



WISCONSIN BRANCH

Quarterly Newsletter

Relief for Human Need Worldwide

September, 2024 - Volume 20 - Issue 3

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

LOOK AT THE BLESSINGS!!!

Lori Mercer from the Cornerstone Children's Ranch in Quemado, TX called me and shared that many of the wells in their communities were drying up because of the months and months of prolonged heat. Their temps have been between 100 and 106, and at times reaching as high as 115, rarely falling below a 100. For many in their community there is no water for showers, cooking or drinking, because of dry wells. So, OGT Wisconsin sent a load of water to help out!! Pictures are on the next page!! With another load scheduled to deliver when this one is gone. OGT, Norfolk has sent a tanker of water to also help out!! See thank you note from Lori below!

Please pray that there would be a break from the heat soon for the southern boarder and that God would bless their region with badly needed rain!!! Lori shared their ground is rock hard and that most vegetation has been burnt and dried up by the constant sun and heat. God bless you for your continued support towards the Wisconsin Orphan Grain Train!!

Much love and blessings, Cathy

Dear OGT family,

I went in the warehouse after Mr. Jimmy unloaded the load of water. I sent you pictures of the blessings and I'm so thankful for you all and I just want you to know that our people here in the community are just amazed by your love!! Thank you all so much again!!

Lori Mercer,
Cornerstone Children's Ranch

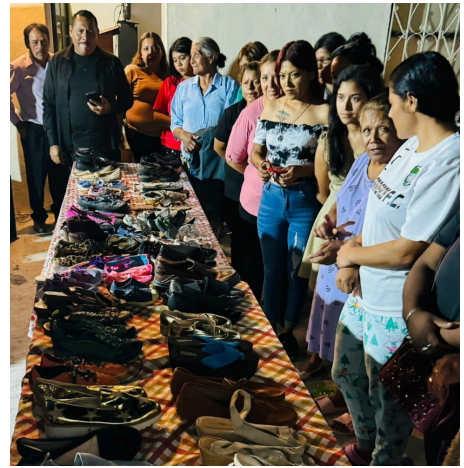
Another Note from Cornerstone Children's Ranch

Right now we are experiencing a power outage, however, we were able to give away today 12 pallets of the Primo water to over 300 or more residents. There was much joy in their faces, and I can't begin to tell you how thankful we are for you. Your testimony of God is amazing. We pray that we can be as good of servants, as OGT has been to us and our community. At this present time, I have a group coming from Mexico, hoping to be in next week, to pick up about a pallet of water.



CORNERSTONE CHILDREN'S RANCH, QUEMADO, TEXAS

Thank you for all the gifts -- the truck was totally packed. We couldn't believe our eyes. We saw the precious gifts of which have already made it across the border. We hope to ship more next week and thank you for your driver that was willing to help us get it unloaded. God bless you all for everything. --Lori Mercer



THE WAY -- WINGO, KY

Good morning! Hope all is well on this beautiful summer morning. This letter brings much gratitude and thanksgiving for the many blessings we have received from your group.

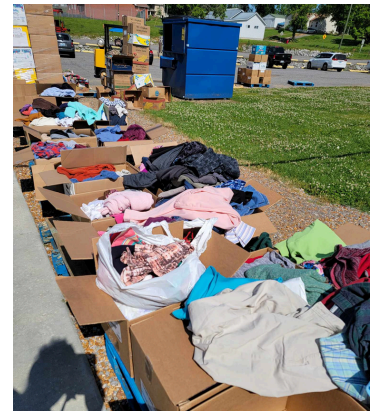
Pictures included are the delivery of the last shipment of much needed food and clothing. While we love having abundant resources for our personal food pantry ministry, the unexpected gift of the relationships we have formed with other ministries all across our region is a blessing of its own. It is such a joy and encouragement to share stories of others who continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus and tell of the Good News of Christ.



Our newest friend in Christ we have prayed for and received, is in a southern neighboring community. One of our members ran into him at a flooring store and the conversation began. It turns out this man has a food and clothing ministry in 3 nearby counties. These counties are unfortunately saturated with much poverty and drug abuse. This minister has weekly Celebrate Recovery meetings on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and uses the other resources to minister to these and other families. When you live and deal with these addicted souls everyday, you learn and understand the fragile state of their soul, life and world. It just engulfs them completely. And, there are the children. The sweet, innocent and often dirty and ragged children, with big eyes searching for hope, food, help, love, peace while living in the only normal they know. Only about 3 percent of addicts ever break that cycle, but there is power in prayer, and those seeds of Jesus we plant will hopefully and prayerfully break those generational lifestyles. When they see the love and peace of Jesus, they can know that there is something else in the world besides the only "normal" they know.

And we can pray over them and pray they see Jesus in that bag of food, or that bag of clothes, or in the smile of one of our workers, or like Jeff, who tries to share the love of Jesus by sharing ice cream with them. All the kids learn who Jeff is very fast.

