Dear Friends of the Orphan Grain Train,

Happy New Year!! As we leave 2020 behind, we have to stop and thank God for His unwavering faithfulness!! When we stepped into 2020 last January we never thought it would go down as one of the most chaotic years in our nation’s history. This year brought with it the Covid crisis, political unrest, loneliness, sadness, anger, fear, uncertainty, along with a host of many other emotions and struggles. As Christians we have an anchor within the storm that steadies our boat and brings us through wind and waves. His name is Jesus Christ! Psalm 16:8 says, "I have set the Lord continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken."

When we had to shut down our loading crew and packing stations last March our hearts were saddened, and we knew it would be hard for the recipients who depended on us. What was the future going to look like?? It was such a joy when we started receiving calls from our OGT volunteers who were sewing, knitting, collecting, fund-raising, and packing right at home...the Lord’s work did not stop!! Praise God in May we were back up and going. But did things look different, yes. Did things feel different, yes. We now had to social distance, wear masks, and germy-jell up. Together we all sacrificed our comfort to protect each other and help the people who needed us most.

In a year that should have slowed us down, OGT – Wisconsin supplied a total of 36 trailer loads around the world and to our domestic areas. We thank our precious Orphan Grain Train team that helped out in one way or another to keep us moving forward!! We thank God for His provision and guidance in all we’ve done. On another happy note, the Brakebush Family Foundation has purchased a warehouse outside of Westfield, WI for the Orphan Grain Train to call home and out of which it can run its operations. The building will also be used for other BFF ministry initiatives....possibly a Wisconsin - Mercy Meals Center could be in our future!! We are looking for leaders to head this up!! In a year that the ordinary could not be done, God did the extraordinary, and we are in awe of His goodness!! The Orphan Grain Train would like to thank the Brakebush Family Foundation for the blessing of this beautiful warehouse. The warehouse will bring a whole new dynamic to our Wisconsin Branch!! There will be some updates that need to happen before we can move in, but maybe a summer opening.

As we move into the future, can I ask you to be in prayer for OGT...asking God for continued guidance, direction, wisdom, and resources as we reach out to bring hope to the hopeless around the world. God is still on His throne, and He is not surprised by our current events, but possibly....it is for such a time as this...that we have been called to be an even brighter light to those around us. So let your Jesus light shine bright!! We are honored and feel privileged that you are part of our OGT team and family.

Now may the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; May the Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you His peace. Thank you for your continued support toward the Wisconsin Orphan Grain Train.

To Him Be the Glory!!

In His faithful Grip,
Cathy Robinson,
Branch manager – Wisconsin OGT
Orphan Grain Train WI,
We have started donating clothes as the weather becomes good. We took clothes, shoes, school kits, and toys.
By your support we made poor people happy. You can see them in the photos.
The poor children...we think they have never seen so many toys.
Here are photos of three donation actions. We have planned new actions, too.
Blessings,
Nato
Ladies at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Willmar, MN making quilts that are donated annually (about 45-50 quilts).

Books from Perham and Henning are packed and ready to ship to Pastor Kollie at Cottontree, Liberia.

During the Pastor’s Conference or the MN North Dist. Convention, an ingathering for new socks and undies is held and usually collect around 45 apple boxes of new socks and undies.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Fergus Falls, MN holds an annual Orphan Grain Train Sunday in the fall. Cash donations are given, many school back packs are filled, and many quilts are donated.
School desks donated from Hancock School were loaded on a truck from Wisconsin Branch to be shipped to Haiti or Pastor Kollie in Liberia.

Gary, Lisa, and Kayla Geske pick up the donations in the northern part of MN and bring them to the OGT collection center in Morris, MN.

Edna at Zion Lutheran Church in Morris, MN sewed and filled 151 school bags.

Loading 41,800 lbs of potatoes from JCP farms near Long Prairie, MN to send to Ysleta Mission, El Paso, TX.

Women of Zion in Morris, MN put together 264 layettes.
Dr. Zina from Bethel Bible College in Ghana forwarded another note of gratitude from recipients of the items on OGT 1923. Enjoy the note and attached photos:

Greetings to you all. I hope all is well with you. I am James, founder of Faith Orphanage. We would like to thank Bethel Bible Charity Distribution center staff for the donation of Boxes of men's, women's, and children's clothings, as well as bicycles, children's story books, and Bibles. I will furnish you with reports on how the distribution went. May God richly bless you, Dr.Zina, and the Orphan Grain Train for this great support giving to us.

Yours Faithfully,
Evg. James Azorda.
Happy new year! How many of you stayed up late to watch the ball drop in Times Square? Someone has said, “Youth is when you’re allowed to stay up late on New Year’s Eve. Middle age is when you’re forced to.” I also like what one comedian observed about New Year’s Eve. He said, “I love it when they drop the ball. It’s a nice reminder of what I did all year!” For me, watching the ball drop was somewhat unfulfilling because due to covid, the crowds and excitement were missing. It was an unpleasant reminder of all that happened in 2020.

Well, I “dropped the ball” many times this past year, and I’m sure that you have too. It’s called sin, and we all sin and fall short of the glory of God. But the good news is that God never drops the ball. Our loving Father fulfilled all of His promises to send us a Savior, and Jesus came to deliver us from our sins. Our Lord never dropped the ball in accomplishing everything that was necessary to win our salvation. Through faith in His life, death, and resurrection we know that we have been made new creations as St. Paul states in 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old had gone, the new is here!”

With the new year, it's time for a new beginning. We ask God by His grace to wipe the slate clean of our failures in the past year and ask Him for help in the year ahead. As His new creations, we seek to live a fulfilling life for the Lord, a life that brings true joy and fulfillment from helping and serving others! May God bless our efforts as we work together to help the less fortunate through Orphan Grain Train, and “pick up the ball” to help those in need for their good and God's glory!

Pastor Lamont
Dear Orphan Grain Train WI,

The chicken giveaway went great! The people loved the chicken and still brag about how good it is. God bless you all from the people in this area. God bless you, and we pray that God keeps you and your families safe during these times!

Love, Lois and Ralph Tackett (from Manna From Heaven)

Article and photos from June 2020
on the way to the soup kitchen
BICYCLE REPAIR
REEDSBURG'S SUMMER OUTDOOR CLUB
AND ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN WI HONORS
GARY WILLIAMS

A partnership between Orphan Grain Train and students in the Reedsburg Summer Outdoor Club's bicycle repair program was celebrated last week when Dennis and Betty Andreasen (right) of the local Orphan Grain Train effort presented a Friend of Orphan Grain Train award to the club’s leader, Gary Williams (left).

In the bicycle repair program, children in fourth and fifth grade learn bicycle repair skills, bringing in one bike of their own to work on and one to repair to donate to charitable causes. While fourth and fifth graders now attend Prairie Ridge School, the program still runs out of available space at Pineview School. Two Reedsburg Area High School students, who have stayed with the program since grade school, also help with the program.

Since Orphan Grain Train and the bike repair program partnered up a few years ago, over 300 donated bikes have been sent by Orphan Grain Train to children in need around the world, including countries like Moldava, Sudan and Ghana; and in the United States to Texas, Kentucky and Mississippi. The next shipment of bikes will be leaving Reedsburg on Sept. 19, 2020.

The partnership has been a good one for both groups as Orphan Grain Train takes care of transporting the bikes from Reedsburg to various sites around the world, which spares Williams the challenging job of figuring out the logistics of getting the bikes to places where they are wanted and needed.
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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 let us know. Thanks!

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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.

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