



WISCONSIN BRANCH Quarterly Newsletter

Relief for Human Need Worldwide

February 2022 - Volume 18 - Issue 1

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

PENNIES FOR MERCY MEALS A NEW FUNDRAISING IDEA!

The Christ Evangelical Lutheran Men's Group spends one Saturday a month coming together for Bible Study and Service Event brain storming. As a group we discussed how God uses the small, sometimes diminutive and meek to show his Love, Power and Grace. His own son came born in a lowly manger. We recognized that the penny has been in the news as small and worthless. There has been recent talk about taking the penny out of circulation and to not make it anymore. We remembered an Orphan Grain Train project called Project Feed 500 and that project made the point, "For as little as 3 pennies, OGT can ship a meal to a starving child." The Men's Group would bring our pennies that we collected once a month for the Project Feed 500. We thought we could take it another step further and involve our whole congregation young and old. We purchased 2"x2" paper coin boxes added the Orphan Grain Train logo and invited the congregation to take a box for each member of the household and collect their pennies in that box and on the first Sunday of each month bring them to church and deposit into a community jar. For some fun we asked people to see what their oldest Penny is for the month. We then report some fun historical fact about the year of the oldest penny. It is a project that allows the youngest of children to the oldest of God's children to take part. Our first month collection totaled \$179.17 which equates to delivering 5972 meals to children. So next time you think about telling the cashier, "keep the penny", you keep the penny for your Orphan Grain Train Mercy Meal Pennies Box.



Dear Friends of the WI - Orphan Grain Train,

The beginning of 2022 is well underway and moving forward quickly!! Before we move too far into the new year we have to pause and thank God for how He has abundantly blessed OGT in the year we are leaving behind. Last year Wisconsin shipped out a combined total of 33 containers and semi loads of aid here in the United States and around the world. Despite covid restrictions, price hikes, cancelations, shipping issues, struggles to find trucks and drivers, God allowed us to prevail and move ahead! Prayers were answered!! In Psalms 34:1-3 It says: I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear it and rejoice. O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together. Thank you, Jesus, for seeing us through another year!

It has been a challenging couple of years for everyone, sickness all around us, political unrest, and circumstances that seem to be beyond our control. Around the world, desperate people are hungry, without water, in need of clothing, medical care and are crying out for help!! They feel hopeless! Praise God that the Orphan Grain Train can help by providing a meal, some clothing, a drink of water, a pair of shoes, a warm blanket etc. and most importantly the hope and love of Christ!!

One story in particular this past year that touched my heart was from Lori Mercer, who runs the Cornerstone Children's Ranch in Quemado, Tx. Cornerstone provides help to a prison orphanage across the border in Piedras Negras, Mexico. The City of God orphanage, is home to over 25 precious little orphans whose parents are in jail. The children can live in the jail with their parents for so long, after which they are either on the streets, go to family or an orphanage. She said the help OGT supplies, provides the children with food, shoes, blankets, clothing etc. and a few toys to play with. This past summer St. John's Evangelical Lutheran in Oxford, and Trinity Evangelical Lutheran in Packwaukee, had a joint Vacation Bible School. Their special project was making stuffed turtles that had a small wooden cross tucked inside the tummy of the turtle for these orphans. They taught the children that when they were scared, lonely or sad, they were supposed to squeeze the tummy of their little turtle and feeling the cross within, be reminded that Jesus is with them, that He loves them very much and that He will never leave them!! Lori shared that the children were thrilled with their very own little turtle. What greater gift could they have been given, then something...that pointed them to Jesus and His love for them.

All the items we pack and send out, help Christian leaders and missionaries around the world have an opportunity to share Christ, to show love, and to bring a little joy to someone living in a hopeless and desperate situation. I want to thank each of you who are part of our OGT family for your continued support towards this mission. We could not do what we do...without you! No job is too small, whatever it is you help us with, plays an important role in what we accomplish...together!!

I wanted to let everyone know we are now officially in our new OGT warehouse, located in Westfield, WI!! Another huge Praise!! We are open Tuesday mornings from 8:00-1:00. So if you are interested in some wonderful fellowship, helping us pack, sort, fold, box, etc. we'd love to have you join us!! It's fellowship with a purpose!!

As we move into the future, I ask you to be in prayer for the Wisconsin - Orphan Grain Train. Asking God for His continued direction, guidance, wisdom and resources to meet the needs of the people we are trying to help! I pray that God would break our hearts for what breaks His and give us an overflowing love for one another, His children and the lost.

