



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN, INC.
 December 2000 Volume 8, Issue 4

'Grain Train on the Move

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Orphan Grain Train Gifts Bring Happiness in Panama

Story taken from *Lutheran Layman* magazine, November/December 2000, and from Ken Peterson's presentation at Norfolk, Sept. 30, 2000.

When Ken Peterson came to the Orphan Grain Train convention, he shared the story of a Panamanian girl named Martha, who is happier now, even with a rare disease.

Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva is a genetic malady and can be progressive and severely disabling. Peterson met Martha and her family last summer.

"Her body is slowly solidifying," said Peterson. "The disease affects the whole body, but not facial muscles, so the person eventually is like a stone with the ability to live and talk."

A hospital bed was needed to make the girl comfortable. The bed will make it possible for her parents to better care for Martha at home. It had been a donated item collected by Orphan Grain Train volunteers and sent to Latin America.

Assisting in the delivery of the donated bed was Shirley Salas, wife of the leader of the government party in Panama. "Shirley is 'North American' and has been working with us in a number of areas on a volunteer basis to help the needy," explained Peterson.

The Rev. Ray Wilke, said, "the Lord Jesus became involved with beds when He told the paralyzed man who had been lowered through the roof to take up his bed and go home. Jesus announced that faith had accomplished this. Beds and faith were integral parts of Jesus' ministry and they are parts of our ministry also. How happy it makes us when Orphan Grain Train volunteers give glory to God."

Peterson calls the donation and the delivery "a heart breaker. May Jesus smile on

those who donated, loaded, and prayed for this bed that will make this girl's life better," concludes Peterson.

Ken also thanked Orphan Grain Train for the help sent to Panama. He has received from Orphan Grain Train eight semi-loads in Panama alone. These shipments contained 24,000 pounds of dried peas, 20,000 pounds of powdered milk and corn; medical equipment, including beds and medicines; clothing for the refugees and residents of the Darien region, bordering Columbia.

This aid when distributed by caring volunteers in Panama, such as Shirley Salas, along with 4,750 New Testaments and 13,000 booklets has made a tremendous personal witness to the people of Panama. He said the mission field is over 90 percent un-churched people, and up to 70 percent of them are poor and in need of our help.

Ken asks for our unceasing prayer support.



photo by Ken Peterson

Lutheran Hour Ministries volunteer, Shirley Salas, of Panama, visits a resident at one of the hospitals where Orphan Grain Train equipment donations were delivered this past year. Shirley is the wife of the leader of the government party in Panama.

Another Semi-load of Hope Arrives in Russia!

Nov. 14, 2000

Dear Sirs,

Our big gratitude to you and low bow on behalf of me personally and Lubov K., main doctor of Municipal Tuberculosis Hospital #8, for the humanitarian help, graciously donated to the needy ones.

All the things, being in the container: clothing, hospital beds and hospital supplies, were given to the Tuberculosis Hospital #8.

There are 600 patients, having diagnosis "tuberculosis," treated at the hospital. 300 of them are homeless people.

Of course, the clothing you donated is very necessary for such patients, especially, because the clothing, in which they come to the hospital, is burnt according to sanitary norms.

Our big "THANK YOU" once more for your kind hearts and souls, your good intentions and acts.

I hope that our future cooperation will be successful, too, as well as the kindly help to the needy.

Sincerely, with best wishes,
 Marina B. Director of the Center

Rev. Sandor Arguello addresses Orphan Grain Train

Excerpts from presentation at the Second Annual Orphan Grain Train International Convention, Saturday, September 30, 2000.

