delivers both the joy and the true message of Christmas to a child who may have never before celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ!



**FILLING UP A SHOE BOX** can be a whole lot of fun for oneself or an entire family (often our children like to fill one up all by themselves especially as a gift for a young boy or girl somewhere in the world). A brochure is provided with a label for the outside of the box (girl or boy and what age grouping) and has a list of suggested items to help fill up the box. Story after story from the children shows that putting a small stuffed animal in a an Operation Christmas Child shoe box is almost always the most loved gift



**First Lady of Uganda, Janet Museveni**, wife of Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, presents an Operation Christmas Child gift shoe box to Hilda who had recently lost her mother and father to AIDS.