May our wonderful Lord bless you and keep you, and make His face to shine upon you!! To Him Be the Glory!!

In His Faithful Grip,
Cathy

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Cathy Robinson and her nieces, Lydia and Lexie Wentland, and Gaby Brakebush ran to Costco to get supplies for hygiene kits for the victims of the Haiti earthquake. They filled the entire back end of their truck up, right to the ceiling!! The girls had fun collecting items throughout the store. Eight carts later we were ready to check out. Eight carts and three giggly girlyies, draws a lot of attention. It gave us a chance to share what we were doing as the hands and feet of Christ for the people who were devastated by the Haiti earthquake. The Grace Bible church women's group took over from there and packed up the supplies and made over 500 hygiene kits. It was a team effort with lots of laughs and fun!! Thanks to everyone who made this project possible!!



THANK YOU from GHANA

The arrival of OGT 1923 to Ghana

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes, we are filled with much joy, more than any words can express, to inform you of the arrival of OGT 1923 on Thursday. We thank God that we were able to clear this container successfully without any problem, and I am pleased to inform you of the arrival of the relief container you sent to us. The clearing process was smooth with Logistics Control.

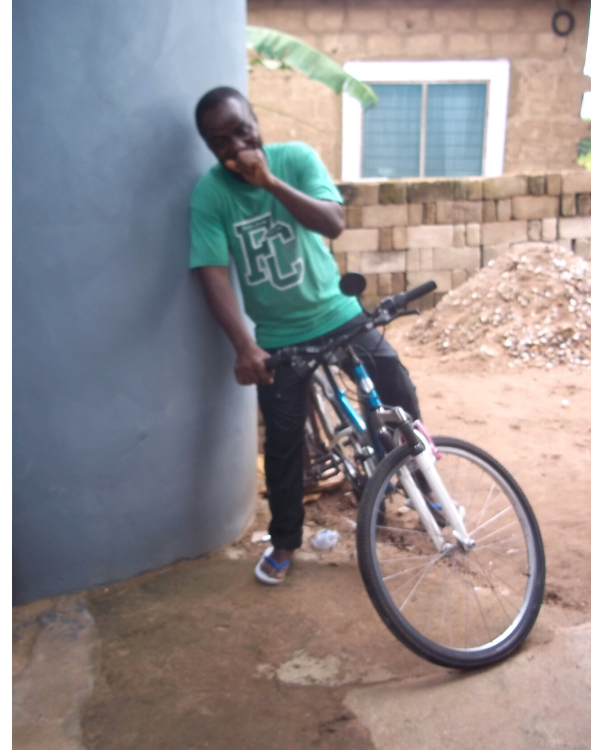
We have opened our donation centers at our warehouse at a village called Obediey where the rains flooded some homes and destroyed properties, so we are announcing and inviting other homes to come and pick some clothes and mattresses for themselves.

It's all joyous, and we are sending you these pictures to show you that the goods have really arrived at our warehouse, and subsequently we will send you pictures to update you of the donations...

I would like to use this opportunity to thank you and the entire staff of OGT for making this possible. We say thank you, and may the good Lord bless you and keep you safe in all good works.

May The Favor of The Lord Guide You,

Dr. Patrick A. Zina





THANKS! FROM LIBERIA

Hi, Orphan Grain Train W!

Your shipment OGT 2140 just arrived in Liberia! Children Relief Services, an organization that we've shipped to from Norfolk in the past, received it. They have started the distribution and have sent some photos and thank you notes.

These photos and notes are from a Liberian pastor's family, and they will share the items with churches and orphanages in their area. They also have a food distribution for widows and the elderly once a month. They will send a more complete report when distribution is finished.

Thanks again for sending this shipment.

Have a blessed day,

Rita Fonder



Hi, Orphan Grain Train W!

Thanks for all of your prayers and support towards the CRS Charity here in Liberia. We started with the supply of food cartons yesterday, November 18th, with the old folks and widows by the grace of God with lots of excitement and appreciation from the people.

To God be all the glory for great things He has done.

Thanks for being there when no one else could and for putting smiles upon those suffering people who have been going through a very difficult time to get food to eat. May God bless the work of your hands!

Trusting in God's love,

Rev. Hilary Enoch Earley
Founder CRS Liberia



Hi, Orphan Grain Train W!

Keeping you informed about your what you have done for us to help ease the sitting capacity for students at our church school. We highly appreciated your charity support in this endeavor.

The students are very excited about their chairs you have sent for them. We will always keep you posted on our present activities by the grace of God.

