



WISCONSIN BRANCH

Quarterly Newsletter

Relief for Human Need Worldwide

March, 2024 - Volume 20 - Issue 1

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

TO OUR FAITHFUL OGT FAMILY,

As I write this, I am filled with an overwhelming gratitude for each one of you and thankfulness for a mighty Savior who continues to move us forward into the future! "Our Savoir", the Lord Jesus Christ, on whom we set our Hope! 2023 has been an incredibly busy and productive year!! This last year together with all of you the WI - Orphan Grain Train has sent out 53 loads/containers of aid both here in the states and around the world!! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!! What a privilege it is to work and partner alongside each of you in sharing what we have with a desperate and hurting world. A world who is in great need physically...many times...of just the bare necessities to sustain their lives but even more importantly a world who is starving spiritually, for the True Bread of Life, our Savior, Jesus!!

This morning, I was talking with our missionaries from Liberia, Dennis, and Vania Aggrey, who are there planting churches, setting up Christian schools, teaching the word and training pastors and other lay leaders. They shared how thankful they are for the gifts OGT has sent them. Vania shared that many around them have no want to hear about Jesus. But as they share food, clothing, blankets, medical supplies, and other items the people need, the people see that they truly love and care about them. Over time relationships are built and a door to share the gospel opens wide!

We were blessed to be able to send five containers to Ukraine this year. These containers were filled with food, clothing, boots, warm coats, new underwear and socks, blankets, medical items such as ventilators, a donated surgery suite, tourniquets, chest shields, Israeli bandages, heat blankets, hygiene kits, baby formula and so much more. Bush Beans donated a couple of semi-loads of Beans this last year and gave us cans with the pop tops for the soldiers, people living without a means to cook and those who are living in refugee centers. These cans are easily opened, and the beans are ready to eat!! God is so good!!! We also had a couple of organizations donate over three loads of rice meals and Oatmeal packs and another gave a full load of dried beans for Ukraine!!

I chatted with Vitaliy our missionary in Ukraine last week and I could hear the exhaustion and heartache in his voice as he shared how the war is still raging on with no end in sight. Yet, in the next sentence he says to me that he feels blessed and highly favored!! Psalm 16:8 says, I have set the Lord continually before me, because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. God continues to give Vitaliy, Natalie, their family and their team strength, courage and endurance for each moment and every situation. As I listened to Vitaliy it reminded me of the lyrics to the chorus of David Crowder's new song...King

You're still the Rock of Ages, God over everything,
Even when evil rages, You're still the Prince of Peace,
You're still good, You're still God, If it all falls apart,
I'm gonna keep on trusting, You are who you say You are,
You're still King, Yes, You are!

Vitaliy and his team know, God holds their lives in His mighty right hand, and they trust their King. Vitaliy said they are in need of everything, so we will continue to send containers filled with the blessings God continues to provide for the Ukrainian people!!

(continued on page 1)

Vitaly shared that it's not sounding like the war will end anytime soon and that even though the war is for the most part being fought on the eastern side of Ukraine, Russia continues to bomb the whole country sporadically taking out homes, businesses, and lives. Even Vitaliy and his family, living in Odessa, have sirens going off continually, and have had a number of close calls. He asked for continued prayer for their safety, and God's hand of protection over their lives as they serve Him in all they do!! God loves the Ukrainian people, and He is ultimately in control. As the war rages on and the storm continues to whirl through the lives of these sweet people there is a light that shines through the darkness, inextinguishable!! The gospel is going forth through their country and many thousands are coming to know their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!! The two tents that we, OGT - Wisconsin sent are bursting with people each Sunday, wanting to learn and know more about Jesus and every other moment of the day the tents are feeding and sleeping centers! A refuge for the people from the storm. To God be the Glory!!