Introduction: Rev. Arguello is missionary to Nicaragua for the Lutheran Church Canada. He took his seminary training at the Concordia Seminary in St. Catherine's, Ontario, Canada. Born and raised in Nicaragua, he fled his native land during the Sandinista-Contra civil war and completed his college and seminary training in Canada. There he became a Canadian citizen, and served as a parish pastor in Canada before accepting a call to the mission field. After 11 years in Canada, he and his family arrived at Chinandega, Nicaragua, before Hurricane Mitch struck in October 1998. Ken Peterson of Lutheran Hour Ministries alerted Orphan Grain Train to the needs of hurricane survivors in the Chinandega area, and since then more than eight semi-loads of food, medicine and housing kits have been shipped there. Rev. Arguello delivered his "thank you" message to Orphan Grain Train's International Convention last September. Shortly after his return home, Hurricane Keith struck the Chinandega region, much as Hurricane Mitch had done two years earlier, displacing 450 families among the 14 congregations he serves. In early October, Orphan Grain Train provided a cash grant so Rev. Arguello could purchase relief supplies to respond to immediate needs of the displaced families in his area.

We are so thankful for all the assistance you have provided us. It is so wonderful to see how many people have come to faith in Jesus because of your love, your care, and your willingness to share the love of Jesus with people around the world.

"People in Nicaragua never like to hear anything of Lutherans. Most of all, that we came from America! Many (Nicaraguan) people have a very negative sense of what the "Gringos" are. They have only seen bad things. They have seen soldiers in Panama, in Nicaragua, and that's not a good side of America. Maybe for you, they are heroes, but sometimes they are not seen as heroes in all countries. That is why the people believe so many negative things about the United States.

For the first time they have seen the good side of America, the Christian people, sharing love, sharing faith, caring for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. They were expecting us also to say bad things about the Catholics, but we didn't. We never went to Nicaragua to teach about Luther, our blessed Dr. Martin Luther. We went to teach and preach about the Lord Jesus Christ. People came to know we were there to talk about Jesus more than anything else.

But one thing happened. We had a big hurricane—Mitch. You have heard about

that. Many people died at that time. The situation was very bad. We went to every community. We saw so much suffering. People dying. People dead. Corpses everywhere. We cared for the people. We prayed with them. We were there.

"After that, the government of Nicaragua recognized that we were the first organization who came to help the people in the communities in Chinandega specifically. That helped us lot. We received immediately a lot of assistance from you—a lot of peas, and the people called them 'the green beans.' They were so surprised to see peas but they ate them because they knew you sent them with love.

"One day we went to one community called Chichigalpa. One man there lost his whole family—wife and four children. He had been on duty as a fireman working for the Civil Defense at the time when the Hurricane Mitch struck the area. When he came back to the community, they told him what happened with his family.

"He lost everything—wife, children, house—everything.

"We went to that community about three days after that happened. Maybe you remember the mudslide with the big volcano, La Casita. About 2,500 people lost their lives including the family of this Josino Perez. After that, we went there with some bags of beans, some rice and cooking oil and corn flour. And the people were so happy, so excited to receive the assistance that we provided them. We saw that man sitting with his bag of food, and I went to ask him, 'What happened, Josino?'

"He was crying and he said, 'Pastor, even if you bring by a container of food for me I won't be happy today. That is not going to make me happy.' He lost his family. And nothing was going to replace what he lost.

"I said to him, 'We are not pretending to make you happy, but we are telling you, you are not alone. We are with you; you have family with you. Your brothers and sisters in Christ are with you now and that is why we are here.' That man is now in that community. He lost everything. We



Rev. Sandor Arguello of Chinandega, Nicaragua, visits with a hurricane survivor who wants to become a teacher in the nearby community of Israel. Rev. Arguello needs teachers to help him reach the children near Chinandega who are studying the Catechism and the Holy Bible.

provided hope. We provide peace in his heart. We provide Jesus. And that was and is and we continue to be enough for him to survive the loss of his family.

“After that, I feel we won a lot of respect and authority among the people. They realized that we were Christians and cared for the people. They realized that we were really brothers and sisters in Christ. They realized that they were not alone; that they have people around the world that love and care for them.