Thanks for your love towards humanitarian support through CRS.

God bless you for your efforts!

Trusting in God's love,
Rev. Hilary Enoch Earley
Founder CRS Liberia



LAREDO LATIN AMERICAN LUTHERAN MISSION

LAREDO BORDER STATION

Medical supplies were received at the LALM Border Station and then were donated to the Texas Department of Human and Health Services who immediately contacted the Mexican Consulate for ultimate donation to Nuevo, Laredo National Hospital (serves 1,000,000 patients per year).



SOCIAL MINISTRY AT THE BORDER

New Creation, Home Ministries; Nuevo Laredo, MX



Pueblo de Dios, school supplies, wheel chairs, and shoes and clothing for children; Nuevo Laredo, MX.



Pan de Vida, Quilts and food; 10 Kilometer to Monterrey, MX



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MEXICO (ELCM)

Orphan Grain Train cargo is welcomed and offloaded at the LALM Laredo, TX Border Station. Pastors and Leaders from the many ministries in ELCM travel to pick up donations to distribute to their communities.



City of Nuevo Laredo



Palabra de Vida, Colonia Militar Nuevo Laredo, MX



Pueblo Nuevo Community in Laredo, TX.



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR PASTORS

"COMFORT & JOY"

Isaiah 40:1

Comfort, comfort, my people says your God."

Dear friends in Christ. What brings you comfort? For some people, food brings them comfort. Chocolate ranks high on the list of comfort foods. For others, something hot to drink like tea or coffee. Snuggling with a pet can be comforting. Listening to Christmas music can be soothing. Following family traditions that were passed on to you from your parents tends to offer a lot of comfort.

"Comfort, comfort, my people." Why do God's Old Testament people need comfort? Because they are in exile in Babylon due to their sins. The wages of Israel's sins had devastating consequences, but now a comforting voice heralds the release of Israel from captivity! Now deliverance is promised after God's people had served hard time for their punishment. Now it's time for them to receive good news, because Israel had repented.

"Comfort, comfort, my people, says your God." Even though Israel had sinned, God has not totally abandoned or forsaken His people. The words, "My/Your" are possessive pronouns, words that speak relationship and how God views His precious people as His! "Speak tenderly to Jerusalem." Not harshly and menacingly, as rebels against the King of heaven and earth should expect, but in the tone of winsome pleading with which a lover seeks the heart of a maiden he is courting.

We are no different at times than Israel. Due to our sins, we end up getting into all kinds of captive situations and need to repent. O how comforting to then hear the words of the Gospel, that God loves us dearly for Jesus' sake! The eternal Word of God became flesh so that He could face the blast of God's judgment for our sins as He withered on the cross. We should have received hard time for our sins, but Jesus paid the penalty for our debt in full. He died and rose again, so that we can live forever. What comfort, what joy! God loves us dearly.

Comfort is the name of the game and we look to God for comfort. Like the Psalmist said in Psalm 119:76 "May your unfailing love be my comfort." We who have received such comfort need to extent that to others who are less fortunate. Through our efforts with Orphan Grain Train people are being comforted in Christ's name with humanitarian aid. Through our efforts we pray that the Holy Spirit will bless our work, so that those who are suffering in exile apart from a relationship with God through Jesus Christ will see that God loves them dearly.

Comfort is what Pastor Isaiah proclaimed to Israel as she awaited the coming Savior. Comfort is what messengers of the Gospel proclaim to us as we await our Lord's second coming. Comfort is what we hope to give to those in need, because only God's comfort brings everlasting joy. God's blessings of comfort and joy be with you in the New Year!

Pastor Lamont

AGCOUNTRY FARM CREDIT SERVICES

presents a check to the WI Orphan Grain Train

Pictured left to right: Marilyn Mueller (Treasurer), Cathy Robinson (Branch Manager), Cindy Braatz (from AgCountry Farm Credit Services) presents a check to the Wisconsin Branch Orphan Grain Train. The AgCountry Giving and Growing program was established to help support our communities. Through the program, AgCountry team members are able to choose a recipient to receive a donation from AgCountry.



**Camp
LuWiSoMo** 

Upcoming Events

May 17 - Tee Up For LuWiSoMo

May 27 - Campground Opens

*see website for Spring workdays

www.luwisomo.org

SPECIAL NOTE

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

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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 GrainTrain 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 Allie Sherron by phone or email. If you prefer to send by mail, please contact Linda Isberner.

Linda and Allie's contact information can be found on page 10 of this newsletter.

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!