OGT Wisconsin also had the opportunity to send two containers full of supplies to Maui to help the fire victims!! The items were accepted by the people with very grateful hearts and sincere thanksgiving!! These supplies brought hope and light into an incredibly sad and overwhelming situation. We thank everyone who sent in gifts to help cover the expenses of these two loads.

I just want to thank each one of you again for all your gifts, prayers and help given in this last year!! I've shared a few glimpses into our past 12 months, but you were all apart of so much more. 18 containers went to 9 different countries and 35 semi-trailer loads went to 12 different locations throughout the United States!! As the hands and feet of Christ you are an amazing group of volunteers and you mean the world to us!! We could not do what we do without you! Please be in prayer for the Orphan Grain Train for wisdom, direction, and provision as we move into this New Year. Working together with you to relieve suffering, to bring hope to the hopeless and to help our missionaries take the gospel to the world around us!!

My prayer for you...May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you and may the Lord turn His face towards you and give you His peace. Numbers 6:24-26 Much love and blessings to you all in the new Year!!

In His Faithful Grip,
Cathy Robinson
Branch Manager – Wisconsin Orphan Grain Train

CORNERSTONE CHILDREN'S RANCH

Thank you for the potatoes! We are blessing the people here in Quemado and most of Eagle Pass. You're amazing! God bless you all!



Orphan Grain Train – 2023 (53 loads)

MAIN ITEMS SENT - FOOD, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, CLOTHING, HYGIENE SUPPLIES, FURNITURE, HOUSEHOLD, BEDDING/QUILTS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES, HAY BALEST

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 18 – Overseas Shipments | 18 – Texas/Mexican Border | 17 – Other |
| 2 – Kyrgyzstan | 4 – Laredo | 3 – Black Hawk, SD |
| 4 – Liberia | 5 – Quemado | 6 – Myra, KY |
| 2 – Peru | 6 – San Benito | 2 – Maui |
| 1 – South Sudan | 3 – El Paso | 1 – Paintsville |
| 2 – Moldova | | 3 – Wingo |
| 5 – Ukraine | | 1 – Las Vegas, NM (Hay Bales) |
| 1 – Lithuania | | 1 – New Orleans, LA |
| 1 – Republic of Georgia | | |

“Walk-Out” – donated 99 boxes/pieces

64 pallets of Vegetables/Beans, 9 loads of Potatoes (approximately 360 pallets)

124 pallets of Rice/Oatmeal Meals (approximately 6446 boxes – 1,392,336 meals)

Approximately 86 pallets of other veggies and food items, and 15 pallets of water plus 3 loads of Beans (120,000 lbs.)

JURBARKAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN DIACONIA

Dear WI OGT Volunteers,
Thank you very much for your support! And of course, thank you for your great and all the work planning this shipment!



BONANZA BEANS MORRIS, MN

PACKAGING BEANS LOCALLY TO FEED THE HUNGRY WORLDWIDE



Dave Wulf from Hancock, MN was motivated by Biblical directives to help the poor. Inspired by the story of Joseph in the Bible, he started a non-profit company named "Storehouse" with beans sourced from Bonanza Beans in Morris, MN. The pinto beans are grown in North Dakota and the black and kidney beans grown locally.

Eugene Pasche, OGT's North Branch Manager, connected with Dave Wulf and they were able to get loads of beans for Orphan Grain Train together with the enormous assistance of Dave's volunteers. Hats off to Dave Wulf and crew and the Storehouse for their generous donations of beans that have been distributed with the help of Eugene's OGT group. Many have benefitted by these donations.



UKRAINE

LIBERIA

So...What's Sewing?

