From Georgia, with Love, Part II

Outpouring of photos convey gratitude beyond words.

Last March, we shipped our second container to the Republic of Georgia and published initial photos with feedback in the Spring/Summer newsletter. Then, throughout May and into early June, several distribution reports and pictures (see headliner photos above) came back in quick succession from happy and grateful people. Our contact at International Charity Fund Peace, Turpa Gugunava, worked through partner organizations to distribute aid to villages and municipalities, many isolated in mountainous terrain or scattered miles apart. Numerous families, elderly, and socially vulnerable people received rice and bean meals, clothing, medical supplies, and bicycles.

Turpa wrote, “We have received many compliments and kind words from our partners and beneficiaries. I was told that quality was great and everyone loved everything they received. They sent a lot of thank you messages. I was also happy to receive such positive feedback. Very grateful to you and Pennsylvania warehouse. If there is opportunity, we would love to work with them again in the future…” We are amazed that so many people were helped and given new hope through just one OGT container. The few pictures printed here do not begin to represent what we received. Visit our web page at www.ogt.org or click HERE to see more.

Shipments Outlook

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

On July 28th our second container of the year left the warehouse headed for Panama. Despite a slow start due to two schedule cancellations at our end, it arrived just three weeks later on August 20th – a speedy trip!

(Continued on page 3)

Blessed with Multiple Shipments

MAB sends four containers since reopening.

During this time of continued pandemic precautions, when many organizations are downsizing operations or closing altogether, MAB has been richly blessed. Since reopening on July 1, 2020, four shipments have left our warehouse in just twelve months: two to the Republic of Georgia in August 2020 and March 2021, one to Malawi in December 2020, and one to Panama in July 2021. A fifth container, destined for Kyrgyzstan, is scheduled to leave in late September. Historically, our branch averages just one or two containers in a non-pandemic year, so how is this amazing productivity possible? Only by the goodness and grace of God alone! Through His gifts of volunteers and supporters, the resources of time, talents, and funds are utilized. May the Lord continue to bless our branch so we may continue to be a blessing to those in need!
Serving Your Neighbor
Youth and parents join in service for others.

Can anyone – even kids – do something more to show love to others? The answer was a resounding “Yes!” at Holy Ghost Lutheran Church in Niagara Falls, NY. Diane Stoelting, sister-in-law to OGT Mission Advocate Bruce Sutherland, wanted to put faith into action to benefit others through OGT. She organized a service project to help teach Sunday School children how to serve their neighbor, no matter where in the world the neighbor resides. Using Thrivent Action Team funds, Diane found fleece blanket kits which the children and their parents could cut and assemble for MAB to ship. Her project, named “Do S’ome (thing) More,” came to life on Saturday, September 18th. Twenty-five kids and adults gathered for a devotion on The Good Samaritan and Matthew 22 with a discussion on service and OGT, followed by blanket-making, and ending with treats—s’mores, of course! In all, 46 blankets will be delivered to our branch in October for a future shipment.

We can’t thank Diane and the members of Holy Ghost Lutheran enough for their generous gift. Special thanks go to Bruce Sutherland for connecting Diane with our branch.

Saving Salvage for Good
One individual makes an impact.

Bicycles we ship come from a variety of sources, such as volunteers, friends, warehouse visitors, and bike shops. Surprisingly, our second-largest source is a little-known individual whose passion is recycling. Eric Saulsbury, aka, Eric the Recycler, collects metal scrap in Wilmington, DE, “to keep it out of landfills.” Volunteer Sharon Weaver discovered Eric on a neighborhood walk and stopped to chat. She told him about OGT and our need for bicycles. Ever since then, Eric contacts Sharon when he has bikes, walkers, and crutches to donate. To date, Eric has given us 63 of the 275 bicycles received by MAB – almost 25%!

When Eric saw Republic of Georgia photos of happy people with bikes he wrote to Sharon, "I really had no idea how important this is to these kids and even adults who now have transportation, we are so lucky to live here and have all these things that we throw away without a second thought, and now I see just how important this work really is to less fortunate people. My heart is happy to see these smiles.” Our hearts are thankful for Eric’s kindness and generosity.

If you have a bike to donate, please contact Tom Fuesler directly: 484-840-9283, or tpfuesler@gmail.com.

Friends Helping Friends Returns
MAB prepares for its sixth year of participation.

