



*'Grain Train on the Move*

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## Historical Quake, Unprecedented Response

The earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12th of this year left the people of the small island without food, water, shelter or basic medical care. At 7.0 on the Richter scale, it was largest and most devastating tremor Haiti had seen in over 200 years.

Rev. Marke Kessa, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, said, "The earthquake resulted in an estimated 350,000 deaths, millions injured, and some 2 million left homeless".

Three weeks before the disaster, Orphan Grain Train established a new arrangement with a local organization that had been meeting the needs of starving people for over three years. Because of

this arrangement, Orphan Grain Train had a secure, fenced compound with a warehouse, an established system of distribution,



Haitian children enjoy a meal provided by Orphan Grain Train. Photo courtesy of LCMS World Relief and Human Care

vehicles that could be rented for transporting supplies to remote areas, and a knowledge of which villages and people were in need.

The availability of vehicles made it possible for Orphan

Grain Train to get food to people in locations that are seldom visited. Some remote villages are totally inaccessible and a pack mule is required to

get supplies or food delivered. In other cases people carry the boxed meals on their heads. Only God in His infinite wisdom knew what Orphan Grain Train was preparing for.

Just days after the tremor, 270,864 servings of "Kids Against Hunger" meals were packed, loaded in a 40 ft. container, and shipped to the people of Haiti.

Since January, Orphan Grain Train, in partnership with LCMS World Relief and Human Care, has sent 31 containers containing nearly 1.5 million servings of "Kids Against Hunger" meals and over 106

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# Historical Quake, Unprecedented Response (continued from page 1)

tons of dry beans to feed the hungry. Shipments of clothing, cleaning supplies, diapers for young and old, thousands of cases of bottled water as well as many other items have lovingly been packed, loaded and shipped to help ease the suffering of the quake victims.

Orphan Grain Train sent sturdy, steel framed, 10' X 20', poly-covered tents that sleep ten. Hundreds of people are using these tents as temporary housing at this time, but more permanent housing is a pressing need.

Real difficulties were encountered as 100 prefabricated houses and four 40 ft., fully equipped, mobile medical clinics with medical supplies, pharmaceuticals and generators were shipped from Houston to Port au Prince. It was discovered that the prefabricated houses were simply too large to fit a



Rev. Glenn Merritt (right) helps pour concrete at a construction site in Haiti. He will report on Haiti relief efforts at the September convention in Norfolk.

*Photo courtesy of LCMS World Relief and Human Care*



Haitian earthquake survivors helped by Orphan Grain Train.

*Photo courtesy of LCMS World Relief and Human Care*

standard shipping container. A special ship that could transport bulk items was found to complete movement of the desperately needed

supplies to Haiti.

Orphan Grain Train works with Lutheran churches in Haiti to help distribute the supplies to the people whose lives have been decimated by the quake. For people who have suffered devastating physical and emotional losses, these aid workers truly are a Godsend. The supplies help to meet their physical needs, but hearts are healed when the Gospel is spoken.

The people of Haiti have been greatly blessed by the partnership of Orphan Grain Train and LCMS-World Relief and Human Care in this crisis. The partnership has allowed them to reach more people with food, supplies and medical care.

As this ongoing relief effort continues, we pray that God would use this partnership to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the people of Haiti.

## I WOULD LIKE TO HELP EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN HAITI

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my gift of of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for The Haiti Relief Effort.

*Mail this form with your gift marked "Haiti Relief" to:*

**Orphan Grain Train**  
PO Box 1466  
Norfolk, NE 68702-1466

# Cargo Containers Bring Hope and Promise to a Community

Article and photos by Nichole Hetz, Nebraska District, LCMS

After a year of prayers and negotiations, three Orphan Grain Train containers reach their destination in Malakal, Sudan

In August of 2008, Orphan Grain Train, LCMS World Relief and Human Care, the Nebraska District, and Webster Gardens Lutheran Church in Webster Groves, Missouri, partnered together to send three cargo containers from Nebraska to Malakal, Sudan. Packed with farming equipment, building supplies, a water purification system, and a medical clinic, these containers embarked on a journey that no one could have predicted. After a year of negotiations with the Sudanese government, the containers and their contents were released and transported to Malakal, a city of more than 125,000 people on the White Nile River in Southern Sudan. In November of 2009, a team of volunteers from Minnesota and Nebraska traveled to Sudan to unload the containers and begin setting up the equipment they contained.

