December, 2018
Volume 14. Issue 4
Orphan Grain Train
Wisconsin Branch Officers:
Cathy Robinson
Branch Manager
N4993 6th Drive
Westfield, WI 53964
608-697-6858
800-933-2121 ext. #1706

cathy@brakebush.com
Dennis Andreasen
Assistant Branch Manager South
2381 Ernstmeyer Rd.
Reedsburg, WI 53959
608-768-7543

dbandreasen@ruds.net
Jim Goetsch
Assistant Branch Manager North
8011 Meadow Drive
Merrill, WI 54452
715-675-4203

ann-goetsch@goetschs.com
Marilyn Mueller
Branch Treasurer
N1459 Castle Drive
Medford, WI 54451
715-678-2709

mamu@tds.net
Judy Oberstein
Branch Secretary
1221 E. Ridlington Avenue
Shawano, WI 54166
715-201-0283

Jimo1948@netzero.net
Ida Frizzell
Corresponding Secretary
10067 County Road D
Amherst, WI 54406
715-824-3780

frizzell@wi-net.com

ANNUAL MEETING
Orphan Grain Train - Wisconsin

On Saturday, October 6th, 2018, the Wisconsin Branch of the Orphan Grain Train held its annual meeting at the Brakebush plant near Westfield, WI. There were over 125 OGT supporters who were in attendance. Cathy Robinson welcomed everyone to the meeting and talked about how important each volunteer is and the part each plays to serve the Wisconsin-OGT. She wanted everyone to remember that, “Together...We Change Lives Forever.” We opened the meeting with worship led by Debbie Peters and devotions lead by Pastor Bruce Lamont. Pastor Bruce shared that giving love and care to the people around us is what OGT is all about, and he shared that the greatest example is seen in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you. -John 14:18
Judy Overstein read the minutes from the October 7, 2017 meeting. Marilyn Mueller followed with the Treasurer’s report. Our Checking balance is $119,081.57, and our Savings balance is $54,361.41. Marilyn and Cathy were presented with a check from Lynne Johnson from the North-WI LWML for $15,000.00. This is such a blessing!! The PR committees then each gave a presentation on their areas. Jim Goetsch wanted everyone to know about the supplies that are available to use for OGT presentations: pens, folders, brochures, labels etc. Jim and Lydia were thanked for their dedication to the WI-OGT. Chuck Tesnow shared about all the presentations that were made throughout the state this year at conferences, churches, camps, and Lifest - all to spread the word about our mission and how people can join our cause. Dennis Andreasen then reported on the disaster relief for the flooding in the LaValle and Reedsburg areas. Wayne Flanagan showed everyone our OGT Wear. Shirts and sweatshirts are available to buy and order.

Ida Frizzell gave the correspondence report, and everything is up to date. She also let everyone know that new Funeral and Celebration Cards are now available. The Media Director – Allie Sherron was unable to be at the meeting, but she wanted all to remember: when sending in pictures for the Newsletter, send names of people in the pictures with a few sentences of explanation. The Newsletter is well received, and people commented on how nicely done it is. Jim Flynn then shared the warehouse report, thanking everyone for their help with sorting and packing. His team has been extremely busy this year with loading containers and trailers. He shared that we are in need of twin mattresses and school desks. We are also still looking for a retired semi-driver to help out with pick-ups. Cathy shared about Real Food for the Hungry meals that were donated by Carol Brown for the South Sudan container, and she talked about the children they would be helping. She also shared about the 10 Safe-T-homes donated by Brakebush from GoServ Global that went to Haiti, giving homes to those who lost their homes in the last hurricane. The pictures touched many hearts.
Joel Groskreutz from Thrivent made a presentation. Thrivent has been a big supporter of the Orphan Grain Train, giving millions of dollars to our cause throughout the years. Dates were given for next year’s semi-annual meeting in Norfolk, which will be September 14-15, 2019. Mark your calendars. Wisconsin’s next annual member meeting will be October 5, 2019. If you are interested in coming to the Wisconsin OGT member meeting next fall - please call Linda Isberner at 1-800-933-2121, ext. 1202, and ask her to put you on our address attendee list for the annual meeting.

