



WISCONSIN BRANCH

Quarterly Newsletter

Relief for Human Need Worldwide

January, 2025 - Volume 21 - Issue 1

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

Orphan Grain Train – 2024 (55 loads)

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

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 19 – Overseas Shipments | 20 – Texas/Mexican Border | 16 – Other |
| 1 – Romania | 4 – Laredo | 2 – Black Hawk, SD |
| 6 – Liberia | 9 – Quemado | 4 – Myra, KY |
| 2 – Peru | 5 – San Benito | 2 – Woodward, OK (Hay Bales) |
| 1 – South Sudan | 2 – El Paso | 3 – Paintsville |
| 2 – Moldova | | 2 – Wingo |
| 5 – Ukraine | | 2 – Salvatorian Mission - WI |
| 1 – Lithuania | | 1 – GoServ Global - Wray, GA |
| 1 – Republic of Georgia | | |

“Walk-Out” – donated 457 boxes/pieces

70 pallets of Vegetables/Beans

8 loads of Potatoes (approximately 310,000 lbs., 310 pallets)

118 pallets of Rice/Oatmeal Meals (approximately 5954 boxes – 1,286,064 meals)

Approximately 14 pallets of other veggies and food items

50 pallets of water plus 2 loads of Beans (79,800 lbs.)

1 load of insulated floor tiles for Ukraine semi trailer homes

LOOK AT THE BLESSINGS!!!



Members of area Catholic churches gathered on October 21 to wrap the donated toys for our first special Christmas project. The gifts were boxed and sent in November to our mission in Myra, Kentucky for distribution to the children of the Appalachian region. There was an awesome response for this project, and the thanks comes in the big smile of each child receiving a new toy this wonderful Christmas season.



TO OUR FAITHFUL OGT FAMILY,

As we look back at 2024 we are filled with overwhelming gratitude in all God has accomplished through our Wisconsin Branch! We are blessed with the most precious and amazing group of supporters and volunteers that make this all happen! I know I say this over and over again, but we could not do what we do, without each of you! So, thank you for your partnership with OGT, thank you for your generosity to those in need and thank you for answering the call to be the hands and feet of Christ to the world around you. As we reflect on some of the ways God has been at work in this last year, I hope it encourages you as much as it does me.

This year God has given us the opportunity to continue to send aid into Ukraine. Derek Thomas one of the missionaries OGT works with in Ukraine, shared that the opportunities to share the gospel continue in Ukraine with souls thirsting for hope. Ukrainians are not only listening to the gospel, but many are responding to the gospel's invitation to receive and believe in their Savior Jesus Christ!! The aid we send, boxed up with the love of Christ, give our missionaries an opportunity to reach into people's lives not only with the help they need physically but also with the spiritual help so many are thirsting for!! Giving them the opportunity to hear about a Savior who gave His life for them and loves them beyond measure. There are no words that can express the evil that is present in this war. But praise God that what the enemy meant for evil, God is using for good and His glory!!

Derek has also shared that the electricity is only on for four to five hours a day for the people living in eastern Ukraine and along the Russian-Ukraine border, where Russia has taken out much of their electric infrastructure. OGT has been sending lots of warm clothing, blankets, coats, boots, and hand and feet warmers to help everyone stay warm. Please continue to pray for the Ukrainian people, that God would sustain them, that he would strengthen and encourage them, that peace will soon come to this evil war, and that through the darkness God's light would continue to shine!

This year OGT also had the wonderful privilege to help bring aid to victims of Hurricane Helene. We were able to team up with GoServ Global and the Appalachian Christian Project to deliver the much-needed aid to those whose lives were completely devastated by the hurricane. We were able to provide food, hygiene supplies, blankets, scrub buckets, cleaning supplies and so much more!! We will continue to send aid into these areas as long as there is a need!!