Another challenge we have recently faced is a new group of mainly Spanish speaking folks, and us with no interpreters. I only speak hillbilly, which is English, that some can understand. We do have tracts that have both Spanish and English that we have been able to share with them, but, with prayer, we have been able to reach out to a local Spanish Christian church to join our efforts. We want to have a place to direct them, in order for them to learn more about Christ in their own language.



The electric wheelchair we received in the last shipment was donated to our local family resource center. They were in the process of having it cleaned and serviced, then they will fit a child for it. They were so thrilled to receive it.

There is a little grandma in a neighboring town that comes to our free yard sale and loads her car up. She fixes food for many in her neighborhood in need, as well as shares the clothing with them. Her smile shows her Jesus.

The youth in our church come out to help others their age find treasures of clothing, toys and school supplies. They have also learned Jeff's trick about the ice cream and have enlisted in his ice cream ministry.

With these new ministry friends, we first always ask about the purpose. We want everything we do to be shining the light of Jesus. Please share our deepest gratitude and this letter and pictures with any who are interested. This is a small glimpse of their contributions as they and you all give so many places with such great need, but we always are very grateful for your donations and to share back with you all the things we try to do here in Wingo, KY and surrounding communities.

Thankfully and prayerfully,

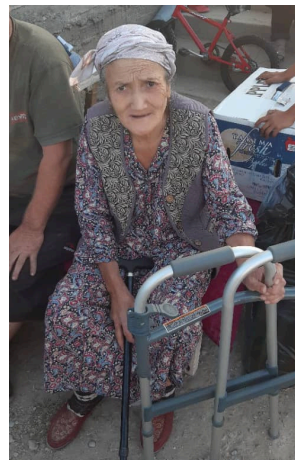
Jeff & Julie Painter
The Way, at Enon Baptist, Wingo, Ky

KYRGYZSTAN

The following picture was sent Public Fund “Kindness.Kg” that received three all-terrain wheel-chairs from OGT and gave them to the children suffering from infantile cerebral paralysis. “Thank you very much for this wheel-chair. My son Nikita is very glad to have it. It is also a joy for all of us.” The people are very excited about this device. They have never seen all-terrain wheel-chairs before. The man says that this wheel-chair is very good for children like Nikita. “Your arms will become very strong if you use this wheel-chair every day”, he says. They also admire a little trunk at the back of the wheel-chair. It will be used for water and other things.



Social Agency “Jany Bashat” works with disabled and needy people living in a new development in the suburbs of Bishkek. The Agency received clothing, shoes, crutches, canes, commodes, toilet risers and bicycles from OGT and distributed them to 125 needy people. They sent the below pictures with a thank you note.



These pictures were sent by “Nurmeeaisa” orphanage that regularly receives humanitarian aid from OGT containers. This time they were especially happy to have a bicycle and a sewing machine.



LIBERIA

Dear Cathy and all our good family friends at OGT,

I bring you a very blessed greetings from our home to yours today. God is always good to his people, as the Psalmist says, "Truly, the LORD's right hand is lifted high; the LORD's right hand has done mighty things! I will not die but live and proclaim what the LORD has done. (Psalm 118:16-17). Yes, He continues to be good no matter how we turn out to be the worst in life. You people have and continue to be tremendous blessings to us just as He (Christ) always shows His blessings to you. The Apostle Paul again says, "Bear one another's burdens, and fulfill the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2

Today, we remain very grateful to God for bringing you into partnership with in that many things have been done, and you have continued to be a radiance for the work we are doing here in Cotton Tree, Liberia. Good Shepherd has become the focus of the Liberian mission. We are struggling with our new government this year, and we have not graduated our 12 graders because of the delays in releasing the regional exam results. So, we are not able to attach their graduation pictures. That will come in later to you.

This year, the 2024/2025 school year, we started on August 12 because of the early preparation for the high school regional exams. We are already indebted to our teachers, but it is my fault because of my massive engagement with my proposal writing and work on the clinic, the auditorium, and the training center projects.

Once again, we thank you for everything you continue to do for us as we pray together to make Christ known more to the nation of Liberia.

With Christ on our side,
Pastor Kollie



With little for everyone to share, OGT gave gifts of hygiene kits to the women at our young established congregation in Gate 15, "Zion Lutheran."



MORE FROM LIBERIA



Our 12th graders this past 2023/2024 academy year. Seventy-one of them are expected to graduate on November 8, 2024.



Good Shepherd men, women and youth leadership received supplies to share among members according to departments.

Pastor Kollie carried his supplies to Kakata. Container arrived at Good Shepherd.



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, & PACKING STATION -- WESTFIELD

The 29th Annual Fish Boil was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Westfield, WI on August 2, 2024. Approximately 320 people enjoyed the meal. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped set up, prepare and serve the meal at the Church. Your volunteerism is what makes Immanuel and our community what it is. Over 200 Volunteer Hours made this happen. The businesses that helped sponsor are National Exchange Bank, BMO Financial, American Family Insurance, Pace Chiropractic, Westfield Family Dental, DDS, Pioneer Power and Light, Westfield Electric, Virch's Tru Valu, Stoney River Soap Company, Thal Acres Golf and Bowling, Tiffany's Buds and Beans all of Westfield, Dierks Potatoes, Coloma and One Community Bank, Adams. Say thanks to these folks. A total of \$5700 has been sent to the Orphan Grain Train, a Christian organization of volunteers that ships food, clothing, medical supplies, and other humanitarian aid to 69 different countries. Thanks for all the help and support. Planning has already begun for the Fish Boil in August, 2025.