When the team arrived in Malakal, the containers were sitting at the river port dock yard. They moved

the containers to a secure location, which allowed them to store and assemble the equipment in relative safety. Members of the Lutheran church in Malakal gathered to help the team, and the Sudanese were able to learn new skills using the new tools by working alongside the American team.



Setting Rafters on the Containers

Once some of the farm machinery was assembled, the church site was cleaned, staked out, and disked in preparation for the containers to be moved there. The three containers now sit on the church property and store the farm and medical equipment, as well as providing storage and serving as the walls for the church.

According to one member of the team from Nebraska, the challenges they faced

during their weeks in Sudan were all made worth it on the morning they left for home. A Sudanese man walked up to them and with tears in his eyes told them he had never seen eight white men work so hard for them.

The team accomplished amazing things in the time they spent in Sudan, but there is still much left to do. The people of Malakal stepped in and took ownership of the materials that were delivered, but without more funds and people to continue the work, the project will not be able to continue.

The most pressing project right now is providing a cement floor in the church structure before the rainy season arrives. Without the floor, the rainwater will run right in and turn the floor of the church to thick mud.

Other projects that require more manpower and funds to complete include:

- Leveling the floor of the chapel and pouring a concrete floor
- Cement pads under the containers for stability
- Installing tin, windows, and doors on the church structure
- Connecting the water

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# Cargo Containers Bring Hope and Promise to a Community (continued from page 3)

- line with the city water line
- Completing the interior of the living quarters and clinic containers
- Educating the Sudanese on how to use the tractors and other farm equipment

In a city with a population nearly that of Sarpy County in Nebraska, there are an estimated 700 Lutherans.

There is a great need to share the love of Jesus Christ with the largely Muslim population, and having a



Volunteers and Church Members Reassemble Farm Machinery

and people of the Nebraska District are needed to continue this important mission work.

There is much more work for volunteers and mission teams to do in Malakal. If this is something the Lord is leading you to consider, get more information by contacting:

church that can serve the community in both spiritual and physical needs would be a tremendous blessing to the people. Prayers and support from the congregations

Orphan Grain Train or  
Rev. Rich Boring, District  
Office

email@ogt.org  
richb@ndlcms.org  
402-371-7393 • 888-643-2961

## I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT WORK IN SUDAN by providing funds for the following projects:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

My gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ should be used in the following way(s):

- Wherever it is most needed
- Cement for the church floor and the pads under the containers (\$3,000)
- Tin, windows, and doors for the church (\$2,000)
- A boat to allow pastors to travel throughout the area (\$10,000)
- To ship another full container of medical and religious materials (\$10,000-\$12,000)



Mail this form and your gift marked "Work in Sudan" to:

**Orphan Grain Train**  
PO Box 1466  
Norfolk, NE 68702-1466

or

**Nebraska District LCMS**  
PO Box 407  
Seward, NE 68434

# Orphan Grain Train Convention 2010

Friday & Saturday  
September 17 & 18, 2010

*"I will rescue my sheep"*

Ezekiel 34:11-24

## Convention 2010 Registration Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

THERE ARE THREE BREAKOUT SECTIONALS OFFERED:

- The New Orphan Grain Train Branch Manual
- Shipping Q and A with Clayton Andrews
- What Works for Branch Fundraising with Gary Wieck

Each participant will be assigned to a group,  
and each group will rotate between the three sectionals.

*(Please complete other side and mail this form with check or money order  
registration fee to Orphan Grain Train, PO Box 1466, Norfolk, NE 68702.)*

### SECTIONAL PRESENTERS AND TOPICS:

**The New Orphan Grain Train Branch Manual**

**Shipping: Q and A with Clayton Andrews** - *This sectional is all about international and domestic transportation.*

**What Works for Branch Fundraising with Gary Wieck** - *All about fundraising for regional branches.*

### CONVENTION SCHEDULE

#### Friday Evening, September 17

**4:00 to 5:30** Registration at Lutheran High Northeast

**5:30 P.M.** Evening meal Free will offering for Orphan Grain Train's shipping expenses.

**6:30 P.M.** Gary Thies, Mission Developer, Nebraska District and Iowa District West Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod presents "The Papua New Guinea Miracle"