Lori Mercer gave us a call for help when the wells were drying up along the border by Quemado, TX because of the prolonged heat wave. It was such a blessing to be able to send them two full semi loads of water for their communities!! They were so grateful to have clean water to drink and clean with. Lori said the communities were brought to tears by these gifts of water. Each family was able to take a few five-gallon water bottles home to sustain them through the drought.

We were able to send out two full loads of dry beans to Liberia and to South Sudan where starvation is rampant. 118 pallets of rice/oatmeal meals went out, that is 1,286,064 meals fed to those in need. And we sent out 8 full semi loads of potatoes to each of our domestic locations. Praise God for His abundant blessings to those in need!

These are just a few highlights of our year, but as you can see from the 2024 load report, we were all part of something so much bigger than ourselves!! 55 loads of aid went out this past year! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!! God has blessed the work of our hands and even more importantly many have had the chance to know their Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ!! There is no greater gift than the love of Christ!!

I want to thank each one of you again for your support, your prayers and the help you've given to make this happen. I feel so humble and honored to be able to work alongside each one of you!! Together as we follow our Lord into 2025 let's again give Him thanks for all the blessings of 2024!! May He lead and guide us as we go forward and may His mercy and love shine bright in everything we do!! To Him be the Glory!!

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you and may the Lord turn His face towards you and give you His peace. Num. 6:24-26

In His Faithful Grip,

Cathy Robinson

Branch Manager - Wisconsin Orphan Grain Train

Appalachian Christian Project Hurricane Helene Devastation Lenoir, NC



This note was received after one of our hurricane loads: Yesterday was the best day! Your drivers John and Mike were so kind. And when Chris saw what was on the trucks, he cried. To have exactly what we need the most arrived on semis...thank you for answering our prayers. We can't thank you enough!!



The water was 41 inches deep.



GoServ Global

November 15, 2024

Dear Cathy and the WI - Orphan Grain Train,

Please accept our many thanks for your part in the disaster relief efforts in and around Douglas, Georgia over the last several weeks. We were so grateful for Brakebush Bros. and the WI - Orphan Grain Train donation of:

Semi loads of supplies

On September 26, 2024, Hurricane Helene, a major category 4 storm, hit southern Georgia during the evening hours. One of the hardest hit areas was Douglas, Georgia in Coffee County. Sustained winds were 105mph with gusts up to 125mph as the eye of the storm passed just west of Douglas. Power was lost to most residents. Thousands of trees were downed, with many trees landing on homes, destroying some of them. Food and water became scarce as people began to run out of supplies they had in their homes.

GoServ Global arrived in Georgia on October 2, 2024, to set up their disaster relief efforts. Our base camp was at the home of Rodney and Kendra Miller just west of Douglas, Georgia. Rodney, co-host of the popular TV show, "Small Town Big Deal" is a partner and advocate for GoServ Global (www.goservglobal.org). On his farm, Rodney has numerous pieces of heavy equipment, chain saws and other equipment all ready for GoServ Global to start working.

Within a couple of days, GoServ Global's director of Domestic Disaster Relief and his assistant arrived at Rodney's house to coordinate the efforts. Teams of volunteers from around the country came to help with the cleanup from as far away as Iowa, Missouri and Pennsylvania. Kendra was able to house most of the people on the farm, providing lodging and meals.

GoServ Global highlights:

- One young single mom with three children lost everything but was able to rescue her children through a window. Her grandfather had gifted the now destroyed home to her. Unfortunately, the home was not insured, so she faces an uncertain future for her family. We were able to clear the trees and tear down part of the home so she could safely salvage what was left.
- A 90 year old man living in the country had tree damage and was without water from his well. He didn't care about the trees, he just wanted water restored to his home, so GoServ Global dug up and repaired broken water pipes and reconnected power to his well. This man cried tears of joy when he saw water again.
- Helping set up a food pantry in a local school gymnasium to distribute food, water and clothing.
- Securing 15 semi loads of supplies including food, water, hygiene products, diapers, wipes, tarps, etc.

Thanks again for your generosity to come along side GoServ Global as we share God's love by delivering hope. More information about GoServ Global's efforts in Georgia can be found at www.goservglobal.org/se.