“I get a little bit unhappy sometimes when people call that kind of ministry, ‘social ministry.’ For us it is not like that. Jesus Christ did so many good things among people. Today, there are many people whom if Jesus were to come here this evening they would say, ‘He is a social worker.’ Sometimes you can get kind of frustrated when people talk about ‘social ministry.’ As if the Holy Spirit is a social worker also. Because we do not produce works by ourselves. We know that the Holy Spirit is working in our hearts and minds. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. If we do something good on behalf of the least of our brothers we are doing that on behalf of Jesus Christ, and that is going to be the final judgment.

“This is something that the Lord is doing through you. This is something that people never understand—that God is working through us, to help other people to go everywhere as disciples of the Lord Jesus and to share His love and care for human-kind.

“We have received so many blessings because of your work. This is why Orphan Grain Train is so successful, because you don’t only work, you know you are sharing your faith. You are doing the will of the Lord and you are sharing whatever you have.

“It is important for us to be here. I came because I want to say ‘Thanks’ on behalf of those people. They are very appreciative. Not only the big amount of food that we have received from Orphan Grain Train,

you know the assistance that you have given us to provide the Word of God to those people who are suffering now.

“It’s not only Nicaragua. . . . Everywhere there is a need, and not only a material need. There is a spiritual need. You can provide the whole food that you can get anywhere, but if you don’t provide the most important thing—that is the Word of God—they will continue suffering. They need to be saved in the Name of Jesus. The Lord is using us: our talents, our gifts, our wealth and He is providing faith to those people who receive care and love from you.

“There is a misunderstanding that only



people who receive food are coming to be Christian. It’s—not—that—way!

“Many people have come to our mission to be Christian and to know Jesus just because they have seen our witness. Many of the people that we have now in fourteen barrios (fourteen communities) in Chinandega are not people that received food in Nicaragua. They have come to us because they have seen the good example that we have provided to the Christians in Nicaragua.

“We started from zero, and now we have 3,000 people in fourteen congregations in Nicaragua. This is a major phenomenon that only the Lord Jesus Christ can make possible through you and through many people that are now working like you in

different places. It is important to take courage and continue doing this.

“We have about 1,200 kids we are teaching Catechism to in 12 communities—almost 100 kids for each community.

“Nicaragua is only a little example that we can do together. If we can do things together in more places like what we are doing in Nicaragua, I am sure the Lord is with us. It is important for us to go and to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ anywhere. I am from Canada. You are from the United States. People there don’t care where you are from. They care that you are brothers and sisters and you want to share your love and care for them. They know Jesus because you have shared your love and cared for them. And they will continue following your example. They are sharing their faith with other people. This is why we have people in training now because they are so in need to share their faith and love with other people as you have done. You have been a good example for us. That is why we do the same thing with all these people around the cities we are working with.”

To learn more about Orphan Grain Train’s work in Nicaragua, ask for the “Con Mis Amigos” video recommended by Rev. Arguello, from the international office in Norfolk. It is available by writing Orphan Grain Train, 416 Park Ave., Norfolk, Nebraska 68701, or calling 402-371-7393. You can also read more about it at: www.orphangraintrain.org

AAL and Orphan Grain Train Assist Tornado Victims at Oconto, Neb.

By Kent Wilke

On Halloween evening at approximately 6:30 p.m., Brian Kopf was heading toward Lexington, Neb., on Highway 21, driving his old pickup and listening to the radio. There were severe thunderstorms forecast for the region. This was unusual because these storms normally occur earlier in the summer, not in the fall. With thunder and lightening all around Brian listened as he heard the radio announcer say, “There’s a tornado on the ground approximately nine miles south of Oconto.”

Knowing that was the area of his mother, Wanda, and her ranch home, he became alarmed and immediately turned around and headed approximately 10 miles back to the ranch. He could barely see in the darkness because of the driving rain. There were dark boiling clouds looming off to the west. As Brian reached the last four miles of the winding gravel road the clouds looked even more ominous. His stomach was in his throat, as he first thought of the fate of his mother and then of the 26 cats at the farm—all named by the way.

He traveled three miles on the gravel and turned north for the one last mile, the longest mile of Brian’s life. As he approached the ranch he could see more and more damage left by the storm.

