

Shoebox Christmas a Success!



The Shoebox Christmas program was a success! This year the people of the Dakotas Conference and VIM teams from across the country donated 3,665 gifts for the children of the Dakota's reservations. Unfortunately, the giving looked like it was down by 400 gifts. Some last minute donations from local churches and individuals allowed us to provide the Turtle Mountain Reservation with 400 Shoebox Christmas gifts. Here are a few stories of how those gifts affected the people who received them. Your generosity shared the love of Jesus Christ with 3,665 children. The gifts also affected the parents of these children. Here are a couple of stories about how the gifts impacted some. Blessings to you all! Thank you for helping us share the love of Jesus Christ with the children and adults of the Reservations in the Dakotas. *Blessings -- Mike and Libby Flowers*

As I was out visiting families in our community, I was told about a young grandmother who had recently lost her job due to car repairs she could not financially afford to pay and she had no other means to travel to work. She had taken custody of her two grandchildren whose mother was in prison for drugs. When I found out her phone number and address I called her and told her I had gifts for her grandchildren and that I would be by that afternoon. When I went to her residence, the kids met me at

the door and asked "If Santa was with me." I stated that I was Santa's helper and that he would come on Christmas. The kids were so excited to receive the gifts that they wanted to open them up right then but the grandmother told them to put them under the tree. When I was admitted into the living room, their stood a tree that was decorated with handmade and older ornaments, but it was beautiful. Under the tree lay two stockings that the Grandmother explained that was all she had to give the kids for Christmas; with tears in her eyes she thanked me.

The Police Department called our office about a young family that had recently lost all their possession in a trailer house fire. The couple came to our office and told us that they had made a loan on their income tax and had already bought presents for their children and everything was lost in the fire. They barely escaped with the clothes on their back and luckily the father grabbed the car keys, as the weather was 20 below zero with the wind chill. The couple was placed in emergency housing and the whole community gave what they could to replace the things lost in the fire. The shoe box gifts were welcomed and appreciated by the young family. The couple had called our office after Christmas and told us that their children received better gifts than what they originally bought them.