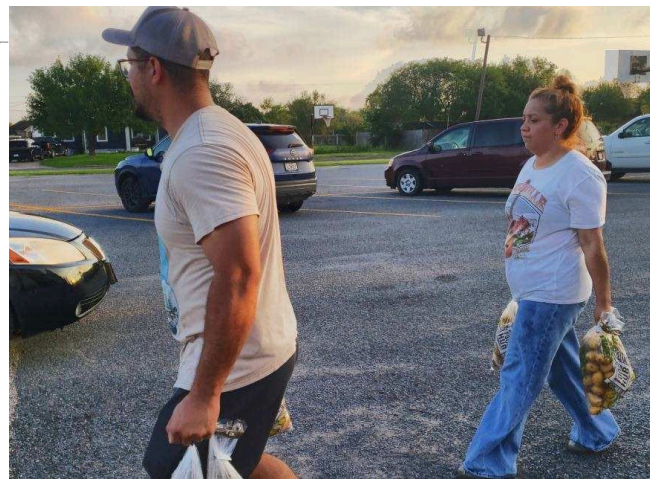
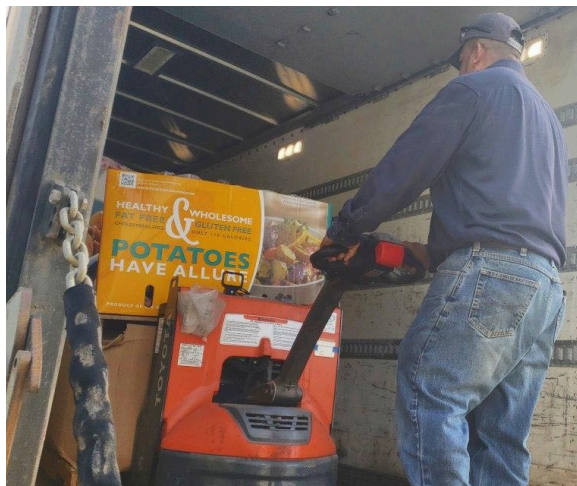
Paul van Gorkom
Regional Director, Southeast Chapter
GoServ Global, Inc.



Rodney Miller
Co-host
Small Town Big Deal TV Show

Cornerstone Children's Ranch

The potato shipment was once again a great blessing last month and the people were very glad to receive them. I've attached some photos. The potatoes were distributed in less than 3 hours. There were long lines of cars. Thanks for helping us serve the people. God's blessings, Pastor Weber



WADENA COUNTY, MN COLLECTS FOR OGT

A recent donation of oneies, 50+ quilts and 180 kids backpacks were collected by the Minnesota North branch from the Menahga area churches. This is the fourth year they have filled backpacks for the kids. The churches include Redeemer Lutheran Church in Menahga, Grace Lutheran in Sebeka, Zion Lutheran in Bluegrass, and the Nimrod Lutheran Church. Grace Lutheran in Hibbing also donated quilts.



Left to right: Ruthann Kinnunen, Alice Kako, Linda Kath, Donna Stone, Jean Tomperi, Judy Maaninga and Joyce Karkela

Larry & Judy Huotari,
Judy & Haelin Maaninga (Judy has assisted OGT for 30 years),
Barb & Arnie



Eugene & Darlene Pasche
from Minnesota North OGT

The Way -- Wingo, KY

Oh, how thankful we are for the bountiful blessings we have received from the OGT family! God's timing is always perfect!

Our most recent events, our annual Coat & Quilt giveaway helped over 200 families! We warmed them with a free lunch, of soup, sandwich and dessert, along with the coats and quilts. The Bibles were an added blessing and were much appreciated.

The HIGHLIGHT of the day, was a commitment to Christ, from a new visitor with one of our counselors. If just one is saved, it is all worth while!

Our Hispanic friends had a huge turnout of participants and helpers in our event also. This is definately a God thing, as the partnership keeps growing and keeps offering more and more opportunities to talk about Jesus.