His heart sank as he drove part way into the long downhill lane leading to the farmstead, driving around large uprooted trees. His concern for his mother rose as he made the curve in the lane. His headlights shown on what used to be the corrals and the old barn, now demolished. Next, he saw that the garage located beside the house was gone. Frantically trying to shine his headlights onto the house he brought the old pickup to a stop.

He could go no further. His worst fears were realized. He could see the large gaping hole in the roof of the large, old, white, frame farmhouse. The roof that he had put on the patio porch for his mother and late father had also been lifted.

He called frantically, “Mother, Mother, where are you?” Shining his flashlight around looking, looking. Finally, a dim

figure emerged onto the patio porch looking very frightened and forlorn. Sure enough, it was his mother. “Are you hurt? Are you hurt?” he yelled in desperation.

“No, I think I’m Okay,” she yelled back in quivering voice.

“Thank God,” he murmured to himself as he ran to her side giving her a long embracing hug.

She then proceeded to tell him what had happened.

Around 6:40 p.m., she heard a strange sound in the distance. Then the roar became more pronounced, like a freight train right outside her door. She started for the basement, but never made it. Just as she opened the basement door, the entryway door flew open and a roaring wind entered her world. The roar was deafening and she could feel things hitting her as she clung, with a vice-like grip, to the knobs of the basement door. The refrigerator door had flung open, spilling all of its contents about the kitchen. The cupboards disgorged all their contents too.

She thought she was going to die. She prayed aloud a simple prayer, “Lord, save me.” Just then, she felt something descend over her head—she said it felt like angels wings—and a calm came over her.

She was still hunkered down clinging to the basement door hoping the storm’s rage would soon subside. Then it did, and she began to survey the damage. The thing covering her head was an old winter coat that she used for doing chores; she was amazed. There was food, mud and debris scattered all over the kitchen. Her dishes and utensils had been sucked from the cupboards. The walls were cracked. As she looked herself over and began to walk, she discovered that miraculously, she was okay!

All the knick-knacks and such that used to hang on the wall of her kitchen were missing. She thought she had seen the last of them, but as she tripped through debris she found a little, round, crocheted holder and plate she had made a long time ago lying on the floor of the upstairs bedroom—unbroken.

The complete east side of the upstairs bedroom roof had been lifted off. Now she could look out to the night sky. How some things were kept from going out that large gaping hole only the Lord knows, but they were intact. She and that small plate were two things that remained unbroken.

On November 9, 2000, Vern Steinman, the Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) Disaster Co-Coordinator, and Kent Wilke, an Orphan Grain Train board member, went to Broken Bow, Neb., to meet with George Roads, the Red Cross Emergency Manager for that County. Their purpose was to discuss disaster relief measures needed for this area and to assess needs of the community and individuals.

“The tornado stayed on the ground for approximately 12 miles before hopping, skipping, and jumping across the prairie . . . ”

By this time, house repairs had already begun and Vern and Kent assured Brian Kopf and his mother that Orphan Grain Train and AAL help would come soon.

The Kopf farmstead sits on the open prairie. The tornado could have cut a path 100 feet on either side, and completely missed the place, however the storm took their farmstead dead on. The tornado stayed on the ground for approximately 12 miles before hopping, skipping, and jumping across the prairie, like a huge vacuum cleaner, wiping out everything in its path. It took out lots of line fences in the open areas. The tornado was on and off the ground for almost 200 miles proceeding slightly to the northwest. It wiped out

almost the entire main street of Oconto. Surrounding residences, including the community building right next to the water tower—leaving the water tower intact—were also destroyed.

After making an assessment and getting a list of necessities put together, the Orphan Grain Train decided to supply 850 fence posts, 20 rolls of barbed wire, and a trailer load of furniture. We also provided some monetary aid. AAL provided \$5,000 in disaster aid. Vern Steinman and Kent Wilke delivered all of this November 30.

