



WISCONSIN BRANCH

Quarterly Newsletter

Relief for Human Need Worldwide

March, 2026 - Volume 22 - Issue 1

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

To our Faithful Friends of the WI - Orphan Grain Train,

Our hearts are filled with gratitude and thanksgiving for each one of you!! Your faithfulness, your prayers, your generosity and your partnership have made it possible to bring hope and the love of Christ to so many lives around the world and here at home. As you can see by our 2025 WI - Orphan Grain Train load sheet, we have had a very busy year, all made possible by you!! We start each year with our five fish and two loaves trusting in God's ability to multiply our gifts into something much bigger than ourselves. Each year with His guidance and provision He gives us the opportunity to reach into the lives of so many who are in desperate situations and have lost hope!

Here are a few highlights of 2025!

This year God has made a way for us to get three containers into Haiti! All three containers were guided and protected by God's miraculous hand of blessing and protection, until they reached their destination!! These containers brought hope to so many who have had to run from the violence of gangs with only the clothes on their backs. The gangs have also shut down most roads near the capital city and surrounding areas, cutting off access to food supplies. Fifty-one percent of the Haitian population is in an acute food crisis. Many live with starvation every day. It's been such a blessing to get these precious supplies to the Ford Academy and church, where they are being distributed in the name of our Lord and Savior!

God led us back to Ukraine, sending five containers into this war-torn country. Our missionaries share that things have continued to get worse, with no end in sight to this heartbreaking war. People live under the constant threat of attack. Children are living their lives and having school in the underground subways. Some have lost one or both parents. I can't imagine how scary and overwhelming this must be for them! They have shared that so many of their men have missing limbs from being injured in the war! So, send in your extra mismatched shoes and boots, they are all very much needed here!! But a bright light shines through this evil war and daunting darkness, as their churches are full, filled wall to wall, people are seeking truth and coming to know their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I'd love to share this little story about one of God's mighty warriors in Ukraine, that was shared with me this week by Pastor Derek Thomas, with Compassion for Ukraine.

Dima has pastored Living Hope Baptist Church of Kyiv while caring for his young family throughout Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine—now entering its fifth year. Recently, he wrote to me. "I used to worry about the future of my family, but God said to me, 'You do the work that I have entrusted to you, and I will take care of the rest.' Every time doubt comes, God reminds me of what He promised." Dima took this promise to heart. He has diligently remained faithful to God's calling, and God has honored that faithfulness—not only by protecting and providing for Dima's family through this treacherous time, but also by blessing his ministry at Living Hope!! One of those blessings is Sergei. He is 42...early in the war, not long after Living Hope resumed services, Sergei began attending. The gospel gripped his heart. He asked questions, sought truth, and eventually came to saving faith. He was baptized shortly after. Today Sergei attends faithfully, serves alongside Dima and has begun to preach and teach.

OGT also supported many areas with water along the Texas border who were hit with devastating drought over the last number of years. Many communities lost their water supplies and thousands had their wells and grasslands dry up. Forcing some to have to sell their livestock and their livelihood. OGT was able to help a few farmers hold onto their cattle by sending three loads of hay! The hay and water we sent was lifesaving to so many!!

God also opened doors this year for us to help a wonderful Christian organization in Benin, West Africa in early 2026. Benin is an impoverished country, one of the poorest in the world. It is also where voodoo originated. The mission receiving our container is all about sharing the love of Christ with those they are helping, which is the main reason we send our gifts out into the world!! Praise God for this opportunity for many to hear and learn about their Savior!!

Right now, we have a Christian organization called, Outstretched Hands in Kyrgyzstan getting their paperwork done to receive a container. Kyrgyzstan is mainly a Muslim country, Christian's must work for the most part undercover here, there can be severe penalties for sharing Christ in this country. Outstretched Hands work with Muslim women who are widowed or women and children who find themselves in abusive situations. Their main goal is to help them get back on their feet and to bring the light of Christ into their lives and struggles. Please pray Outstretched Hand's certification will go quickly so they too can receive a container of much needed supplies.