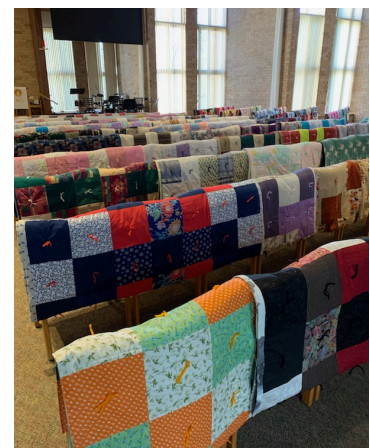
Kentucky Derby,
here we come! The
ladies having fun with
the hats at the
Westfield packing
station!

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN PACKING STATION, WAUSAU

Fifty-four volunteers who assist the OGT by packing, picking up boxes, loading the trailer, making quilts, sewing pillowcase dresses, shorts, and drawstring backpacks were given a “thank you luncheon” on August 5th at St. Mark's. It is wonderful to be able to recognize these volunteers who give so freely of their time to help those in need.



St. Mark's Lutheran Comfort Quilters gather supplies and assemble quilts during September, October, January and February to ship to those in need. In May they display their beautiful quilts in the sanctuary at St. Mark's.



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FROM OUR PASTORS

“1 Samuel 15:22-23 [ESV] Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king.”

HONOR YOUR VOCATION

Matthew 12:7 [ESV] And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless.

What makes God happy? We don’t need to guess about that. Obedience, although ours is always imperfect, and compassion are two things that please our heavenly Father. Another is humility, as it says in Micah 6:8, “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

When those qualities are taught and learned many people are blessed, that is, made happy.

King Saul failed to understand that he didn’t have the option of changing God’s word. Saul should have been more concerned with listening to our God. Saul should not have changed the plan that God had clearly given. God had not asked for plunder to be gathered for a sacrifice.

Contrast that with King David in 2 Samuel 24:18-24 Gad came that day to David and said to him, “Go up, raise an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.” 19 So David went up at Gad’s word, as the Lord commanded. 20 And when Araunah looked down, he saw the king and his servants coming on toward him. And Araunah went out and paid homage to the king with his face to the ground. 21 And Araunah said, “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?” David said, “To buy the threshing floor from you, in order to build an altar to the Lord, that the plague may be averted from the people.” 22 Then Araunah said to David, “Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him. Here are the oxen for the burnt offering and the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. 23 All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king.” And Araunah said to the king, “May the Lord your God accept you.” 24 But the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing.”

We do make sacrifices in our volunteer work with OGT and we can be sure that God is pleased that we are obeying His 2nd great command to love our neighbor as ourselves. We work joyfully knowing that our humble efforts are pleasing to God and provide great services to our fellow man. Working together provides opportunities for us to show mercy, not only to those who receive the benefits of our efforts, but also to our fellow workers! The spirit of comradery is uplifting to us all. It is a reminder of the mercy God has shown us in sending His Son to make the Sacrifice that perfects us.

Jesus makes us all guiltless. He takes the condemnation our sins deserve and shows us mercy. The joy we experience in receiving that mercy overflows to all in the OGT family and through OGT to people in need around the world. Be sure to give what everyone really need; the Good News that the Mercy of God is for all and that Mercy is Jesus. Apart from Jesus there is no lasting joy. “Yea, heaven itself were void and bare if Thou, Lord, wert not near me.” [Lord. Thee I Love with All My Heart, LSB #708] Share the Joy. He is near.

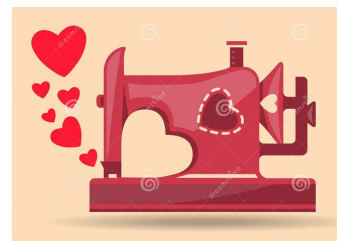
AMEN. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. [Revelation 22:20 KJV]

Joyfully,

Rev. Mark R. Meier, Sr.
September 7th A.D. 2024

So...What's Sewing?

by Rita Woller



Have you seen the new peasant pillowcase dress pattern on the national website? Many of our recipients have let us know that they would prefer a little sleeve, or at least a wider strap on the dresses. Why not give this new pattern a try, it is an easy sew. Have you ever sewn shorts? It would be great to have boxes of shorts to go along with all the pillowcase dresses we ship. I found an easy, free tutorial and template on this website; zunessewingtherapy.com

Show me what you are sewing, just find a pattern you like and sew, sew, sew. Then send me a picture at rswoller@yahoo.com

Happy sewing!

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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 let Linda Isberner know at 800-933-2121, ext. 1202 or lisberner@brakebush.com. Thank you!

If you have an article or picture 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!