

**Orphan Grain Train Headliner****December 19, 2018**

The Headliner tells about the latest shipments, events, fundraisers and distribution of humanitarian aid in the United States and worldwide by the 27 Regional locations of the Orphan Grain Train. Learn how you can be a part of the bigger picture. Thank you for your support of the ministry and mission of OGT.



**For unto us a child was born
The Messiah who saves the world!**

May the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ, surround you all the days of your life. Orphan Grain Train staff wishes you and your family God's blessings this season as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas and may you have a Christ-filled 2019!

OGT Holiday Hours

OGT national office and the Norfolk warehouse will be closing at noon on Thursday, December 20 and will open again on Thursday, January 3, 2019. This time is for staff and volunteers to enjoy Christmas celebration and the New Year with family and friends.



Stories Come To Life

Recently OGT had a special request for hand or marionette puppets and 'thank you' to those that gave us puppets! Yesterday a shipment containing the puppets, 171,072 Mercy Meals, 1,500 lbs. of processed rice, blankets and other humanitarian aid were shipped to the Philippines. Grace with World Harvest Mt. Moriah Camp is thrilled to be getting new and bigger puppets for their upcoming Christmas celebration. Grace also shared that on Christmas eve they will be visiting some of the widows to share quilts and food from OGT and sing carols.

Christmas eve is a very big event for Filipinos to share food with their family so they hope to provide for a few very poor widows. OGT changes lives around the world because of

support from our donors and volunteers! Thank you!

Aid Loaded for Many

Last Friday OGT's New England Branch volunteers in Terryville, CT got a shipment loaded and on its way to the Republic of Georgia. A new recipient Union of Assistance to Refugees will receive some of the aid along with Union of Investments & Humanitarian Projects which has received shipments in the past. The aid will be shared with families displaced because of war or other events, orphanages, low income and the disabled. They are excited to be receiving 42,552 Harvest Pack meals, quilts, clothing, coats, shoes, hygiene items, cane/walkers/wheelchairs, bicycles, toys, school kits, sewing machines and fabric. Awesome job New England volunteers - Thank you!!





Grateful Heart

Recently OGT's California-Arizona-Nevada collection center coordinator Steve Rice delivered blankets, quilts, clothing, hygiene supplies, sewing machines and fabric to southern California to help border missions. Building 1000 Generations and Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry received the goods which will be delivered in Tijuana for families living in poverty. Picture is from a previous delivery to Tijuana.

Together to Give

Last week the Norfolk warehouse volunteers loaded a shipment of goods that was partially donated by Missouri-Illinois Branch in St. Louis. Bibles, choir robes, layette kits, medical equipment/supplies, bikes, toys, school furnishings/desks/chairs, clothes and shoes are on their way to serve Lutheran Church of Gambia and families living in poverty.



Devotion by Paul Leckband, OGT Correspondent

This Week's Scripture: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for Me One who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." (Micah 5:2) "His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation" (Luke 1:30)

Celebration & Preparation The verse above from Luke's Gospel is from the Magnificat, Mary's song of praise. The setting? Mary, unmarried & pregnant with the Messiah, visits her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth, too, is expecting a child. When the sound of Mary's greeting was heard, the baby in Elizabeth's womb—that would be John the Baptist—"leaped for joy" (1:44). Mary's Magnificat is her joyful response.

According to dictionary.com, "Advent" is "1. A coming into place, view, or being; arrival." Mary is carrying Jesus, the Messiah, in her womb. He is the One who will save His people--& that includes His people through all generations—from their sins. Jesus, the Son of God, "whose origins are from of old," was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit to be born True God & True Man.

Christmas is just a few days away. Advent is a preparation for Jesus' arrival, but NOT His arrival as a baby born in Bethlehem. We celebrate His birth, but during Advent we've been reminded that Jesus will come again. His people prepare joyfully for the 2nd coming of Christ, when we all will be taken by Him into heaven. This is most certainly true! How is Advent a time of preparation for Christians?

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