



Gratitude from Kyrgyzstan

Many in need benefit from timely shipment.

Last October, MAB shipped a container of warm clothing, blankets, and shoes to people in Kyrgyzstan facing a winter without adequate heat. In January, we learned the container had arrived and the goods were received by the distribution hub, Social Charity Fund *Compassion*.

In late April, pictures were sent of grateful people who received our goods from three agencies working with *Compassion*. 1) Public Fund *Heroes of April 7th* (header photos left and right) was established to help widows and orphans of the civil conflicts Kyrgyzstan endured in 2010. The country has suffered through three "revolutions" since 1991 when it gained its independence; sadly, not much has improved to date. Those involved in the conflicts remain impoverished and gladly accept everything offered to them from OGT containers.



Women from *Heroes of April 7th* receive donations

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Shipments Outlook

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

For the first time in MAB history, we shipped twice in one season! On March 30th, we loaded a container for *Action for Progress*, a new recipient in Malawi requesting aid in the aftermath of Cyclone Ana's January devastation. A



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Aid for Ukrainian Families

MAB joins global efforts to aid refugees.

The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine continues to dominate the news. More than 6.4 million refugees have fled their country, and over 7 million Ukrainians are now internally displaced according to the UN. Orphan Grain Train, Inc. is working with ministries in Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, and Romania to provide relief for some of the 4.5 million war victims, mostly women, children, and the elderly. Since the conflict began in late February, OGT has sent five air-cargo shipments bearing food, hygiene products and kits, infant care items, medical and cleaning supplies, and clothing and bedding. The most recent cargo shipment was unloaded in Romania on May 19th and another is in the planning stages. Thanks to your generosity, Mid-Atlantic branch is joining OGT's efforts in Norfolk by contributing \$5,000 for Ukrainian relief efforts. ■

Mid-Atlantic Branch

Gratitude from Kyrgyzstan

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2) Public Fund *Believe in Yourself* (header photo, center) was established in 2019 to help people living with HIV and AIDS, TB, and hepatitis. The Fund gives humanitarian, legal, and medical aid to more than one hundred people.

3) Hostel for the Homeless or 'Kolomto,' Kyrgyz for "family hearth," gave out clothing, shoes, bedding, walkers, and crutches to homeless men and women seeking to find family and reestablish lives.



Believe in Yourself recipients shop for clothes



Many Kyrgyzstanis were blessed by this shipment that you made possible through your financial gifts and donations. Thank you! ■

At *Hostel for the Homeless*, a 'Kolomoto' resident (left) tries on shoes

Bikes Donated Locally

Restored bikes find grateful recipients in the community.

Bicycle donations have been so generous that we have been able to provide refurbished bikes locally as well as internationally. 'Bike Guy' Tom Fuesler looked close to home and found two charities in Wilmington, DE, that gladly took a number of bikes and quickly put them to good use. *Sunday Breakfast Mission* serves the homeless, addicted, and impoverished through Christ-centered programs to meet spiritual, social, and physical needs; *Friendship House* unites people facing homelessness with loving, supportive communities. Tom said, "God put someone in my path to help with the bicycle refurbishment work. The gifts keep coming!" To see where MAB bikes have been shipped, visit our webpage at www.ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/ and scroll to read "Bicycles Find Homes Around the World." ■

Blessings of 'Flour and Oil'

Faithful supporters keep our donation bins overflowing.

In late February, after new volunteer groups packed record numbers of boxes, our donations were almost gone. Clothing from warehouse visitors kept us working as did stuffed animal toys (See "Leo Club Leads by Example" pg. 3), and handmade blankets and pillowcase dresses from Peace Lutheran in Galloway, NJ, and St. Timothy Lutheran in Crystal River, FL. We existed from week to week; but like Elijah and the widow of Zarephath, our "jar of flour and jug of oil" never emptied!

In April, the floodgates opened. One by one, area churches held clothing drives: first Hope Lutheran in Levittown,



Rich Gruenhagen and Tom Kutz deliver donations from Hope Lutheran.

then Avondale Presbyterian, Concordia Lutheran Church in Wilmington, Episcopal Church of the Advent in Kennett Square, Grove Methodist in West Chester, New London Baptist Church in West Grove and Christ Memorial Lutheran in Malvern. Encore and Wings for Success thrift shops also gave several bags of clothing donations.

In a wonderful 'repeat performance,' St. James Lutheran on Long Island organized community drives and blessed us with an outpouring of clothing and toys, walkers and wheel-



Truck driver Rob Hall (seated) and St. James Lutheran volunteers

chairs, boxes and bicycles. They all went 'above and beyond' to sew 100 pillowcase dresses and assemble sixty Hygiene Kits.