In light of the recent storm damage, we were able to reach out to a very special recipient in the North Carolina area. There was a fellow that came here, cooked loads of chicken on his smoker units, donated \$6,000 to our community and helped us at our time of need after the tornado devastation here.

That guy is now on the receiving end from us, as his area was devastated in the hurricane flooding. Today, we loaded up a load of hygiene supplies, medical supplies, diapers, cleaning supplies, soap, toiletries, drink mixes, quilts and clothing and some financial donations from the community headed directly to this same fellow at his church.

God creates wonderful bonds and friendships that are worth so much more than silver and gold.

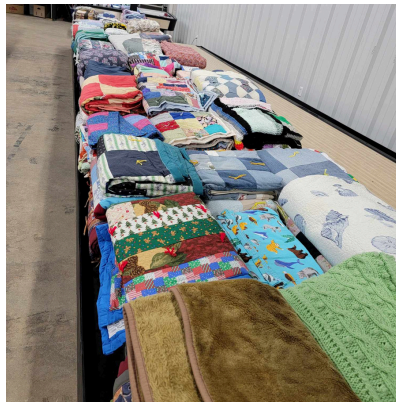
Please share the attached pictures and our warmest and deepest appreciation for all that you and your donors have done for our community!

And, as always, we give God all the glory and continue to strive to always be the hands and feet of Jesus here and around us.

Blessings to you all,

Jeff & Julie Enon, at The Way
Wingo, KY

More -- The Way



Orphan Grain Train -- WI Branch Annual Meeting

The annual Orphan Grain Train meeting was held at the Brakebush plant in Westfield on October 5th. All representative committees gave their reports on the past year's activities.



Many display tables were set up showing the hands-on work of volunteers. Love and dedication, in action.

A feature presentation by Dennis and Vania Aggrey from CRCA -- Christian Revival Church Association was very insightful. They exist to plant, strengthen and mobilize churches in Liberia to fulfill the Great Commission.



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR PASTORS

"You must be on your guard" (Mark 13:9a)

Last October was quite the month for hurricanes, first Helene and then Milton. Both of these hurricanes were predicted, and many dire warnings were given to get people to safety. It seemed that everyone in their path was on guard for what was coming, and yet some still decided to brave it out; either ignoring the warnings, or sadly they were physically or financially unable to do anything else.

When Hurricane Helene hit, it washed away entire communities and left tens of thousands of people across the Southeast with nothing, hundreds of people are still reported missing and more than 230 have died. Here is the story of one survivor named Kirk, "I thought I was going to die the night of the hurricane. Everything at my house is ruined, it's all gone. Everything you see me wearing was donated to me, I have nothing." Even though people were on guard, they still experienced unthinkable destruction.

In Mark 13 Jesus predicted another unthinkable event, the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. The disciples marveled at the massive stones and beautiful buildings, but Jesus brought them back to earth as He said, "Do you see all these great buildings? Not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down." What was He saying? That their precious temple would be destroyed? That was unthinkable to the disciples.

But what He predicted came true, within the lifetime of some of them. Herod's temple, a magnificent structure of awesome proportions, was totally destroyed and wiped from the face of the earth in 70 A.D. by the Romans, approximately 40 years after Christ's death & Resurrection. Unthinkable.

Jesus addressed the forthcoming destruction of the temple as an opportunity to talk with his disciples about the end of time. The disciples wanted to know when this would happen and what the signs would be that it was about to occur. But Jesus didn't fully answer them. Rather, knowing what was coming, He warned them and us, "You must be on your guard."

Why? Because the devil is constantly trying to catch us off guard with temptation or persecution to cause us to fall. Therefore, we need to be grounded in His Word and pray for strength to stand firm in our faith and be alert to fight off the devil's tricks until our Lord returns.

Life can be unpredictable. Unthinkable, terrible things will always happen in this world. I don't say that to you so that you will be afraid. Exactly the opposite is true. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. Jesus wants you to remember that regardless of what comes; deception, wars, disasters, persecution; God will never leave you nor forsake you. His angels guard and watch over you.