**7:15 P.M.** Sudan Project Update presented by Rev. Ray S. Wilke, President, Orphan Grain Train, Nebraska District President, Rev. Russell Sommerfeld, Rev. Richard Boring, and Rev. John Deang

#### Saturday, September 18

*(Registration continues throughout the day)*

**7:30 A.M.** Continental breakfast

**8:35 A.M.** Opening devotional service, Rev. Ray S. Wilke, President, Orphan Grain Train

**9:15 A.M.** Welcome from Mr. Paul Leckband, Executive Director Lutheran High Northeast

**9:20 A.M.** Haiti Relief Effort presented by Sandra Koch

**10:00 A.M.** Break

**10:20 A.M.** Haiti Relief Effort presented by Rev. Marke Kessa and Rev. Glenn Merritt

**11:15 A.M.** Sectional Breakout (see page two)

**12:10 P.M.** Lunch

**1:00 P.M.** Sectional Breakout (see page two)

**1:50 P.M.** Sectional Breakout (see page two)

**2:40 P.M.** Break

**2:55 P.M.** Hymn Sing

**3:00 P.M.** Quilt Auction

**3:50 P.M.** Orphanage, Prison and Hospital Project Updates presented by Rev. John Reehl with Ruuta Kornete of Latvia

**4:45 P.M.** Closing Devotions with Rev. Ray S. Wilke, President, Orphan Grain Train

**6:00 P.M.** Banquet with entertainment by Garrett Bowder of Pender, Nebraska, who is back by popular demand.

## REGISTRATION AND MEALS:

\$45 per person, postmarked on or before September 1.

After that date: \$50 per person.

*This includes four meals and coffee breaks,  
Friday evening through Saturday evening.*

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) listed on the other side  
of this form for registration and meals:

Friday evening, Saturday morning, noon, and night.

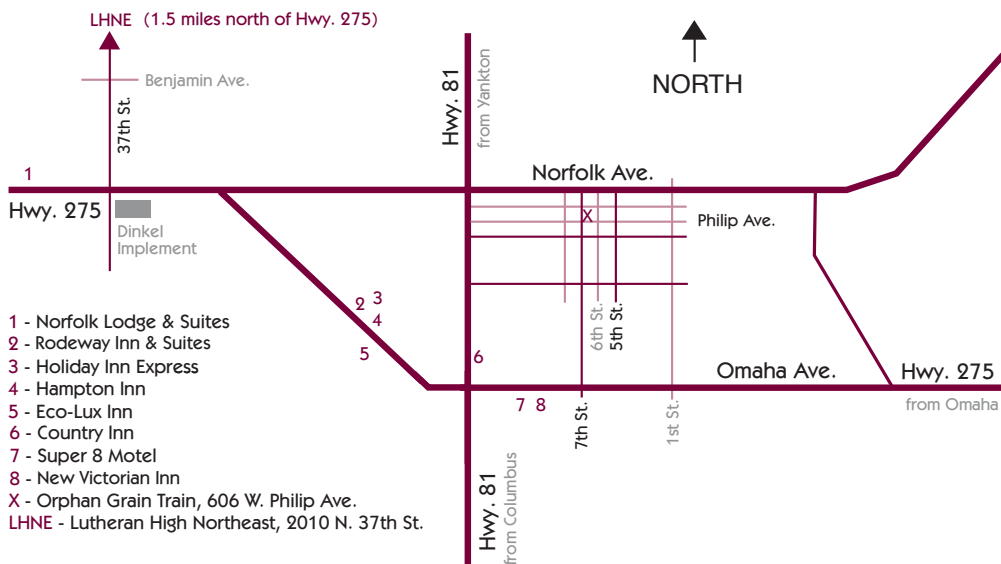
**Please mail your completed registration form, with check or money order to:**  
"Orphan Grain Train Convention," P.O. Box 1466, Norfolk, NE 68702-1466

All convention events will be held at the  
Andrews Activity Center  
at Lutheran High School Northeast,  
2010 N. 37th St.  
Norfolk, Nebraska



## Relief for Human Need Worldwide

### Map of Norfolk, Nebraska



## Motel information

Orphan Grain Train convention rates listed here are based on availability of "convention blocks" of rooms. All rates are plus tax. Please mention Orphan Grain Train convention when making your reservation. Rates good until Sep. 1.