Now, about the cats. Other than being covered with mud-balls, Brian could see no injuries and strangely enough, upon counting them, all 26 were there.

Where do lightweight cats go during a heavy-duty tornado? Only God knows.

Responding to Domestic Disasters for Orphan Grain Train

By Richard Jostes

Vern Steinman and Kent Wilke responded for Orphan Grain Train as volunteers. Their return trip to Oconto with a semi-load of fencing material and a trailer-load of furniture provided a happy surprise. The gratitude of the community couldn't be contained. Small as they are in number, the town had summoned four television and three radio stations to come and record the story of Orphan Grain Train's response to their plight. Many times such volunteer service will be rewarded with a heart-felt hug or handshake of thanksgiving.

However, we cannot promise TV cameras to capture the moments like there were at Oconto.

If you would like to become involved in domestic disaster response, contact your local Red Cross about Disaster Response training. You must be trained to be useful in this work. The classes are necessary that you might be better able to become a blessing to those who survive a disaster. There are several courses available, all offered through the American Red Cross including First Aid and CPR. Orphan Grain Train is a Charter Member of the Lutheran Disaster Response Coalition. Orphan Grain Train has been responding to the needs of domestic disaster survivors since Hurricane Andrew hit Homestead, Florida, eight years ago. Examples of domestic disaster aid sent by Orphan Grain Train include shipments sent to flood survivors in Iowa and Missouri, to tornado survivors in Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Nebraska, Minnesota and South Dakota; blizzard and flood survivors in North and South Dakota; and drought and prairie-fire victims in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Montana and Nebraska.

Donations for domestic disaster response are always welcome. After the fires and tornadoes of this past year, our domestic disaster response fund is greatly diminished. The fence posts and wire for Oconto were purchased at wholesale with Orphan Grain Train donations for disaster response. We could use prayers and cash support

for this effort at all times. Shipping overseas is the Orphan Grain Train's greatest use of cash resources, but disaster response requires greater swiftness on our part, and can more swiftly use up cash resources, due to its catastrophic potential. Donations for this effort can be sent to Orphan Grain Train, 416 Park Avenue, Norfolk, Nebraska 68701. Please mark them for "domestic disaster."

This "ministry of helps" in response to domestic disaster is one of the easiest ways to see one's life used by God in miracles for our present day. Tiring work as it might be, the joys of this kind of service are unspeakable and humbling. To God be the glory!

Letter of thanks from Oconto, Neb.

"We want to thank you so much for the 35 fence posts that we received from you in Oconto, Neb.

With all the destruction on our farm from the tornado we can really use them.

We had been feeling so alone, so getting the free fence posts helped to even cheer us up so we can go on again. We do really and truly say a great big thank you again and again."

Below: Volunteers unload fence posts and wire at Oconto, Neb., November 30, for some of the 22 families who requested assistance putting their farms and ranches back together after the October 28 and 31 tornadoes.



photo by Vern Steinman

New York Division: Volunteer Recognition Dinner and Warehouse Workday

Last October, over 70 people attended the annual New York Orphan Grain Train Volunteer Recognition Dinner at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Niskayuna, New York. Guest speaker was Dr. Menkir Esayas, Director of East African and Middle East Ministries for Lutheran Hour Ministries, St. Louis, Mo. Dr. Esayas spoke about ministering to people, individual-by-individual, and how “reaching out to touch” is important in the Ethiopian culture. He emphasized that this trait is important in our lives each day as we reach out and touch people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Dr. Esayas is passionate in his belief that people are hungry to hear the saving words of the Gospel. If we

feel as passionate about the gift of salvation, we will in deed reach out to those near and far with the saving message.



Mr. Bob Hickin, the Warehouse Manager, recognized various volunteers for their service to Orphan Grain Train.

On the following cold, blustery day, Saturday, October 28, many of the people who attended the dinner, including Dr. Esayas and Don Mertes, Development Associate of the Orphan Grain Train International office in Norfolk, Neb., came to the warehouse and worked for 3 1/2 hours, packing and sealing a near record 110 boxes for the next shipment.