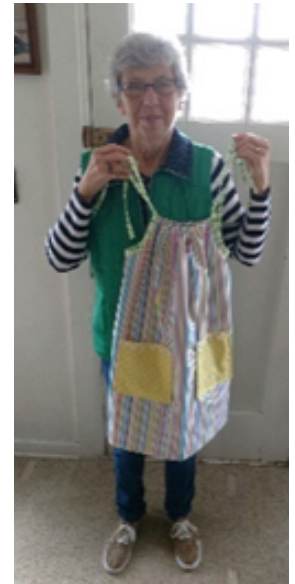
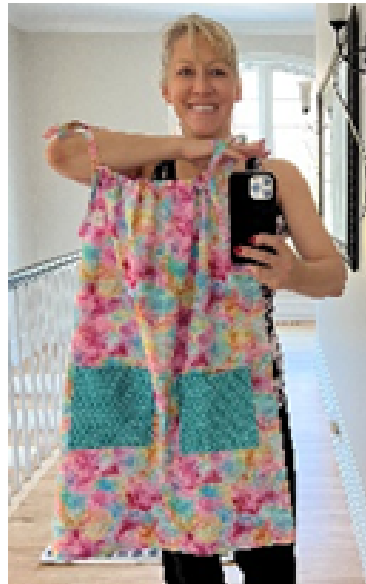
BY RITA WOLLER

Since October of 2019, this remarkable group of ladies from the Rochester, MN area has sewn over 5,000 dresses! These women have used their God-given talents to bring the love of Jesus to girls in need around the world. Over 2,100 of these dresses have been donated to Orphan Grain Train, Westfield, WI branch.

Under the leadership of Denise Smalley (pictured in the back row, left side), these talented sewers have met monthly to receive prepared kits to sew dresses.

Denise prepares the kits, which contain the fabric, bias tape, and elastic needed to make a dress. Each seamstress then adds her own creativity with the pockets and embellishments. Much of the fabric and supplies have been donated by individuals who have heard who have heard about this ministry and have desired to support it. Thrive Action Teams have supported the project as well.

To God be the Glory!



Linda Jagodinski from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Wausau made these beautiful girls dresses from men's dress shirts. What a wonderful job repurposing. It has been such a wonderful experience hearing from people who are willing to give their time to sew clothes for those in need. Keep sewing and show us what you have made for Orphan Grain Train.

TO MAKE BOYS' KNIT SHORTS FROM A T-SHIRT GO TO: OGT.ORG; [SPECIAL PROJECTS](#); [T-SHIRT SHORTS](#)

MOLDOVA

Laden with supplies of Blankets/quilts, Bedding, Clothing accessories, Coats, Clothing, Purses/handbags, Undies (new), Hygiene supplies and kits, Diapers adult/infant, Canes, Shower chairs, Commodes, Crutches, Toilet risers, Walkers, Bicycles, Wheelchairs, Children's items, Toys, School kits, School supplies, Sewing machines, Sewing supplies this container sent from the Westfield, WI OGT warehouse safely arrived in Moldova in October, 2023.



On behalf of the Christian Center from the village of Novovladimirovka, located in Transnistria, we would like to thank you for donated bicycles for children. There is a Ukrainian refugee family with 5 children who walk a long way to school and Sunday school classes. The mother, Alla and the children is grateful for the gifts of bicycles distributed by the Bible Mission from OGT.

The Donea Family lives in the village of Boghicieni. It is a non-Christian family. They live with the husband's parents because they do not have their own home. They have 4 children, one is autistic. The mother is a teacher, the father a security guard.. Their salaries are not very high and unable to buy new clothes for the children. The pastor visits this family and tries to help. The whole family was very grateful for the clothes and the children very excited to see what was in the boxes.





Mr. Victor, 74 years old, lives in Serpeni, was a music teacher teaching children the accordion. 3 yrs ago he suffered a stroke, but has recovered to care for his wife who suffered a stroke 2 yrs ago and is bedridden. They have no children, but a nephew comes and helps them. Mr. Victor received diapers and was very thankful. Their pension is very small and cannot afford to buy diapers every time.

Mrs. Maria, 90 years old has never married and lives alone in Chisnau. She cannot see and it is very difficult to cook and do household chores herself. A nephew and his wife help. They bring her food and visit, and clean her apartment. Because of her age, she needs diapers and is very grateful to those who send them.