These are just a few of the highlights this year, as you can see, we sent out so much more!! Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with us and making these precious loads of love possible!! It's such a privilege for me to work alongside all of you! As the hands and feet of Christ we change lives when we bring our gifts together, pack them up, and send them on...praying as they travel across our big world, that they will bring the hope of Christ to those in need at the end of their destination! I've been reading through Genesis this last couple of weeks and in Chapter 16, I just love the story of Hagar. We find her fleeing her situation, feeling alone and forsaken, but Jesus sees her pain and sadness and comes to her!! I also love the name the well is given in her story! Beer-Lahai-roi, meaning the God who lives and the God who sees. I'm so thankful our God sees all we are going through, but not only does He see us, but He also sees His suffering children around the world, including those who do not know Him. He sees them and He provides for them and He uses you and I to be His hands and feet!! How blessed are we to serve a God who lives and a God who sees and asks us to work alongside Him!! He's a God of incredible love, a loyal love that knows no boundaries!!!

As we move into 2026, we thank God for all He has accomplished through our efforts in 2025 and we ask that He would provide direction, wisdom and provision in this new year!! I want to thank you again for your generosity, your prayers and your partnership in helping us provide for a world in need...both physically and spiritually!! May the Lord lead us and guide us as we move into the future and may His light shine bright in everything we do and everywhere we go!!

To Him Be the Glory!!

I want to wish you and your families a very blessed Easter!! May you be overwhelmed by the love Christ has for you and may you be filled with the Joy only Jesus brings to all who believe in Him!!

Matthew 28:6 "He is not here; He has Risen, just as He said!!"

With much love and blessings!!

In His Faithful Grip,

Cathy Robinson, Branch Manager - WI - Orphan Grain Train

Orphan Grain Train – 2025 (65 loads)

Main items sent – Food, Medical Supplies, Clothing, Hygiene Supplies, Furniture, Household, Bedding/Quilts, School Supplies, Hay Bales

18 – Overseas Shipments

- 3 – Liberia
- 2 – Peru
- 2 – Kyrgyzstan
- 1 – Ghana
- 5 – Ukraine
- 2 – Lithuania
- 3 – Haiti

29 – Texas/Mexican Border

- 5 – Laredo
- 14 – Quemado
- 6 – San Benito
- 4 – El Paso

18 – Other

- 1 – Black Hawk, SD
- 5 – Myra, KY
- 2 – Congolese Mission
- 4 – Paintsville
- 3 – Wingo
- 1 – Salvatorian Misson - WI
- 2 – Ashland, MT

“Walk-Out” – donated 345 boxes/pieces/pallets

- 109 pallets of Vegetables/Beans
- 9 loads of Potatoes (360,000 lbs., 360 pallets)
- 69 pallets of Rice/Oatmeal Meals (approximately 3,640 boxes – 786,240 meals)
- Approximately 70 pallets of other veggies and food items
- 124 pallets of water (5 loads to Quemado=84 pallets, 1 load to Laredo=24 pallets)
(16 pallets of the water were on multiple regular loads)
- plus 3 loads of Beans (119,115 lbs.) (Peru, Liberia, Haiti)
- 5 loads of Hay (190 bales) (Quemado=3, Ashland, MT=2)

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Robinson, Branch Manager – Wisconsin

Open Door Foundation Ukraine

Cathy,

I hope you are doing well. I wanted to personally thank you and the Orphan Grain Train family for standing with us and with the people of Ukraine during such a difficult season. Your generosity continues to reach families who have lost homes, stability, and loved ones because of the war.

Through your support, displaced families are receiving food and clothing, and children in orphanages and communities are being cared for with dignity and love. We see the impact every day – mothers who can feed their children, elderly who are kept warm, and children who smile again after receiving something as simple as warm clothes or a gift.

Your partnership allows us to continue visiting orphanages, holding children’s programs, and meeting urgent needs across communities like Berezhany and many others. What you send is more than aid – it is hope, comfort, and a reminder that God has not forgotten them.

