



WISCONSIN BRANCH

Quarterly Newsletter

Relief for Human Need Worldwide

April, 2025 - Volume 21 - Issue 2

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

UKRAINE



Here are photos from a recent distribution in the Mykolaiv region of Ukraine. This aid came from a container that was received in the last couple of weeks. I've also received very positive reports on the hygiene products that the load included. Mykolaiv, Kherson, and Odessa are in the southern parts of Ukraine near the Dnipro River. These areas have been heavily hit and are in great need. The needs have become much greater in Ukraine.



Some items from your recent container have been sent into Eastern Ukraine and the Kharkiv area. This area is very close to the Russian border and an area Julie and I just visited. We have some very faithful men and women serving there.



We appreciate and are so thankful for you and your team at Orphan Grain Train. You have been a great blessing and encouragement "at such a time as this" in Ukraine. Thank you! --Rev. Derek Thomas

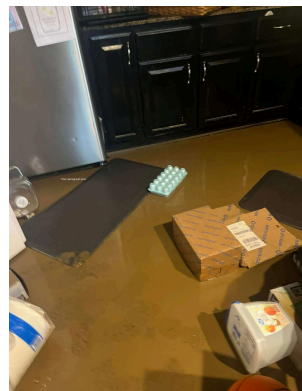
Manna From Heaven

Myra, KY

The following pictures were received from Ralph and Lois Tackett from "Manna From Heaven" in Myra, KY. This was their Christmas party and dinner. They give out a Christmas dinner, toys, clothing, blankets and whatever the people are needing for a wonderful Christmas. OGT also sent a number of pallets of Christmas toys we collected and wrapped just for the children!! The people living in this area of Appalachia are desperately poor and in need.



Recent flooding in eastern Kentucky dumped record amounts of rain, overflowing rivers and creeks. Rising water impacted roads, bridges, power lines and hundreds of homes and buildings. They just went through this about three years ago. It is going to take incredible clean-up. Some of the items needed to get started include: non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, shovels, hoes, floor squeegees, bleach, disinfectant cleaners, gloves, brooms, garbage bags, dust pans, mops, wheelbarrows and scrubbing pads. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR ALL THE DISASTERS THAT HAVE OCCURED IN THE PAST!



Cornerstone Children's Ranch Quemado, TX

This is Pastor Aaron. He goes up into the mountains with large loads of product from our Mission. The sign in his back window represents his ministry. Brother Aaron, when he first started coming here, was a very bitter man. Then God got a hold of him. He's had a real change of heart. We've watched him grow over the years into the most amazing ministry missionary to the mountain people. He was up there for over five days in the bitter cold meeting the needs of many people. He will be back again today to take another load. The children are so thrilled to see him, and the parents know that he offers blessings to them plus Jesus.

He works with us also with a group by Colorado. It helps fund the ministry as we help supply the product. Thank you again for all you're doing -- these families in the mountains would have no hope without the help that is shared through Aaron and your precious group thank you! -- Lori Mercer



More Cornerstone Children's Ranch



Remington Fire -- August 24, 2024

Wisconsin sent two loads of hay to Greg Bull in Montana.

It was 2:00 a.m. when I awoke to the smell of smoke. I leapt out of bed, hustled outside, and was greeted by a hot wind whipping out of the south. The glow of the Remington Fire had moved far north since I'd gone to bed. It was impossible to tell its exact location in the dark, but it was obvious that it had moved a LONG WAY!

I jumped on Facebook to see if I could find any updates on the fire. Some neighbors to the south posted that they were forced to evacuate. They only had time to grab a few essentials, load horses in the trailer, and throw gates open for their cattle. Other neighbors were posting pictures and videos of the fire roaring through the night. I couldn't believe what I was seeing



At 3:00 a.m. the phone rang. It was Rachel at the Brian Creek Ranch. She was in a panic, saying that her husband had rushed off to help other friends evacuate. She wanted to make sure we knew what was happening, as the fire was moving quickly in the direction of our ranch on Odell Creek. I woke up Brook and brewed a pot of coffee. It was time to start the day. I had a feeling it might be a long one.

We threw some bacon in the skillet and discussed a plan. The pumper was mounted on the Chevy pickup and we planned to head to Odell Creek at daylight to see if we could do any good.

At 4:30 a.m. I got a text from Jaylene, who works for the ET Ranch. She asked: "Have you cut the fences for your cows on Odell Creek?" I told her we were heading that way shortly. Her response was simply "HURRY!!!"