Our favorite fall event is Wednesday, October 20th, when northeast retailer Boscov’s celebrates its 25th anniversary of helping local charities fundraise. Your $5.00 donation will help us share Christ’s love with those in need while giving you a valuable store-wide discount up to 25%. Unlike last year, paper shopping passes are back and available now from any MAB volunteer. The sale will run one day only, 8am to 11pm and in-store only (not online). Best of all, OGT MAB passes can be used at any of Boscov’s 47 locations in PA, DE, NJ, NY, MD, OH, CT, and RI, so friends and family out of the area can help our branch, too. Remember to drop your completed pass stub at the store to become eligible for a Boscov’s $100 gift card. If you have questions or need a pass mailed contact Sandy O’Hedy: s.ohedy116@comcast.net. Will you give $5 to support Orphan Grain Train Mid-Atlantic Branch?

“...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...
Shipments Outlook

(Continued from page 1)

Thanks to the six hard-working young adults in our loading team, many underprivileged children and families will soon benefit from the container’s cargo: 130,000 Outreach Program meals, 533 boxes of clothing, 75 boxes of bedding and linens, plus 15 bicycles and 84 crutches, canes, walkers, and wheelchairs. The aid will be distributed by Christian organizations through The Mariano Rivera Foundation.

In the photo at right, our boxes await distribution in the Puerto Caimito warehouse, just thirty minutes south of the Panama Canal. The words on the beautiful wall translate, “God is in you, harmony, joy, cleanliness, hope, peace, love.” To see a short video of the wall in its entirety visit our web page at www.ogt.org or click HERE.

Revised Kits on OGT Website

New guidelines better address needs.

After receiving recipient feedback, the Norfolk office re-examined parameters for Special Projects Kits. As a result, Hygiene, Feminine, Layette, and School Kits now have new materials lists and/or revised instructions, all better tailored to meet the needs of the end-user. Additionally, Sewing Kits and Teacher Kits were requested and are new. All kit instructions can be found on the OGT website at www.ogt.org, by clicking on “What We Do” and scrolling down to “Special Projects.” It is critical that the list of materials be followed exactly, nothing omitted or added as many countries have strict customs’ requirements and inspection standards. NOTE: Because plastic bags are not accepted universally, they have been eliminated.

Please consider organizing your group to assemble kits for MAB to ship. Many people around the world need them!

How You Can Help

♦ Pray that God would bless our branch to be a blessing to others.
♦ Donate clothing and shoes in good condition for men, women, and children.
♦ Donate a bicycle for us to refurbish.
♦ Donate $5 and get a Boscov shopping pass.
♦ Purchase Boscov Wish List items. Visit www.boscovs.com and enter OGT MAB in the gift registry login, or click HERE.
♦ Volunteer your time at the warehouse: Wednesday 10am-2:30pm, 2nd and 4th Saturday 9:00am-1:30pm.
♦ Give online at www.ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic or use the enclosed envelope.
♦ Collect apple boxes for packing donations.
♦ Assemble Kits from the OGT website: see article above. Use Thrivent Action Team dollars for funding.

Honor a Loved One

How to dedicate your gift.

Have you ever considered giving in the name of someone close to you? Your memorial gift, or gift-in-honor, is a beautiful way to give tribute to a loved one while at the same time helping Orphan Grain Train show God’s love to others. The next time you want to commemorate a birthday, wedding, anniversary or other special occasion think of a financial gift to OGT MAB. As always, thank you for your selfless generosity! Please use our enclosed envelope or donate at www.ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic.
OGT Gets it Done! — Despite 18 months of pandemic restrictions, and with some cautionary practices still in place, OGT nationally sent 245 shipments in fiscal year 2021, six more than the previous year. Additionally, volunteer hours increased by almost 2,200 for a total of 106,753. Thank you for giving your time and donations to help others!

Boscov’s is Back — Friends Helping Friends Day returns on October 20th. Remember to get your shopping pass early, and start making your list.

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

what's AHEAD...

Saturday Hours — We continue to welcome volunteers and visitors on these Saturdays going forward: October 9, 23, November 13, December 11, and January 8, 22. Would your group like to work on a Saturday? Contact Cliff Kraft for information: (610) 420-0380.

Container to Kyrgyzstan — We are slated to send another container in late September, bound for social charity fund, Compassion. More information will be in an upcoming News Flash.

Annual MAB Fall Grant-Match — Watch for your fall campaign letter and take advantage of this once-a-year-opportunity to have your donation matched. Prayerfully consider donating again this year. We thank our supporters in advance for always giving above and beyond our goal.

To God alone be the Glory!