

Quarterly

UPDATE

North Dakota Orphan Grain Train
~ Mercy Meals ~

Summer 2022

Orphan Grain Train Board Member, Kirk Rosin, Travels to Ukraine on Behalf of Orphan Grain Train

“I thought this trip was a calling from God, that I had the ability to do this, and there was no reason not to go.”

Those are the words from Kirk Rosin, ND’s Orphan Grain Train board member. With the conflict with Russia, Ukraine is perhaps the last place most would think to travel to at this time. The nine-day trip in April of this year included a stop in Poland and Romania. Kirk and his brother, Brian, departed Bismarck for a 20-hour trip by plane and then by bus to Warsaw, Poland. From there, they traveled another 10 hours by bus to Ukraine. The following are the words from Kirk about his memorable and impactful trip.



“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

John 14:18



When we got to Ukraine, it was 3:00 in the morning. All of Ukraine was under blackouts and curfew, so we had to stay in the bus depot until morning. It was an unheated bus station, with temperatures at about 30 degrees, so it was cold. When we got there, it was completely dark, so we figured we were just in the outskirts some place. When the sun came up, we realized we were in the middle of a city of about 200,000 people. Everything had been dark and no one had been moving around, so we didn’t realize we were even in the city.

There were sandbag checkpoints set up and a military presence. That day we took another bus about four hours to Chernivtsi, Ukraine. There we stayed at a church with refugees. We slept on mattresses on the floor, with six other refugees in our room.

The purpose of our trip was to verify that Orphan Grain Train shipments were getting to the places they were going to, to the people they were supposed to, and seeing what other needs there may be that Orphan Grain Train could meet. Orphan Grain Train had been responsible for raising a lot of funds and collecting a lot of donated items for airlifting to the refugees in Ukraine, Romania and Moldova.

In Ternopil, a city in Western Ukraine, we went to the warehouse where the Orphan Grain Train supplies had been shipped to. The fellow that was heading up that distribution there, had organized 1,100 churches in Ternopil to reach out to the refugees arriving. When the war started, they had 40,000 refugees come into their city in one week. The 1,100 churches in the city worked to house them all. We were there on Wednesday. The Orphan Grain Train supplies had arrived on Monday, and they said they would all be distributed by Friday.



Ukraine, Continued

We visited a number of churches where the refugees were at, meeting them and visiting with them and the pastors of those churches. In Chernivtsi, we had taken with us supplies of personal hygiene items, band aids, medicine, etc., which are very hard to get in Ukraine. These items were also donated by the North Dakota Orphan Grain Train. We shared these with the members of an orphanage that were staying at the refugee center, as they had fled their orphanage after two days of bombing. They had been here at this refugee center for about two months.



After this, we visited an orphanage in Romania that North Dakota OGT had a shipment going to, the Bread of Life Orphanage, who also took in refugees from Ukraine. The Orphan Grain Train supplies are going to help the refugees in Ukraine and also in Romania and Moldova. They will also be helping the people in Ukraine.



We met many, many new people there; we did not know anyone, so we met lots of refugees from all over Ukraine, as well as pastors and other workers in the refugee centers.

There was military presence all over in Ukraine, as well as armed checkpoints. We saw a vehicle which had been hit with shrapnel. Of course, we saw all of the refugees and displaced people who told us stories of the war and the bombings, and how it had affected them.



I think the thing that really struck me was the difficult situation that the refugees were in, but no one complained. They were actually wanting to share with us what little they had, and to help us in any way they could. The pastors told us the churches were packed. We went to church services that were standing room only, in the middle of the week.

I think the most memorable part of the trip was just when I would ask the refugees what they needed. Many times, the response was they just wanted peace so they could go back to their normal lives; that's all they wanted.

When asked if Kirk would consider himself a missionary, he responded, "I would call myself a missionary, strictly because we are all missionaries. Every one of us is called to share Jesus Christ with everyone. So, I would say I am nothing special as a missionary, just a plain, ordinary Christian, no different than other people."

Thank you, Kirk, for your service to Christ and those in need. And also, a sincere thank you to each one of Orphan Grain Train's supporters. We could not do what we do without you and the impact that you're making is truly helping people locally and around the world, especially in the most critical times and situations.

Volunteer Opportunity!

Mercy Meals & Jamestown Kiwanis Partner for Kiwanis Against Hunger



The Jamestown Kiwanis Club is no stranger to meal packaging events, but this year they're partnering with Mercy Meals and volunteers are invited to come help pack 65,000 meals. The event will be held on October 8th at the Jamestown Rural Fire Department located at 1209 9th St SE.



There's also an opportunity to help support by raising funds for the meal packing ingredients. One month prior to the event a fundraiser will be held. The community is invited to an event at the Art Center on September 8th at 5:30. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door and include appetizers and a live auction. All proceeds benefit Kiwanis Against Hunger and Mercy Meals.

For more information about either event, visit www.Facebook.com/JamestownKiwanis or email jamestownkiwanis@gmail.com.

OGT Shipment Packed for Liberia

The latest OGT shipment was packed the end of July and headed from Jamestown, North Dakota all the way to the Liberia, which is a country located on the West African coast. The shipment included Mercy Meals, school books, school desks and a variety of other important items.

Another shipment is schedule to go to the Republic of Georgia on August 16th.



As always, we collect various supplies for upcoming shipments and also those in need locally.

- bath towels*
- washcloths*
- cloth diapers*
- large safety pins*
- baby sleeper (newborn - 12 mo)
- toothbrushes
- combs
- rubber or swimmer pants*
- soap dishes*
- travel size Kleenex
- nail clippers*

*Items in greatest need at this time.

We often get questions about what we can and cannot accept. Here are some of the most common:

Can Accept

- furniture
- bed pillows
- pots & pans
- dishes
- beds (new or used)*

Cannot Accept

- knick knacks
- holiday decorations
- decorative pillows

FUNDS NEEDED!

As with the cost of everything these days, our shipping costs are going up as well. Financial help is needed and greatly appreciated to help pay for upcoming shipments.



To support the North Dakota Branch, send checks to:
North Dakota Orphan Grain Train
PO Box 1546, Jamestown, ND 58402-1546

To contribute by credit card, visit www.ogt.org/nd and click "Donate to North Dakota Branch."

Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers!



Victory Lutheran School Students



Faith Community Church from Wishek



Concordia Church Youth Group



Girl Scout Troop



Lutheran Womens Missionary League (LWML) convention in Fargo with students from Grace Lutheran Church





North Dakota Branch
PO Box 1546
Jamestown, ND 58402-1546

FUNDS NEEDED!

Would you consider a donation to help cover shipping costs? Our fees have increased and any financial help is greatly appreciated to help pay for upcoming shipments. Thank you!

What is Orphan Grain Train

Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and in 68 countries around the world. Volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us.

Orphan Grain Train Headquarters

601 W Phillip Ave, Norfolk, NE 68701
402-371-7393 - info@ogt.org
Warehouse/Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am - 4pm



ND Branch Warehouse

103 4th Ave SE
Jamestown, ND 58401

ndakota@ogt.org

www.ogt.org/nd



Like us on Facebook!

Orphan Grain Train, Inc.

Branch Hours & Volunteer Opportunities

We continue to be open
Mondays and Saturdays
from 9am to noon.

For additional drop-off
and volunteer times, call
Sue at 701-320-3259 or
Andrea at 701-658-9057.