Sister Olga is more than 80 years old, has children, grandchildren who visit her and are grateful their grandma is still alive. She is an optimistic sister, even though she can no longer move around. Until she got this wheelchair, she was pulling herself up with her elbows. She is very happy for the help and thanks God that she can go outside, breathe some fresh air and listen to singing birds since she lives near the forest.

The Bible Mission staff visited a children's cancer hospital with 40 children. Some in serious condition, some in remission. Each child received a Christmas gift, Children's Bible, and a 2024 calendar. Mothers and grandmothers stood in the hallway and listened when we told them that God gave the greatest gift to all mankind- His Son Jesus Christ.

We also donated 10 boxes of diapers. Mothers and grandmothers gave heartfelt thanks for the gifts and cry and pray daily to God for the children's health.



ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN - WI BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING

“the world is hugged by the arms of volunteers”

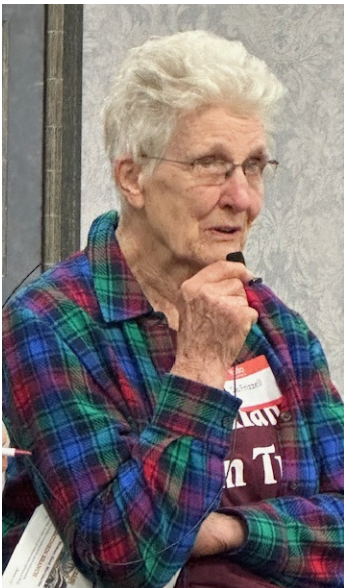
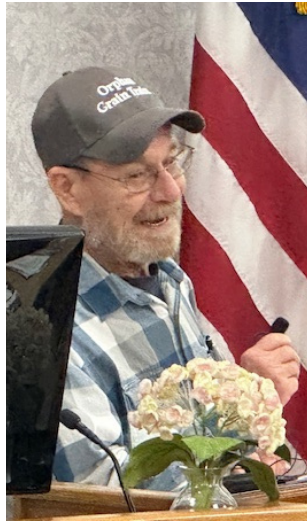
The Annual Orphan Grain Train Meeting is held at the Brakebush plant in Westfield, WI with tremendous hospitality and information on the past year's activities.

All representative committees give their reports as well as short and featured presentations by inspired speakers involved with worthy causes.

Beginning, intermingled and ending devotions to our Christian faith were interspersed with readings, sermons and song. How uplifting to be in the presence of such faith filled individuals who reach out to those in need!



Many display tables were set up showing the hands-on work of volunteers' finished donations such as clothing, quilts, mats. Love and dedication!

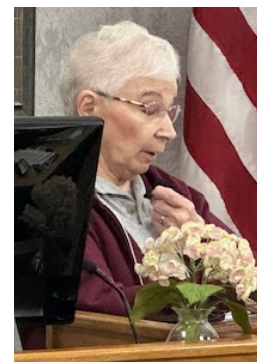
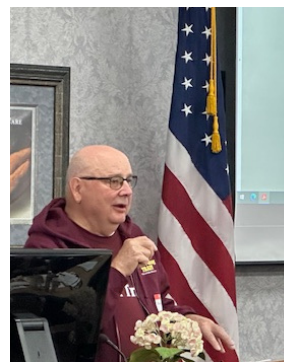
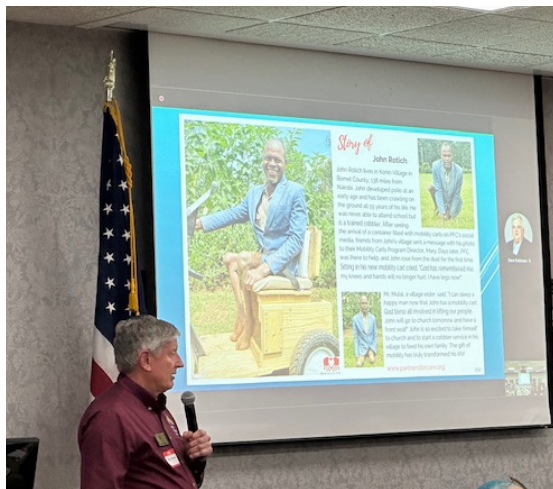


A detailed list of OGT-WI receipts and expenses was presented, as well as the accounting of material shipped in all Loads/Containers and where.