After a short break we were honored to have Grant Schmidt, Vice President of the National Orphan Grain Train, be our speaker for the morning. Grant shared a wonderful power-point presentation filled with many pictures of the people and places we are currently helping. He spoke about the Orphan Grain Train movement being a great opportunity to touch lives for Christ. Grant spoke of Pastor Wilke and Clayton Andrews, the founders of OGT, and their spirit of giving and sacrifice. They have many times been heard saying, “OGT is not about me, but all about others.” The Orphan Grain Train is in its 26th year of sharing the Good News of Christ and helping the helpless! Grant shared that the term Orphan means one without resource and/or without support. These are the ones we try to help and are called upon to help by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. James 1:27 says, “This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress…”

Grant also shared some of the statistics about OGT. Here are a few: OGT has shipped 3200 loads over the past 26 years and shipped in 115 foreign countries. That’s an accumulation of 3.7 million hours of volunteer service. This year the organization as a whole has shipped 340 full semi loads of humanitarian aid to countries all around the world and here in our own United States. The average cost to ship a container is between $4,000.00 and 19,000.00. One of things OGT is proud of is the fact that 98.3% of every dollar goes to aid and shipping. Only 2.7% goes to administration. Grant also shared about our orphanages, disaster relief programs, jail ministries, special projects, and mercy meal programs. As people listened to this wonderful presentation about the challenges and struggles of the Orphan Grain Train, there were many tears and emotions. There is a world of desperate people, living in heart-wrenching situations, waiting for help. The OGT team across our nation is ready to meet the challenges. Grant then closed his presentation by thanking everyone for his or her continued support and dedication to the mission of the Orphan Grain Train.

Pastor Meier closed our meeting with devotions and a beautiful lunchtime prayer. Meeting adjourned at 12:40pm. Lunch and fellowship followed and was had by all!! Blessings!!!
Thank you, brothers and sisters, for your donations and especially for the potatoes. They will be of great blessing to our communities on the border!

God bless you,
Yael
The unloading went very smoothly today with lots of volunteers. Everyone was so thankful for everything that they received.

Thanks for all the beans and sweet peas. The mothers were especially grateful to get shoes especially. What a great blessing from God through the Orphan Grain Train Wisconsin Branch!

After we were done, about 30 of us gathered to hear again the story of Holy week and Easter and give thanks to God for His great mercy and love in Jesus. We prayed for all of you and lifted up our gratitude to God. I also had a table set up with Easter tracts, Arch books, and Bibles for everyone.

He is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Pastor Weber
Thanking the God Who Is

We would have no problem disregarding a claim by anyone that they had a pocket-sized god, an idol in their home or even a yard-ornament god on their property. We wouldn’t fall for it. Still, we know there are more tempting substitute gods “formed by the art and imagination of man.” We should try to see the pocket-sized gods many people have in their imaginations and offer them the Truth that saves.

Actually, He is not far from any of us, “for in Him we live and move and have our being.” While that is putting God in charge, the way it should be, it also brings up questions about our relationship with God because it puts us in our place with nowhere to go to get away from Him. (King David wrote of that in Psalm 139.) It might make us wonder what God is up to. But if we could answer that, it would be making God pocket-sized.

Thank God for Who He is and that He has given us all we need for salvation. And not for our salvation only, but for all people. After all, He didn’t have to make or save any of us. When sin entered His creation, He could have put an end to it then and there. Instead, He continued (and continues) to bless His creation. We show our thanks to Him by blessing others as He has blessed us.

Thank God for all His blessings. There is no end to them...

...in Christ,
Rev. Mark R. Meier, Sr.

Yet He is actually not far from each one of us, for in Him we live and move and have our being, as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed His offspring.”

Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine Being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

Acts 17:27b-29

Camp Luwisomo

Upcoming Events

April 26-28, 2019 - Spring Work Weekend
May 14, 2019 - Tee Up For LuWiSoMo
A Christmas Story
from Sandra Koch in Haiti

With Christmas coming right around the corner, we thought it appropriate to share this incredible story from Sandra Koch in Haiti. She shares about a wonderful testimony of a family in Haiti who has been blessed by the Lord through the hands of the Orphan Grain Train last Christmas.

This family of husband, wife and seven children live in a distressed wood shack, barren inside, which is all they have remaining after the October (2017) hurricane.

Last May we visited this family, and we thought we could never get the building materials one mile up the mountain to help them. But the men of Flurant said, "YES, WE CAN DO THIS."

So last Friday we hiked that road and greeted the family.

Despair and sorrow and hunger would describe them.

They were told they would be getting a new house, and they were instructed how to begin to prepare the front yard for their block foundation. We told the mother, to come back to the hospital with us, and we would give her a box of FMSC rice meals we had brought with us (the children had not eaten because there was no food for them).

When she was at the hospital to get the food, we told her to go around the side and look at the house she would be getting.

I saw her FACE light up with surprise and joy when she saw the house.

It was like a child under a Christmas tree getting a huge present!!!

She said she is praying for beds so her children do not have to sleep on the dirt floor, but this family's life has been changed forever thanks to the prefab houses from the Brakebush family and Orphan Grain Train.

Love,
Sandra
Praise be to God! Something really exciting is happening right here in your hometown of Montello. Who says that people today just don't care about anything but themselves? And what's all this talk about the "Me" generation? This group of people, along with several others not pictured, have dispelled these myths.

A huge clothing drive for Haiti that started last summer is almost completed. The generous people of Marquette Community Church began collecting clothes for the small village of Bombarde, Haiti last summer after two hurricanes devasted the area. Thanks for all the people who donated clothes, helped sort, pack and label over 100 boxes to be sent to the village. A special thanks for Brakebush and the Orphan Grain Train for their assistance in delivering the boxes to Haiti.

As a member of an 11-person team, I had the privilege of traveling to this village on a mission trip in August 2015. What I experienced on this trip changed my life forever. I discovered what true faith in Christ really looks like. I found a country filled with people who have very little in the way of material possessions like electricity, food and water, and yet, they have the most phenomenal love for the Lord.

After a 12-hour plane ride to Port au Prince, we traveled up a mountain range for another 14 hour bone-jarring ride to the remote village of Bombarde. This is the same trip that these boxes of clothing will travel.

It is hard to fathom the amount of hard work on the part of dozens of people (not to mention the expense) that it will have taken to get the boxes to Bombarde, but when they do arrive I'm sure the villagers will be extremely grateful.

The next projects must focus on the rebuilding of the church, a school, and a well! God's work is never done. If you are interested in helping in any way just let me know. Please email Kim Weber anytime at kimwebercarlson1954@gmail.com.
You can also check out the website Reaching Haiti 4 Christ Ministries for more ways to donate or to sponsor a child from Bombarde.

Blessings to you for taking the time to read this article. And, if it has touched your heart in any way, or better yet, it moves you to getting involved, know that whatever you can do to help these destitute people will surely change your life forever, as it did mine. If you are interested in having me address a group, I have a 30 minute PowerPoint presentation that I would be glad to share. Please care, and please get involved.
ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN MISSION STATEMENT

In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near. Sometimes that character expresses itself as a word well spoken, sometimes as a bandage well applied, and sometimes as a child well fed.

If you have an article or picture you would like to include in the next newsletter, please contact Allie Sherron by phone or e-mail. If you prefer to send by mail, please contact Linda Isberner.

Allie Sherron
608-617-9125
ansherron@gmail.com

Wisconsin - Orphan Grain Train

Wisconsin - Orphan Grain Train is an option for your

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS!

Thrivent Choice Dollars need to be designated by March 31st on a yearly basis.

Brakebush Brothers, Inc.
Attn: Linda Isberner
N4993 6th Drive
Westfield, WI 53964-9511
800-933-2121 ext.1202
lisberner@brakebush.com

Orphan Grain Train

N4993 6th Drive
Westfield, WI 53964-9511