We tossed bottles of water and snacks in a cooler and rushed out the door. By the time we got to Odell Creek, the sun was peeking over the horizon. As we came over the hill we got our first good look at the fire. It was MASSIVE! Smoke was billowing out of the trees for miles on end. The wind was howling. Two firefighters in a Forest Service engine pulled up alongside us and said the fire would likely be to the house on Odell Creek before dark.

We drove onward and discovered, to our dismay, that the fire had already burned half our Red Rock pasture, where 140 head of our cattle were grazing. There was a small group of cows high-tailing it up the fence away from the flames. We threw open the gate into the pasture to the north. We opened the rest of the gates as well, hoping the other cattle would find their way to safety.

We turned around and drove down Odell Creek to prepare the buildings for the inevitable onslaught of fire. I turned sprinklers on in the yard. We parked vehicles and equipment on the gravel road. We shut off the propane tanks. Then...we waited.



The wind continued to howl throughout the day. The morning turned into afternoon, and the afternoon turned into evening. Friends, neighbors, and firefighters rolled into the ranch. Ranchers with pumpers in their pickups were there to stand guard. Federal, state, and volunteer fire crews set up camp in front of the house, ready to make a stand. Two semi-trucks with bulldozers drove in and unloaded their equipment. The sun went down and we waited. The winds were pushing the fire slightly west of the ranch for now. However, the weatherman said the winds were going to switch in the night and drive the fire our direction.



Around 1:00 a.m. the Remington Fire Incident Commander drove into the house. He informed us that crews were conducting burnout operations far ahead of the fire. There was one crew moving north, along the east flank. The other was working its way east ahead of the fire and planned to turn south to meet up with the first crew. He told us to go home and get some rest. The burn operation would take all night and they probably wouldn't be to the ranch until mid-morning.

We drove the 16-miles back to our house and collapsed into bed for a few hours sleep. At daylight we were out the door again. Brook made sack lunches to pass out amongst the firefighters who had been working all night. When we arrived at Odell Creek, the burnout operation from the north was just reaching our northernmost hayfields. They sent a road grader along the edge of the fields to carve in a control line. There was a crew of firefighters on foot with drip torches, lighting fire along the grader's line, followed by a convoy of firetrucks with hoses ready to catch any spot fires.

We watched the crews as they worked. The fire they lit was sucked into the main burn, just as planned, creating a wide buffer of "black-line." When the burning operation reached the ranch buildings, they took it slow and easy, working their way along the base of the hills and catching any spot fires that happened to cross their control lines. It was both horrible and fascinating to observe. The beautiful landscape was turned to black. Trees, brush, and grass were turned to sticks and ash. However, it was a relief to see things working like the firefighters planned. The main fire was almost certainly going to be stopped.

It was late in the afternoon when the two burnout operations met and tied in their control lines. The Remington Fire was contained.

The Remington Fire burned 196,000 acres in Wyoming and Montana. We lost 700 acres of summer pasture, 400 acres of winter pasture, and 7-miles of fence. By the grace of God (and the heroic work of fire crews, friends, and neighbors), none of our cattle perished and all the buildings were saved.

Women For Justice Republic of Georgia

We wanted to share these photos and message from Nato with Women For Justice Georgia. This is distribution from your OGT 2506 container sent to them. What a blessings, Thank you!

Dear Hanna,

I conducted a distribution to the large and socially vulnerable population of the village of Sagarejo and the small town of Rustavi. Today I am sending you photos taken during the distribution. I distributed clothes, shoes, diapers, blankets, and bed linen to the residents. I gave a stroller to a small child from a large family. The photos show the faces of happy people. They are grateful for the gifts.

May God bless you,
Nato



Updates from the Warehouse Team

The OGT warehouse in Westfield has been truly blessed with many donations in recent months. The Lord is generous in His provisions, and we are filled with joy that He chose us to assist Him in getting these goods, along with our prayers, around the world. At the warehouse, we strive to make sure that each item is a reflection of God's love and His mission through Orphan Grain Train.