New York Orphan Grain Train chair, Elfie Eberle, and Dr. Menkir Esayas, of Lutheran Hour Ministries, St. Louis, Missouri, at the New York warehouse.

photo by Don Mertes

Orphan Grain Train International Convention held in September

Orphan Grain Train's Second Annual International Convention was held September 29 and 30, 2000, at Norfolk, Nebraska. Attendance totaled 198 people from 15 states and five foreign countries.

This year's convention, with the theme, “Oh Give Thanks unto the Lord,” highlighted projects around the world in partnership with Orphan Grain Train.

Several presenters throughout the Saturday session included Lutheran Hour Ministries' Ken Peterson, of Panama; Rev. Karl Heimer of Ysleta Mission, at El Paso, Texas; Rev. Sam Freeman, from Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa; and Rev. Sandor Arguello of Chinandega, Nicaragua.

The events started Friday evening, September 29, with a Wisconsin-style fish dinner prepared by Orphan Grain Train volunteers. Volunteers also prepared Saturday's meals. Organizer for this year's convention was retired

warehouse manager, Dale Pinnt, of Norfolk.

Ken Peterson outlined the challenges facing the Christian church in developing countries, such as Panama, and Nicaragua. Elfie Eberle, of Orphan Grain Train's New York Division, gave a moving update on the “Buy a Shunt-Save a Life” program, which has saved over 1,200 lives in Russia. By the grace of God this program will continue, even though the company that makes the shunts has merged with another. She also reported on a recent shipment of wheat flour to Haiti by the New York Division, and how this semi-load of flour put a ministry back on a solid financial footing.

Rev. Sandor Arguello, of Chinandega, Nicaragua, was the Saturday evening banquet speaker. He gave moving testimony of the power of the Gospel at work among hurricane survivors in Nicaragua where he serves as a missionary for the Lutheran Church of Canada. Over the past two years, Orphan Grain Train has supplied eight container-loads or “semi-loads” of relief supplies to his outreach ministry in Nicara-

gua and special cash grants for emergency relief after this year's Hurricane Keith, which hit Nicaragua shortly after he returned home from the convention. In less than five years, Rev. Arguello has developed 14 congregations around Chinandega, serving 3,000 people. (See “Rev. Sandor Arguello” in this issue.)

Rev. and Mrs. Frank Maurer of Christ Lutheran Church, Norfolk, Neb., presented highlights of their two-week medical and educational mission to Liberia, West Africa, last June. Liberia suffered years of civil war in the 1990's. Several key buildings, such as Monrovia, Liberia's JFK Hospital were destroyed during the war. Orphan Grain Train has been shipping food, medical equipment and religious materials for the work being done there.

The 2001 convention is planned again for Norfolk, September 28 and 29. The June 2001 Orphan Grain Train newsletter will have program information and registration forms.

Rocky Mountain Division Volunteer meets Olga Andreeva in St. Petersburg

This letter was written to Rev. Ray Wilke from Janelle Krueger of the Rocky Mountain Division of Orphan Grain Train after visiting St. Petersburg, Russia, last July. Reprinted with Janelle's permission.

Dear Rev. Wilke:

This is a long overdue letter and donation for the work carried out via the St. Petersburg, Russia, Orphan Grain Train office.

My sister and I were privileged to participate in a Lutheran Hour Ministries' "Servants to the Nations" project near St. Petersburg this past July. We spent many hours with Olga Andreeva and found her to be a most impressive administrator and servant of the Lord. Her integrity is impeccable. She explained in detail how she coordinates the purchases and deliveries for the "Warm Boots for Russia," including showing us the paperwork provided by the orphanages. She is very protective of all aspects of getting aid to intended recipients.