From all of us at Open Door Foundation and from the families you are helping, thank you for your faithfulness, compassion, and servant hearts. We pray God’s richest blessings over you, your team, and every supporter who makes this work possible.

With sincere gratitude and love in Christ,
Vitaliy and Natalia Smolin

*“Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible;
and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”*



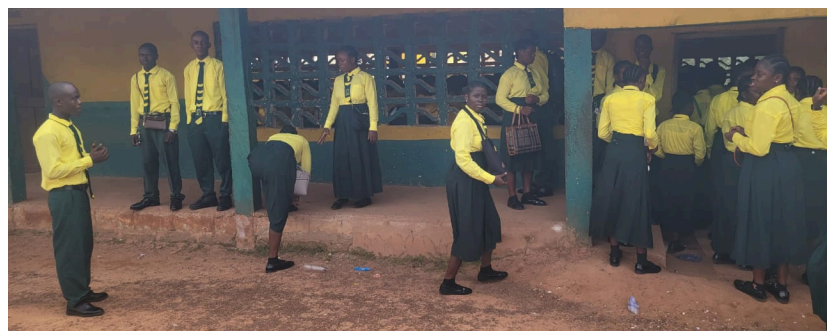
Manna From Heaven Myra, KY

Lois Tackett sent some pictures from Christmas at Manna From Heaven in Myra, Kentucky.



LIBERIA

Pastor Kollie shared some photos of their new associate pastor at Good Shepherd in Cotton Tree, Liberia. Also, pictured are a number of the students from this year's academic classes and one photo from Christmas.



Lithuania

Dear Evelina,

I'm pleased to report that our Wisconsin warehouse successfully loaded your shipment this morning, November 13th. Based on the current vessel schedule, the estimated arrival date in Vilkyiskiai is December 20, 2025, though this may shift slightly depending on transit conditions. We are excited for this container to reach you.

Ginger Beckman

International Shipping Director

Dear Ginger,

We received the shipment on January 7th. We would like to sincerely thank you for your support and the effort you have put in. As I reported on the Cargo Quality Questionnaire the shipment arrived in above average quality. It contained blankets and quilts, women's, men's and children's clothing, footwear, hygiene kits, school and teacher kits, suitcases, medical equipment, bicycles, accessories, furniture, toys and sports equipment.

The distribution of this shipment will take place at the center established by the diaconie "Jurbarco sandora". Support will be provided to the Jurbarkas Women's Crisis Center, aiming to assist women who are facing difficult circumstances, as well as to children's day care centers in Skirsnemune, Smalininkai, and Garliava, where care is provided for children's engagement, social skills development and emotional well-being. Support will also be provided to parishioners experiencing social or temporary hardships who are in need of material assistance.

Evelina



Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care El Paso, TX

Daniel Madriz, Maintenance Director of Donations & Distribution, shared some photos of potatoes being distributed in El Paso, Texas.



Pat Waters “Send Off”

On December 16th the Westfield Warehouse Crew for Orphan Grain Train held a celebration in honor of our warehouse manager, Pat Waters. Pat has served Orphan Grain Train for many years as our inventory manager and warehouse manager. A luncheon was held and a beautiful cake was made to send her off into “retirement”.

Pat was instrumental in moving, loading operations from the Brakebush plant to the current warehouse in the village of Westfield. She and her husband Fred, along with many other faithful volunteers met every Wednesday to unload trailers of deliveries, stack boxes on pallets, keep a highly detailed inventory, and then planned loads that were going out from our Westfield OGT branch. She kept meticulous records and organized this highly specialized operation to make sure things ran smoothly. We know she put hours and hours of her own time into this work, and loved every minute of it.

We miss Pat, but we wish her the absolute best. She is planning on having more freedom to travel and spend time with family. Congratulations Pat! And Thank you for your many, many hours of service to OGT. Please come back and see us when you get a free Tuesday or Wednesday..

Lori Temanson will take over as Warehouse Manager. We wish her God’s blessings!