The logistics of “making this all work” is immense and complicated. Lots of hard work from the originators, planners, donors, and volunteers is beyond measure. A truly effective charitable organization takes everyone’s cooperation as stated in Ephesians 4:16 “He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” The world is a better place because of OGT-WI and all the participants.



A short presentation by Gary Moreau of “Mobility Worldwide” was fascinating as their original and specific designed mobility equipment conquers many issues of the disabled.



A feature presentation from Vitaliy and Natalia Smolin on the Ukraine efforts during the raging Russian war was very insightful, emphasizing OGT’s continued support on behalf of their efforts.



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR PASTORS

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you ALL!

He came in human flesh to redeem all humanity. Our unity with Him unites us to His death and Resurrection. His human flesh and blood will return in the glory of God to judge the living and the dead. We demonstrate our beliefs in the way we treat our fellow human beings. We find great joy in our brothers and sisters in the faith. We feel great compassion for those outside. We feel compassion because we love, even the lost. They need the Love of God. We have it to share.

Love is a well-used word but it is not always understood the same way we use it. It is a 7-11 kind of word. (They used to be everywhere, and I can't even remember what they sold.) If you want a good 7-11 reference for Love, go to 1 John 4:7-11 "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God: and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

OGT is a great way to live the love of God through our cooperative loving spirit. OGT is an expression of thanks to God for making that propitiation for ALL of us, as only He could. Jesus is the adequate and accepted payment that covers our sin with His righteousness to the full satisfaction of the Father. The Son's judgement of those who trust Him is given in Matthew 25:34-36 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I *was* naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'" But we at OGT are not ignorant of what we are doing or why we are doing it, like those in the parable. We know that Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Sometimes we make sacrifices to keep walking in those good works. They don't compare to the sacrifice Jesus made for us but our good works are only truly good when they flow from that sacrificial love He has for us. OGT can be God's 7-11 for those for whom He died. Then we can lead them to the holy Love of God that is never forgotten and will not die again.

Now the Lord bless you and keep you walking together,
To the glory of His holy Love.

In Christ,

Rev. Mark R. Meier, Sr.

Praise be to Jesus the Christ of God!

SPECIAL NOTES

Please remember when you have Orphan Grain Train coming to pick up a load, make sure you have a few people to load up the truck.

Orphan Grain Train is in need of children's shoes and clothing (sizes INFANT through children's size 12) new or lightly used.

Another item we are really low on is hygiene kit supplies, like towels, bar soap, toothbrushes, combs, bandaids, and nail clippers.

Thank you for your support!!!

SOCKS FOR UKRAINE



Thanks to Weinbrenner Shoe Company of Merrill, WI for donating another three cases of socks to be shipped to Ukraine. These socks will be a great blessing to those in need. Their generosity will help warm the hearts and soles of many.



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Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Orphan Grain Train

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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 someone you know would like to receive this newsletter, and is not on our address list, please let Linda Isberner know. If you wish to have your name removed from the address list, please also let Linda Isberner know. Thanks!

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

Linda's contact information can be found inside this newsletter.

******MAIL ALERT******
TO REDUCE POSTAGE EXPENSE...
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE
SEND LINDA ISBERNER YOUR
UPDATED ADDRESS IF YOU MOVE OR
GO SOUTH FOR THE WINTER!

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.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!