We visited a hospital with Olga to deliver a shunt for an anticipated emergency surgery that day. She usually meets with the parents to ensure that the shunt doesn't end up going to someone lower down on the waiting list. She also lets them



Little Boris smiles as he poses on the new quilt donated by Orphan Grain Train to the Russian Polinov Neurosurgical Hospital Children's Department in St. Petersburg, Russia.

know that the shunts are being provided in connection with Christians. We heard from a neurosurgeon about how great the need is for modern equipment and supplies.

While there for the two weeks, an orphanage administrator, some distance from St. Petersburg, begged Olga to come and visit his facility, because he heard of her help. She thought it would be too far for her to travel. So, they insisted on coming all the way into the city to get her, and return her again. She told us it was pitiful. They have very little. She did not even eat lunch there because she thought her portion would deprive the children.

Therefore, she ate in a local café for 10 rubles. The proprietor explained that 10 rubles was the most they would charge for a meal because they thought that would be the most anyone in the town could afford to pay.

Rev Wilke, I know that Olga will use her best discretion to see that this donation is used in a very worthwhile manner. She surely glorifies God every day that she is on the job, so to speak. And so do you. I am so grateful that you, the volunteers, and the entire Orphan Grain Train operation provide people like me with a means for serving those less fortunate than us.

May God's favor continue shining upon you as you walk in the light of Jesus, the brightest light of all!

Sincerely,
Janelle Krueger



Olga Andreeva is a regular contributor to the Orphan Grain Train newsletter. She writes the stories about the people who receive our help in Russia. This time she is the subject of the letter written by Janelle Krueger. Here she meets one of the infants who received "Warm Boots" at the Psychoneurological Infants' Orphanage #13 in St. Petersburg, Russia.



photos by Olga Andreeva

Roma E., 10 years. Olga wrote: "His mother killed his small brother. Now she is at the prison. She kicked Roma out on the street. Now the boy is being raised by the mother of his stepfather. When Olga brought Roma the new boots and said they were a present for him, he couldn't believe it: 'For me, really? So good? So beautiful? I can't believe it!'" Olga also gave him a Children's Bible and a small book with poems. Here Roma holds the Bible tightly as he models his new boots.



Stas R., age 5 years. Olga reports "The boy's mother uses hard drugs. She takes the boy out leaving alone on the street, until his grandmother finds him. The boy is seriously somatically ill. He cannot go to the Kindergarten because of his diseases. He needs additional treatment and food. He is observed at the crisis department of the rehabilitation center 'Children's Psychiatry' crisis department. Stas and his grandmother are very thankful to the Orphan Grain Train for the donated warm boots."

Orphan Grain Train

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Chernobyl Refugee Family Says Thank You

Many Ukrainians continue to live with the result of the Chernobyl disaster. Some have been helped by Orphan Grain Train. Olga Andreeva shared the following letter:

October 12, 2000

I write you with high sincere gratitude. I am 53 years old. Our family had to leave our home in the Ukraine because of high level of radiation. My mother is blind, my daughter is a student. God bless me by giving me work and all my family lives practically on my salary. Your help is very precious for us in this situation. Jesus Christ says: "I tell you don't worry about your life, what you will eat and drink; and about your body, what you will wear . . ." (Matthew 6:25)

"And why do you worry about clothes?" (Matthew 6:28)

". . . your heavenly Father knows that you need them."

"But seek first his kingdom and His

righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

With the help of your hands God dresses His children in need. Let God bless all those who brought, gathered and sent us the things.

We have hard times now. However, thanks God, our Heavenly Father, that He knows our needs and that He has [given] you generous hearts. "Whoever sows generously will also reap generously." (II Cor. 9:6).

If someone will be tired while working, then let the Word of our Lord strengthen you: ". . . those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

Very sincerely Yours,
Augusta Karetnikova

WANTED by Orphan Grain Train

**Portable gasoline or
diesel-powered
electric generators . . .**

for use in domestic disaster response. All sizes welcome. Must be in working condition since they will be loaned to destitute people. Donors, please arrange delivery to an Orphan Grain Train warehouse nearest you. Write or call: Orphan Grain Train, 416 Park Ave., Norfolk, NE 68701; 402-371-7393.

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