1. Just as a reminder, please be sure that all items are clean, without stain or need for repairs. This would include clothing, shoes, blankets, as well as tools, small appliances, cookware, and furniture.
2. **FURNITURE** - All furniture should meet the criteria of humanitarian aid. Most of our recipients live in cramped quarters with multiple people, so every square inch is precious to them. We will no longer accept TV consoles, large desks, large bookcases, china hutches or items made of pressboard. Furniture should not have excessive chips or scratches. We do not accept mirrors unless they are part of a dresser and then they should be securely packaged to avoid breakage in transit.
3. **INFANT ITEMS** - Due to safety regulations, we cannot accept any infant cribs, high chairs or car seats. If you have one of these items in "perfect" condition, it can be brought to the warehouse for inspection prior to acceptance. Our drivers will not be able to accept them.
4. **MEDICAL ITEMS** - We no longer accept wooden crutches or standard aluminum walkers. We will continue to accept 4 wheeled walkers with seats.
5. **BOOKS** - We do accept Bibles (we are in great need of Spanish Bibles), hymnals, and Christian resources. School textbooks and non-schoolbooks will need prior approval.
6. **PILLOWS** - We only accept new bed pillows. We cannot ship decorator pillows.
7. **SPECIFIC MISSIONS** - Please do not write a specific mission or country on your boxes. Remember, our focus is on meeting the specific needs of each of our missions at the particular time of their request. If the items that are being donated will better meet the needs of another mission, it is better not to limit our ability to give items freely to those in need. *(the exception to this is during a call for special items, i.e.: hurricane relief)*
8. **SCHEDULING** - All pickups or deliveries must be scheduled through our logistics manager. Please do not call a driver directly. We only have 5 hours per week to unload trailers, so scheduling is very important.
9. **LABELING** - Use only approved categories on your labels as noted in the packing guidelines.

If you have any questions about clothing, kits or supplies, shoes, hygiene, household goods, please contact Theresa Rake, 608-547-2075.

Questions regarding furniture, books, or medical items should be directed to Pat Waters, 920 517-5258. Requests for pickups or deliveries should go to Larry Reidenbach, 608-617-6593.

Requests for packing guidelines, pens, folders, brochures, labels, tape or placemats should go to Linda Isberner, 608-296-2121 ext. 1202.

Remember---All of these people can be reached through our OGT Wisconsin branch phone number. Call 608-296-1543 and listen carefully to the prompts.

***We thank each one of you for being part of this amazing mission!
Happy New Year from the Warehouse team.***

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR PASTORS

TREASURED

Matthew 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

Sell all you have and keep selling it and trust that the treasure of peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ is worth your heart, strength, soul and mind. Nothing can compare.

But if it isn't covered up, the pearls will be cast before the swine. *Matthew 7:6* “Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.”

When you know the value of the treasure, you also guard it. Forgiveness can certainly be trampled underfoot by those who despise it. God's law guards the treasure of forgiveness by pointing to our sin and our need, our most grievous need, for the grace of forgiveness. But, of course, the law is despised. Who wants to have their sin exposed? The wise do.

Proverbs 9:7-9 (ESV) 7 *Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. 8 Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. 9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.*

People working with OGT have the brotherhood of fellow Christians working together. That is a valuable foundation. It gives us ample opportunities to share the precious Treasure of forgiveness. And it calls for discernment to protect and promote the Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ.

It may expose us to people who despise God's good and holy law. When it does, we meet the challenge with humility. The Holy Spirit of our God gives us discernment. We speak the Truth in love (Ephesians 4:15-16) and give God our best. He has purchased us to be treasured for all eternity. If we take a little guff for it, don't be surprised and don't retaliate. Be the Body that God has made us. Let the world see Jesus in us. OGT is still all about Jesus.

Joyfully working with you
all in His kingdom on earth
until He takes us home,

Rev. Mark R. Meier, Sr.

Peasant Pillowcase Dress



For instructions and templates go to

www.ogt.org

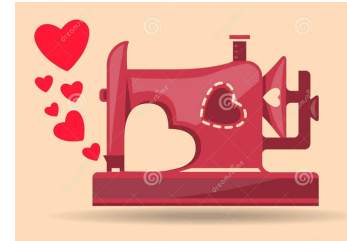
- Click on What We Do from the drop down menu.
- Click on Special Projects.
- Scroll Down until you find Pillowcase Dresses.
- Click on Read More in the box.
- Scroll Down to Peasant Pillowcase Dress Instructions.
- Click on those words for instructions and templates.



Orphan Grain Train, Inc.

So...What's Sewing?

by Rita Woller



Look at these beautiful sweaters that Sarah Hill knit and donated. She knit 50 in 2024. What a blessing, thank you Sarah for sharing your talent with those in need.



What are you sewing? Please share what you have been sewing, send an email to rswoller@yahoo.com with a picture of what you are sewing, and then sew, sew, sew.

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Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Orphan Grain Train

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

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 or you wish to have your name removed from the address list, please contact Linda Isberner at 800-933-2121, ext. 1202 or lisberner@brakebush.com. Thank you!

If you have an article or pictures you would like to include in the next newsletter, please contact Kris Sparks at 715-573-4158 or sparkstina51@gmail.com by phone or email. If you prefer to send by mail, her address is 227497 Boulder Ridge Circle, Wausau WI 54401. Thank you!

******MAIL ALERT******

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

ITEMS ESPECIALLY NEEDED!

**Clothes and shoes for
infants, children and men.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!