

A decorative border surrounds the page, featuring a repeating pattern of Christmas-themed icons: stars, trees, angels, gift boxes, hearts, and arrows, all in shades of blue and purple.

Samaritan's Purse Shop-ahead TIPS

This time of year, when lots of sales are going on for Back-to-School, is a great time to buy for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. This is a wonderful ministry where people in your church pack shoe boxes for children in need around the world. See the official list of items and all the related information on their website.

<http://www.samaritanspurse.org> website. In addition, here are some additional . . .

Shop-ahead TIPS for now and in the coming months:

- Crayons, pencils, erasers, colored pencils, pens, tablets, pencil sharpeners are often available for literally pennies now and are great for all ages.
- Get the pencil boxes as an additional gift. You can pack your items in these and put them into the shoe box—the child gets an extra gift and no additional space required.
- Target has a dollar section and after a few weeks they mark items down to as low as .50 to .10 each—keep your eyes open year round and stock up.
- At the Dollar and .99 Stores keep your eyes open for sets of combs, toothbrushes, and similar items. It's nice to give a child a sealed set of combs or other items—then the child can give gifts from your gift.
- These stores also get in small t-shirts, sometimes very nice hair ornaments, or toys. When you see especially nice things, buy them—they won't last.
- Pray for shopping wisdom. The Lord knows the little children who will receive your gifts and He can guide your shopping adventures to exactly what will meet needs and give joy.

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Christmas in August

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