



Quarantine

MAB suspends operations during pandemic.

What is unusual about the photo above ... flags at half mast, an empty parking lot, a closed warehouse? All are signs of a challenging situation. The COVID quarantine has stayed our operation temporarily; however, it has not changed our mission, purpose, or commitment to helping those in need. Be assured that when we do open again, we will be taking all necessary precautions to provide a safe and healthy work environment.

Throughout this time there is only one being on whom we can rely – our gracious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He invites us to bring our cares and concerns before His throne. Please pray with us for all medical workers, our leaders, and those stricken by the virus. We especially ask His guidance in reopening our warehouse. Now, as always, your support is important and much needed.

While we wait, MAB is still active: our board meets online to consider future options, volunteers deliver apple boxes through special arrangements with the landlord, clothing and bicycle donations are repaired at home, supporters store clothing donations for later delivery, and we continue to receive financial support. We give thanks to the Lord for all these blessings!

To read about other OGT COVID news and relief efforts, go to www.ogt.org. Visit our MAB web page, www.ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic, for updates. ■

Shipments Outlook

Shipments are determined by specific requests from our destination partners. Here are the latest updates.

In December we sent our first shipment to Ukraine, and waited eagerly for news of its outcome. In early



February we were notified it had arrived but the contents were not yet distributed. Our patience was rewarded on May 4th when beautiful photos were sent back from recipient Charitable Foundation Mariam.

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Working Behind the Scenes

Volunteers continue efforts during quarantine.

Although we are closed for sorting and packing, volunteers continue to work. Mike Pralle and Arnold Ziccardi steadily deliver apple boxes to the warehouse; to date, an additional 200 are ready for packing. Tom Fuesler is refurbishing four recently donated bicycles. Seamstresses Sharon Weaver and Kitty Rickerts continue to mend clothing donations. Roger Hazzard and Carla Niesen send out weekly and monthly news updates to our supporters.

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Mid-Atlantic Branch

Hand-Crafted for OGT

Two new organizations give hand-made donations.



Jack Royer displays a blanket.

In late January we were given 450 blankets from the local chapter of Project Linus, a group dedicated to aiding young children in need. “Blanketeers” in the Maris Grove Senior Living Commu-

nity, Glen Mills, PA, crocheted beautiful borders on colorful polar fleece fabric. Many thanks go to John Hetrick of Concordia Lutheran, Wilmington, DE, for coordinating pick-up. *Special* thanks go to Jack Royer for delivering the blankets and packing them in 28 apple boxes. The children who receive these will be truly blessed.



Juanita Barna and Joyce Kennedy proudly show a new pillowcase dress.

Women of the New Jersey LWML are sewing for OGT! Leslie Vergallito assembled a group at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Mountain Lakes for their first meeting in February. MAB board member, Rich Gruenhagen, was on hand to talk about what we do.

He reported back, “The whirring of sewing machines turned out 36 pillowcase dresses and 5 pair of shorts while I described the ministries of OGT to an estimated 14 ladies.” Pastor Roy Minnix also came out to encourage the group. Cliff Kraft commented, “This could be the start of something exciting.” Thank you, everyone! We look forward to a long and happy relationship.

Working Behind the Scenes

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Friends of MAB have also selflessly joined the COVID effort. Heather Griesser, our Kids Against Hunger partner, has been making ‘backpack’ meals for Philadelphia-area school children since the shut-down began. Working only with her family and a small group of neighbors, KAH packs 210,000 meals a month always following health guidelines. Says Heather, “With all that is going on in the world right now no child or family should have the additional worry of where their next meal is coming from.”

After receiving an appeal for masks from the LCMS Atlantic District, Bonnie Johnston, a member of partner church Our Redeemer in Newark, DE, rose to the challenge. She quickly stitched and sent 120 masks for the NYC area. Says Bonnie, “God has given me the talent and I have shared it with great joy to warm my heart for others.”

Sincere thanks go to all of these volunteers for inspiring us during the quarantine. ■

We would like to especially thank Olajumoke Odedele, NJ LWML PR Director, for providing us so many beautiful photos of the event. To see more please visit www.ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic. ■



Rich Gruenhagen addresses volunteer seamstresses from New Jersey LWML— Lutheran Women in Mission.

“You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way... For the ministry of this service is not only supplying

Shipments Outlook

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School Kit made by Kayelee Ryan



Happy Hygiene Kit recipient

Although well over half the boxes sent contained needed clothing, the pictures show which items gave the most joy. Particular thanks go to two Delaware bike shops, Newark Bike Project and Garrison's Cyclery, who donated the bikes pictured below. We are excited to get back to work so we can send our next shipment.



Above: Grateful for KAH meals.



Above-right: Young cyclist ready to go!

Right: 'Thumbs Up' for two newly repaired bicycles.



For more pictures visit www.ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic ■

Saturday Packers

New volunteers bolster production.

On February 22nd members of the Kennett Square Rotary club joined us for Saturday sorting hours. Thanks to Karen Eichman, Liz Brown, Al Schmitt (right), and Don



Lester (with Bob Guy below), we packed 43 boxes and sorted several bags of clothing as well. It was a great success! We hope to work with them again soon. ■



MAB Enjoys OGT, Inc. Visitor

New staff member tours warehouse.

Bruce Sutherland, Norfolk's new Mission Advocate, came to our warehouse to get better acquainted on March 11th. His previous relationships with the pastoral staff in NY, NJ, and PA will allow him to raise awareness of OGT in the region. Bruce later emailed, "...I was very impressed with the branch organization... It's a fun-loving, hard-working, and ministry -focused family you have there." We enjoyed his visit and welcome him to the OGT family. ■



Bruce addresses the volunteers.



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Mid-Atlantic Branch

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Our 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.

Mid-Atlantic Branch Purpose

To build a Christ centered team who can use their God-given talents to be a blessing to others through their service in the Mid Atlantic Branch of Orphan Grain Train fulfilling the Mission Statement of the OGT movement.

Genesis 12:3 - "I will bless those who bless you ... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

"I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you." John 14:18

did YOU KNOW?

- **How You Can Help During the Quarantine**
 - ◇ **Pray** for God's protection now, and His guidance when we reopen.
 - ◇ **Keep clothing donations** until we can take them.
 - ◇ **Donate bikes** to repairman Tom Fuesler. tpfuesler@gmail.com
 - ◇ **Contribute financially** to our branch .
- **Lost and Found** — We discovered a large amount of cash and a unique timepiece while sorting donations in early March. Please email Carla Niesen if you believe either to be yours.
- **A Sign of the Times** — Our email list is now growing faster than our regular mailing list. To change your subscription preference, email carlaniesen@verizon.net or write to her using the 89 Line Rd address above.

what's AHEAD...

Our Future is in God's Hands — Currently, we do not know when we can reopen or under what conditions we will be working. Two years ago MAB faced a similar uncertainty when we were searching for a new warehouse. Just as the Lord provided for us then we know He will provide for us now; He is in control. We trust Him to guide us to a future that abides by his will and brings hope to those in need.



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philipians 4:6,7

To God alone be the Glory!