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR PASTORS

“For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

I have a walnut shell that is almost perfectly cracked in half. For a children’s message, I would put inside this walnut shell a piece of paper with the words of John 3:16 and take a rubber band to seal it. When I showed the walnut to the children, they were excited to see what was inside. When I opened the walnut and read John 3:16, I would declare, “That’s the gospel in a nutshell!”

John 3:16 has been called the “Gospel in a nutshell,” because it contains the essence of the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. No wonder John 3:16 is one of the most favorite verses in the Bible, and is a confirmation verse for many. BibleGateway, an online Bible resource, looked at the viewing habits of some of the 24 million monthly website and app visitors. They found that John 3:16 was the most searched-for verse each year for the past decade.

I don’t think it’s surprising that John 3:16 would be number one on the list. This 26-word sentence tells us that God loved us so much, that He gave us His son to rescue us from our sins, and gives us the free gift of eternal life. This is the core and central message of our faith.

I love what Max Lucado once stated concerning this verse In an evangelism booklet called The 3:16 Promise: “One sentence, softly spoken nearly 2,000 years ago, is just as relevant today as when it was first uttered. If you know nothing of the Bible, start here. If you think you know everything in the Bible, return here.” Why? Because John 3:16 shows us 2 extremes.

The first extreme refers to God, the second refers to every one of us. Since the fall of Adam & Eve, the obvious differences have been seen. God has always been the extreme giver, man has always been the extreme taker. God has always been the faithful one, man has been the transgressor. God has always been the loving one, man has always been selfish. Mankind became so very unlike the “God of love” who created us in His image and likeness.

It’s difficult to imagine why God would be so loving toward humanity. But God so loved the world that He gave. In His infinite wisdom and knowledge, God knew there was no other way for us to escape eternal judgment. When we could not save ourselves, when we could not devise a plan of our own, when we could not obey His perfect law, God stepped in and gave the utmost, His only Son.

So, even though we are part of the story, for the reason there is brokenness in this world; we know the rest of the story. We are part of God’s love story, each and every one of us. God so loved you and me that He gave His only Son to save us from our sins. Put your name in that verse John 3:16, make it personal. God so loved you, that He gave His only Son.

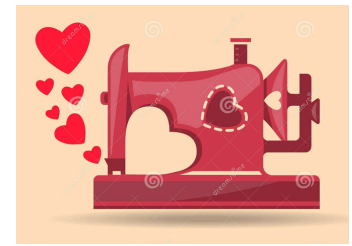
Jesus made it all possible. Our Lord and Savior laid down His life for us on the cross so that we would not perish from our sins, but receive the gift of eternal life. Lifted up on the cross, Jesus showed how much He loved us, and fulfilled His own words, “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay his life down for his friends.”

Having received His free gift of salvation changes our lives from being extreme takers to givers, from being selfish to being loving. In response to God’s love and empowered by His Spirit, we share the promise of John 3:16 with others, so that they too can experience the free gift of God’s love in Jesus Christ. Through Orphan Grain Train, we share our love for the world through our gifts of time and resources, so that those who don’t know the Gospel will be pointed to the only giver of life and salvation, Jesus Christ. That’s our mission, in a nutshell, until He returns. To Him be the glory.

Pastor Bruce Lamont

So...What's Sewing?

by Rita Woller



Look it is wonderful how many people use their talents sewing quilts, layette kits, school backpacks and children's clothes for those in need. I love making quilts, and children's clothes, I find it very rewarding. I just wanted to share that we are not able to ship camouflage, patriotic fabrics, or holiday fabrics out of the United States. That makes it harder to pack layette kits and school kits and ship them where they are the most needed. In addition, we are unable to ship anything with tobacco or alcohol related wording.

Please avoid using these fabrics, this ensures that your kits will get where they are needed most. Everyone that sews puts a lot of time and and love into the items they create, knowing these requirements will ensure your blessings get to where they are needed most. Thank you and keep sewing. Show me what you are sewing send a picture to rswoller@yahoo.com.

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PLEASE NOTE CHANGE



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!

**Adult diapers / incontinence products
Clothes and shoes for
infants, children and men.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!