A Plan?
Does the Lord have a plan? That is a definite YES! I’m always amazed (and shouldn’t be) at how things happen when He is in control. Praise the Lord that He watches over us all and provides what is needed at just the right time!

The Traveling Chair
A while back while riding with Randy in a semi to deliver a load to Grissom Air Force Base, Kokomo, IN, for airlifting it to Ukraine, a call from Pastor Mike came through. “Does Orphan Grain Train have a recliner? A woman in our congregation has an immediate need for one, and I thought of OGT.” I told him that our furniture supply was at an all-time low, so no, sorry, we do not have one.

Randy and I arrived at the base, did our security check-in, and pulled into the inspection building. After opening the trailer door, Randy asked me if a chair was part of the shipment. I said no, nothing but the shrink-wrapped pallets were to be shipped. To my surprise, when I looked at the chair, there was a beautiful recliner in good shape next to the pallets. By mistake, someone had put the chair into the trailer loaded in Jonesville for delivery to Grissom. With its trip from Jonesville to Kokomo and back to Jonesville, the recliner finally made it to its new home in Columbus, fulfilling Pastor Mike’s request on behalf of a member.

What kind of donations?
OGT takes clothing for all ages: for men, women, infants and children. If not new, we do welcome gently used clothing without rips, stains, or defects.

Other needs include kitchen utensils, pots and pans, and small appliances, as well as large appliances, such as refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers.

Furniture, including sofas, living room chairs, end tables, coffee tables, bedroom furniture, especially dressers and chests of drawers, clean mattresses, and metal bedframes are always in demand.

A wonderful gift from Toyota!
Eight months ago something interesting happened. While giving a quick tour of our warehouse to five Toyota employees who were volunteering their community service time at OGT, we walked by our Toyota forklift.

“Wow!” said one of them, “That’s an old model I haven’t seen in a long time.” “Yup,” I said, “It was a used model given to OGT by Toyota back in early 2001 or so. It’s been a great workhorse for stacking and moving cages of unsorted clothes, unloading our box truck, and loading containers for shipments. But it’s starting to need a little more loving each time we use it: a little leak here, some hoses that need replacing, a tune-up and some engine work. I’m wondering how long it’ll be able to keep up with the workload.” That’s when one women said she’ll look into something that might work for us. Thanks to her, the process was begun.

This past September, Jerry and Carol Maley and I went to Toyota Materials Handling unit to be presented this new electric forklift!

OGT Indiana Branch is extremely grateful to Toyota for this wonderful gift that will make loading and unloading a real joy. Toyota has been a great partner in helping to serve the needs of those in need, not only in our community but around the world where OGT is sending items for relief efforts.

Standing next to me is Jeff Rufener, president and CEO of Toyota Materials Handling in Columbus, IN.

LWML Power!
At the 2018 LWML Indiana District convention, OGT Indiana was selected to receive a grant towards a forklift. However, with the gift from Toyota, the LWML grant will be used to cover only the cost for electrical hookup for the charger. What a blessing it is to have the support of the LWML. On behalf of OGT, thanks, LWML!

And off they go!
So far this year, 40’ containers have been loaded from our dock for shipment to the Republic of Georgia; Latvia; Kyrgyzstan; and Ghana, Africa.

Domestic shipments in the United States include: Ysleta Lutheran Mission, El Paso, TX; Matthew 25 Ministries, Cincinnati, OH; Red Bird Ministries, Beverly, KY; Manna From Heaven, Myra, KY; Orange County Women’s Ministry, Paoli, IN; Union Elementary School, Modoc, IN; Putnamville and Plainfield Correctional facilities, IN.

Locally within our six-county area, OGT makes available furniture, appliances, various household items, and kitchenware to those who come with a referral from a social agency or a church. Since January 2019 OGT has been able to help 428 entities with more than 2,400 items.

Interested in volunteering?
Join the many regulars who come on a weekly, monthly, or “whatever fits the schedule” timeframe to help with sorting, picking up, loading etc. So far this year we’ve had 111 first-timers to OGT! You could be a first-time volunteer in 2020!
Prayers for OGT ministry
Your prayers on behalf of the ministry of OGT are much appreciated. We welcome your prayers for continued health and strength of the volunteers who sort and pack items, as well as for those who travel to pick up or deliver items.

Orphan Grain Train, a non-profit
Indiana Branch OGT operates under the umbrella of the national Orphan Grain Train headquarters in Norfolk, NE. OGT is a 501(c) (3) non-profit Christian organization.

From Connecticut to California there are 27 OGT branch locations, all staffed by volunteers who give of their time and energy year in and year out. OGT operates with the highest rating from Charity Navigator. Find out more at ogt.org.

Your gifts to Orphan Grain Train
Orphan Grain Train Jonesville has been blessed by many financial donors over the course of the years and we praise the Lord for all the support and help. Please continue to pray for this ministry that it is all done to glorify His name and in sharing the message of the Gospel more might come to know the Lord as their Savior.

If you wish to send a monetary gift to OGT, please use the enclosed envelope addressed to Orphan Grain Train Indiana Branch. This is the only “ask” we make of our partners and friends who support this ministry of compassion and outreach. There is also a DONATE button associated with OGT Indiana on the ogt.org website that can be used. Follow the prompts which will lead you through the process. Whether financial or material, your gifts are all tax deductible.

Recently Centra team members made a visit to the OGT warehouse in Jonesville. Centra has been inviting its various departments and branches to nominate organizations serving the Columbus community to receive a contribution. This year Centra’s Accounting department chose Orphan Grain Train. Pictured are team members present to deliver the check to OGT Manager Gene Ernst. Thanks, Centra!

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Thrivent Choice Dollars are another way to help OGT. Directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars to OGT Jonesville helps with everyday operational costs and provides funds for shipments overseas and within our borders.

Did you know? To send a 40’ container overseas may cost between $5,000-7,500. To send a 53’ trailer within our country usually costs around $2,500.