They purchased new socks and underwear using Thrivent Action Team dollars, and even donated funds toward the 26' truck rental for transport to the warehouse! As the 'icing on the cake' they plan to pack 20,000 KAH meals for MAB in October.

Thank you, one and all, for these material blessings. Every watermelon bin is now overflowing! Your gracious gifts will put smiling faces on many underprivileged and less fortunate people wherever they are shipped. ■

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember

Shipments Outlook

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crew of four college students from Lincoln University joined our volunteer team to load 1,230 boxes and 31 bicycles. The bulk of the shipment included 121,000 KAH meals, clothing and shoes for women and children, plus bedding and Bibles. We hope to hear soon that these goods are helping the people of Malawi rebuild.



Lincoln University students lend muscle to load boxes (left) and MAB volunteers load bikes (right), all for Malawi



Final boxes packed for Latvia

Our *second* container left the dock on May 25th, bound for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Saldus, Latvia, via the port city of Riga. Volunteers came out to fill the container with 1,130 boxes of clothing and shoes, bedding, and hygiene products. Seventy-seven of these were for children (small toys and school supplies) along with 20 playground toys. A community of twelve parishes in Latvia will

benefit from the shipment. Recipient Pastor Ivars Eisaks, to whom MAB has sent aid before, serves the area in support of their deaconess ministry. We are glad to help him again. ■



Team Latvia—loading, sorting and packing. Look, NEW SHIRTS!

Leo Club Leads by Example

High School students volunteer at the warehouse.

Last February, Rob Hall gave an OGT presentation to the student assembly at Avon Grove Charter School in PA. Their Leo Club, a high school affiliate of the local Lion's Club, displayed several stuffed animals collected as an "Act of Kindness" for MAB to ship. Less than one week later, teacher Bethanne Lindenbaum and counselor Megan Alaxson delivered 1,000 stuffed animals from the kids, and expressed the students' desire to volunteer.



Leo Club members collect toys for children



Assembling Hygiene Kits (left) and packing boxes (right)

Their wish was granted in mid-April, when we welcomed thirteen students to assemble Hygiene Kits. They prepared and boxed 321 in just under three hours! Their joyous attitude exemplified the club's motto of Leadership Experience Opportunity when they also took on sorting and packing clothing, inspiring the regular volunteers with their energy. Heartfelt thanks go to our supporters for providing funds to purchase kit supplies, to the Leo Club for donating toys and making kits, and to our regular volunteers for packing 30 apple boxes with all those wonderful toys.

Would your organization like to have a 'give back' day and volunteer day at our warehouse? Please contact Cliff Kraft at (610) 420-0380. ■



Mid-Atlantic Branch Office
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Phone: 610-644-4508
E-mail: mid-atlantic@ogt.org
Website: www.ogt.org

Warehouse:
8 Federal Road
West Grove, PA 19390

Hours of Operation:
Wednesday, 10:00—2:30
2nd and 4th Saturday, 9:00—1:30

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?

- ◆ **Join Our Email List** — Sign up for *email-only* communications and help us control administrative costs. You will receive MAB news monthly. Email carlaniesen@verizon.net.
- ◆ **Staples Rewards Benefit MAB** — Our branch rewards card (enclosed) has a new look! Please use it when you shop. Your donated points are used to purchase supplies for the warehouse.
- ◆ **Final Call** — If not claimed, a found men's jewelry item will be sold and the proceeds will benefit our branch. Please contact carlaniesen@verizon.net.
- ◆ **Donor Reminders** — Help us by reviewing our "Considerations for Donors" list at www.ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/ for dos and don'ts. New request: please remove hangers from clothing as they are not shippable. Coats and jackets are highly valued by our recipients, but not if their zippers are broken! Our goal always is to convey Christ's perfect love in each and every box that leaves our warehouse. Thank you!

what's AHEAD...

- ◆ **LWML Convention Update** — Rich Gruenhagen will speak about OGT on June 11 at the Eastern District's Convention in Syracuse, NY. There the delegates will vote on a \$5,000 grant for MAB. Pray for hearts to be open to our mission message and to vote "Yes!"
- ◆ **More Convention News** — Sandy O'Hedy will represent us on August 5-6 with a display table at the LWML New Jersey District Convention in Morristown, NJ. Stop by if you are going.
- ◆ **Saturday Hours Reminder** — We will be open June 11 and 25, July 9 and 23, August 13 and 27, September 10 and 24 for donations delivery and volunteering. Join us!
- ◆ **It's a 'Go'** — We will participate again in Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day on October 19. Help us sell passes, or support us as a shopper. Watch for more information to come in upcoming communiques.



To God alone be the Glory!