### Eco-Lux Inn

1909 Krenzien Dr. 402-371-7157  
\$44.75 single, \$49.50 two people-one bed, \$57.50 two people-two beds, \$60.75 three people, and \$65.98 four people. King size rooms with king beds--call for rates. Refrigerator, wireless Internet, continental breakfast, 24-hr. coffee, indoor pool, spa, exercise room.

### Hampton Inn

904 S. 20th St. 402-379-3585  
\$75.00 per night. free internet, free local calls, indoor pool, spa, fitness center, business center, full breakfast.

### Holiday Inn Express

920 S. 20th St. 402-379-1524  
\$74.95 includes refrigerator, microwave, hot breakfast bar, internet, indoor pool & spa, fitness center and business center.

### New Victorian Inn

1001 W. Omaha Ave. 402-379-3035  
\$36.99 single, \$46.99 double. Refrigerator & microwave, deluxe complimentary breakfast, indoor pool & spa, exercise room, truck and R.V. parking.

### Norfolk Country Inn

1201 S. 13th St. 402-371-4430  
\$75.65 for newly renovated rooms, include refrigerator, internet, outdoor pool \$50.15 for old rooms.  
All rooms include hot breakfast buffet and complimentary shuttle anywhere in Norfolk.

### Norfolk Lodge and Suites

4200 W. Norfolk Ave. 402-379-3833  
\$75.00 single or double Includes hot breakfast bar, refrigerator, microwave, internet, indoor pool, spa fitness center, restaurant

### Rodeway Inn & Suites

#### --former White House Inn

2206 Market Ln. 402-371-9779  
\$44.99 one queen, \$50.39 two queen beds, \$62.99 one king, continental breakfast, wireless Internet.

### Super 8 Motel

1223 W. Omaha Ave. 402-379-2220  
\$49.00 single or double. Continental breakfast, refrigerator, microwave, internet.

## Pastor Receives Communion Set

Lithuanian Churches have been the focus of Orphan Grain Train's recent collection of church paraments and pastoral vestments. The items have been collected and packed for shipment to churches and pastors who need them.

Last year Orphan Grain Train presented a private communion set, as a gift, to a pastor at Taurage, Lithuania, who is in charge of the distribution of the paraments and vestments when they arrive.

As pictures of the occasion were shared, it became clear that many pastors in the Baltic countries lack this basic necessity. Communion bread is often carried in a cloth and the wine in a small jar.

When the vestments and paraments were being gathered, Liz Soladay, of South Dakota, offered a true gift of the heart. It was a small, meticulously cared for, private communion set in a cylindrical leather case. Her great-grandfather, Pastor William Licht had owned it.

On behalf of Orphan Grain Train, Pastor John Reehl, presented the private communion set to Pastor Ingus Dabolis of Madona Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madona, Latvia. He and his congregation have worked with Orphan Grain Train for years, receiving containers, storing and distributing items to the needy. Pastor Dabolis and the congregation were delighted with the gift.



Rev. Dabolis, Rev. John Reehl and interpreter, Laura Kornete at presentation of communion set to Madona Evangelical Lutheran Church, April 25, 2010.

## Three Ladies from Latvia

The 2010 Orphan Grain Train Convention will welcome three young ladies from Latvia: Linda, Laura and Ruuta Kornete. Ruuta is our co-worker in the Baltic countries (Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia). She helps us with two orphanages in Latvia and one in Lithuania. One or more of her four sisters frequently accompanies Ruuta. The Kornete girls are daughters of Juris, our driver on our Orphan Grain Train trips to Russia and the Baltic's. The Kornetes will join Pastor John Reehl in the presentation of a featured program on Saturday, September 18 at 3:50 P.M.



Linda Kornete



Laura Kornete



Ruuta, our co-worker in the Baltic countries.

## Orphan Grain Train

P.O. Box 1466

Norfolk, NE 68702-1466

Telephone: 402-371-7393

www.ogt.org

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# Convention 2010 Issue

Registration Form Inside!



*Relief for Human Need Worldwide*

## Convention 2010

Friday, September 17

&

Saturday, September 18

at Lutheran High School Northeast  
Norfolk, Nebraska



Rev. Marke Kessa of Haiti will attend this year's Orphan Grain Train Convention to report on the relief effort.