We trust this to be true because Jesus made another prediction, "Destroy this temple and I will raise it again in 3 days." The Jews thought He was referring to Herod's temple, but the temple He had spoken of was His body. They did destroy His body, they crucified the Lord of life; but then the unthinkable happened, 3 days later He rose again as He said, to prove that His word was true and that He was the real Messiah, not a false one.

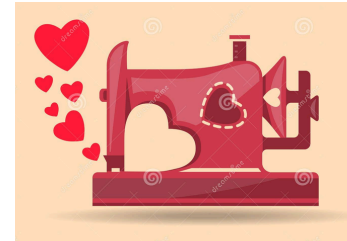
Jesus made another prediction, He will come again. It will be unimaginable, but not horrific for those who believe in Him, because He will return to gather all who believe in Him as their Lord and Savior from sin, to the eternal place He has prepared. His promise is that all who stand firm to the end will be saved.

As we wait for His promise to be fulfilled, let's be on guard for opportunities to be about His work. That is the mission of Orphan Grain train. We are on guard to help people in need when disasters strike; like when Hurricane Helene hit North Carolina, OGT set up a work camp to provide food, water and shelter to those who were devastated. May God continue to bless our efforts to help those who are less fortunate through this wonderful mission organization. And may the peace of God, that passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, until He returns!

Your friend in Christ,
Pastor Bruce Lamont

So...What's Sewing?

by Rita Woller



Look at these beautiful little dresses both sewn and knit by Susan Stomieroski made for those in need. Susan is very active with Orphan Grain Train, she helps making quilts, and children's clothes and draw string backpacks as well as being involved with clothing drives. Thank you, Susan, for all you do to help others. What are you sewing? Send me an email at rswoller@yahoo.com with a picture of what you are sewing, and then sew, sew, sew.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN WISCONSIN BRANCH OFFICERS:

WI OGT WAREHOUSE • 486 N. MAIN STREET, WESTFIELD, WI • 608-296-1543 • HOURS: TUESDAYS 8AM-1PM

Cathy Robinson
Branch Manager
608-697-6858
800-933-2121 ext.1706
cathy@brakebush.com

Dennis Andreasen
Asst. Branch Manager South
608-768-7543
dbandreasen@rucls.net

Wayne Flanagan
Asst. Branch Manager North
715-842-4204
Sanflan73@gmail.com

Chuck Tesnow
Asst. Branch Manager
715-213-4175
edelweiss@tznnet.com

Cindy Braatz
Branch Secretary
715-842-7320
cindy.braatz@agcountry.com

Pat Waters
Warehouse Inventory
Manager
920-517-5258
plwatersotr@yahoo.com

Ida Frizzell
Corresponding Secretary
715-824-3780
frizzell@wi-net.com

Larry Reidenbach
Logistics Manager
608-617-6593
ljrwis@gmail.com

Rita Woller
Public Relations / Sewing
715-675-7188
rswoller@yahoo.com

Linda Isberner
Administrative Secretary
800-933-2121 ext. 1202
lisberner@brakebush.com

Theresa Rake
Warehouse Packing Station
Manager
608-547-2075
theresarake@gmail.com

Pastor Bruce Lamont
Pastoral Advisor
715-849-2441
bruceblamont@gmail.com

Pastor Mark Meier
Pastoral Advisor
608-341-6017
meierfam@gmail.com

Kris Sparks
Media Director
715-573-4158
sparkstina51@gmail.com

Tricia Grimm
Purchasing Agent
715-540-0773
dtgrimm@tznnet.com

Marilyn Mueller
Branch Treasurer
715-678-2709
mamu@tds.net

Please send donations to:

Marilyn Mueller
N1459 Castle Drive
Medford WI 54451

Please make checks payable to:
Orphan Grain Train - WI Branch



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Orphan Grain Train

N4993 6th Drive
Westfield, WI 53964-9511

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!