



517 OCC boxes collected this year!

Thank you for making Christmas a special time for boys and girls across the world by giving of your time and resources so that children can tangibly experience the love of Christ through the gifts they receive and hear the message of the gospel. We hope you enjoyed the experience of giving in this way.

We were blessed by the Brase family story (below) this year... We hope you enjoy it as well.

Trisha

There are times as parents when we feel like we're simply going through the right motions but not sure if the deeper principles and values are really sticking with the kids. We tell them to be kind to others, we praise them for sharing their toys, we count our blessings together and remind them of how fortunate they are to have three meals a day and a bed to sleep in with their 32 favorite stuffed animals. But then there are times when everything clicks and we realize that values are being caught instead of just taught. Our experience with Operation Christmas Child this year was one of those occasions when we saw fruit in our children that could have only come from God.

We've been happily filling shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child for nine years. Typically, I was the one to pick up the necessities like soap, socks and toothbrushes and we'd find little toys at various places. Over the past few years, we've taken the kids to the dollar store and let them pick out items to later stuff into the boxes at home. We began reading a picture book about Operation Christmas Child and watching the promotional clips online. Last year, the kids added personal notes for the first time and were surprised to hear back from one of the children who received a box! They also thought it was really neat to receive an email showing us the country in which our boxes ended up.

This year was completely different. I'm not sure if it was due to the age of our kids (10,7,4) or just better intention on our part, but this year Operation Christmas Child became their mission rather than mine. Our kids have clipboards at home with three envelopes attached - one for spending, one for saving, and one for giving. Their allowance money each week becomes automatically divided by them among the three envelopes. When it came time to begin shopping for shoe box items, the kids turned immediately to their "giving" envelopes. The next thing that they did was read the information brochures and make shopping lists of items that they wanted to purchase. When we went to the store, they were extremely thoughtful about which items would be most useful and which toys would be most fun and last the longest. We smiled as we noticed that they were choosing things that they, themselves, would love to have. Not all items came from the dollar section - our oldest daughter insisted that a cute, new t-shirt would make a little girl very happy. A few items had been tucked away at home and saved for shoe boxes - like beanie baby animals won at a carnival. (Completely their idea.) As the kids packed their things carefully, our four-year-old asked questions about the little girl who would be so excited to get her presents. We printed out the "All About Me" sheets from the OCC website and the kids attached their school pictures and used their best handwriting to fill in all the questions.

Before taking our boxes to church, we took time to pray over them. We prayed that our boxes would be a blessing to the kids who received them and that those special kids would learn about Jesus and feel loved. As we placed the three boxes under the tree among a sea of other boxes, I felt an incredible warmth in my heart. Our children weren't doing this just because we told them to. They weren't just sharing in order to get praise or using cash that we handed them to pick out toys for kids they didn't know. This year, they really began to understand the purpose of Operation Christmas Child. They realized that even though they are kids, themselves, that they could share God's love with kids across the world. The best part was that they did it with joy! As we reflect on this one particular experience, we're reminded to slow down and take time to let our kids be a true part of our family's efforts. We're also reminded that it's not always the parents who teach the kids! This year, our kids have taught us the power of giving generously, specifically, and with a happy heart.

Amy & Adam Brase
(Parents of Kaylie, Logan, and Sadie)

save the dates...

- December 10/11** kidcity Christmas program
- December 31** RENEWYEARPROJECT
- January 20** kingdom kids carnival
- January 27/28** Feed My Starving Children
- February 24** kingdom kids fundraiser
- March 10** kics training

- March 24** eggstravaganza
- May 12/13** child dedication
- May 9** AWANA awards night
- June 2/3** promotion weekend
- June 25-29** treasure hunters week
- July 15-19** vacation bible school

CHRISTMAS
in the good old days

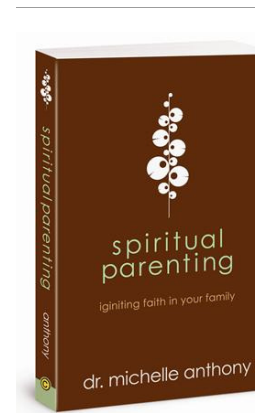
christcommunitychurch

fri, dec 23 7pm
sat, dec 24 1:00, 2:15, 3:30, & 4:45pm
sun, dec 25 no services



all services are identical
childcare is available (birth to pre-K) at all services

spiritual parenting coming soon



Spiritual parenting is a 6 part series to awaken parents to their biblical role as the primary nurturers of their children's faith with the dependence on the Holy Spirit for transformation. Spiritual parenting is not perfect parenting. It's parenting with an eternal perspective. It does not focus on perfect behavior in our children, yet it focuses on faith. God wants hearts and souls that are shaped in vibrant faith and love toward Himself and others. As parents learn how to depend on the Holy Spirit to transform their children's lives, often times we ask the question, what is my role? Parents will learn 10 different environments that they can create in their home that allow the Holy Spirit to change their children's lives when and as He chooses. It allows us to come alongside of what the Spirit is already doing in our children's lives.

Watch the bulletin for dates and times.

We are getting excited for family entertainer DonB! and pancake flipping crew Chris Cakes to join us for our **eggstravaganza celebration!**

Mark your calendars and invite your neighbors, co-workers, and children's friends to come and have a great time while they watch pancakes flip in the air, enjoy breakfast as a family, be entertained by DonB! in the sanctuary, search for eggs, and best of all, hear the message of salvation as we celebrate our risen Savior during this Easter season.

eggstravaganza
march 24

volunteer note Occasionally we have a service where children are in abundance and we need a few extra helping hands! In the sanctuary on the black boxes on both sides, we will flash 111 for early childhood volunteers and 555 for elementary volunteers when we are in need of assistance. Please come to the kidcity desk for room assignment. Thank you!

how can you get involved in the kidcity ministry? Contact one of our staff members below

- Trisha Rindels, director of children's ministries, trindels@cccrochester.org or 282.5569x5217
- Sam Inglebret, early childhood/special events coordinator, singlebret@cccrochester.org or 282.5569x5218
- Karen Faiman, kidcity childcare coordinator, kfaiman@cccrochester.org or 282.5569x5216
- Roberta Nelson, kidcity associate, rnelson@cccrochester.org or 282.5569x5219
- Ruth Boyer, kidcity administrative assistant, rboyer@cccrochester.org or 282.5569x5211