The rains began to fall, snow began to melt but the frozen ground couldn’t soak up the water. The wet weather overwhelmed the Missouri River and its tributaries that run like veins through the Midwest and farmlands. Dams cracked open and waters rushed freely through homesteads and towns. Blocks of ice bigger than pickup trucks jammed the downstream waterway, tearing up roads and dismantling bridges. Waters rushed into homes, one of which was Richard Polt’s home, just north of Norfolk, NE on Hwy 81. Richard was home watching the waters rise around him and his daughter Kylie Hoff would call urging him to leave. He kept telling her “It will be fine, it can’t get much higher”. But it did and when the water was within 2 feet of his home, Richard reluctantly left. With the help of his daughter, they trudged through the rushing cold murky water, losing their shoes in the now thick mud that covered his driveway. Soon they got to her car that was safely parked down the road. All they could do was watch from afar as the water engulfed and rushed through his homestead. (Pictured above)

Read more on pages 2 & 3 about the aftermath of Richard’s home, which is like hundreds of other homes, and what Orphan Grain Train is doing to give relief.
And the Water Rose

Richard was finally able to get back into his home four days later; the basement still filled with water up to the ceiling and 4 inches of water on the main floor. Flood waters reached as high as 4 foot on the main floor. Richard has lived here 40 years and has never seen flooding like this. He is retired and will do most of the clean-up and repairs himself with help from family and friends. At the time of writing this, it has been 6 weeks since the flood and water continues to come into his basement because the water level underground is so high. Two basement walls have been weakened and will need to be repaired. Dry wall, insulation and flooring have been removed; most debris and mud cleaned but still waiting for the interior to dry out with dehumidifiers running constantly. He is staying with a friend and thinks it will be about a year before he is able to move back in. Richard shared being so grateful and relieved with the assistance and care he received from Orphan Grain Train. OGT was able to supply him with dry wall, insulation, install supplies along with a percentage of the cost on a furnace, washer and dryer paid. Most all of the furniture, appliances and interior cupboards, etc. need to be replaced along with all belongings in his garage and storage buildings, one of which the waters reached the peak at 9 feet high. It is unbelievable the muck and destruction flood waters left behind, the flowing emotions with all losses and damage and then where to start with starting over. Please pray for Richard and so many other families and farmers that have had their lives and livelihoods affected by devastating raging waters.
OGT Offers Hope and Help

The flood waters rose quickly and soon towns were being evacuated and people were being rescued from raging waters. Thousands of homes and hundreds of businesses sustained severe water damage. 81 of Nebraska’s 93 counties along with 104 cities have filed emergency declarations. Roads have been washed out and bridges washed away. Farmers are devastated with hundreds of cattle killed, farmland covered with muck and sand and now unable to bear crops for at least this year if not longer. Not just their livelihoods but also their homes, barns and equipment were either destroyed or severely damaged. The cost is in the billions. Many families did not have flood insurance and for a good reason – who would have imagined a flood this enormous.

OGT has also helped our fellow farmers with delivering three loads of donated hay and purchased three loads of fence posts and wire. Several pallets of bottled water, various foods and cleaning supplies have been delivered to neighboring towns. OGT delivered our 6,000 gallon water tanker filled with clean drinking water to Spencer, NE. Several families have picked up cleaning supplies, water, food, clothing, etc. from the Norfolk warehouse. We continue to offer building materials, supplies and needed items to assist families to make home repairs. We will continue to assess what is needed and give hope and relief aid to families in need.

As of April 26, 2019, OGT has spent $230,333.57 toward Nebraska flood relief efforts and this would not be possible if it was not for our dedicated and generous donors. Thank you for supporting OGT and the families devastated by raging waters. These disaster relief efforts will be long term and a costly one. If you are able to give to Nebraska flood relief take comfort in knowing that 100% of your donation will go toward helping families devastated by flood waters. To donate by mail, please use the enclosed envelope and mark it for Flood Relief or donate online at www.ogt.org. Thank you for your gift of any size.

Check us out on Facebook at Orphan Grain Train, Inc and our website at www.ogt.org for updated flood relief efforts and all humanitarian aid and food shipped worldwide.
Passing of a Friend and Partner

We are saddened to share with you that the founder of Help for Haiti, Sandra Koch has passed away. Born October 19, 1945, she died in Florida on March 2, 2019 following a battle with cancer. Sandra Koch and Help For Haiti was a big part of Orphan Grain Train since the disastrous 2010 Haitian earthquake. She spoke at our 2012 and 2017 Orphan Grain Train Conventions and at Westfield, Wisconsin as well. Her heart was to help those unserved or under served throughout Haiti. Her outreach in Port au Prince and beyond will be missed. Our prayers continue for those in need in Haiti and that Orphan Grain Train is able to continue to provide the much needed aid. Please keep her family and the people of Haiti in your prayers.
Passing of a Friend and Partner

Koch has passed away. Born October 19, 1945, she died in Florida on March 2, 2019 following a battle with cancer. Sandra Koch and Help For Haiti was a big part of Orphan Grain Train since the disastrous 2010 Haitian earthquake. She spoke at our 2012 and 2017 Orphan Grain Train Conventions and at Westfield, Wisconsin as well. Her heart was to help those unserved or underserved throughout Haiti. Her outreach in Port au Prince and beyond will be Grain Train is able to continue to provide the much needed aid. Please keep her family and the people of Haiti in your prayers.

Norfolk Visitor Center https://visitnorfolkne.com/home/places-to-stay/

For all lodging options go to:

- **King suite** $99.99
- **1 King or 2 Queen** $89.99

Adjacent to DeVent Center

Norfolk Lodge and Suites

Special Priced Lodging Options: (Please mention Orphan Grain Train, tax not included)

- **Lodging:**
  - **1 King suits limited** $99.99
  - **for $79.99**
  - **1 King or 2 Queen beds**
  - **King $119.95**
  - **2 Queen $109.95**

**Tentative Schedule of events:**

- **Friday, September 13, 2019**
  - University Nebraska Show Choir performance at 7:30 pm.

- **Saturday, September 14, 2019**
  - Volunteer village and see Hammer demonstrations. Program begins at 4:30 pm with welcome and introductions. Presentations from OGT VP Grant Schmidt and recipients sharing how aid and food changes lives in their part of the world. Evening meal will be served and end the evening with Concordia introductions.

- **Quilt Auction**
  - Domestic Disaster Relief efforts update and Baltics and Russia programs update. Silent Quilt Auction
  - Results and closing devotion at 3:00 pm.

- **Orphan Grain Train Convention 2019 Registration**

  Name(s)__________________________________________________________________________

  Mailing Address__________________________________________________________________________

  City/State/Zip__________________________________________________________________________

  Phone (______) _____________ Email__________________________________________________________________________

  Registration On/Before August 01, 2019 = $60.00 X ________ (number of people) = $_____

  Registration After August 01, 2019 = $80.00 X ________ (number of people) = $_____

  Mail payment with this registration form to: Orphan Grain Train
  PO Box 1466
  Norfolk NE 68702-1466

  How many plan to attend:
  Friday Dinner ______
  Saturday Banquet Luncheon ______

  Registration fee includes access to all Friday and Saturday sessions plus meals. Please write legibly all paid attendees names - name tags will be provided at door. **Please use separate check for donation.**

**Keynote Speaker – Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler began serving with LHM as Speaker of The Lutheran Hour in October 2018. Prior to that, he served as pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church (2014-2018) and assistant pastor at Timothy Lutheran Church (2012-2014), both in St. Louis. Before becoming a pastor, he served as an aircraft maintenance officer in the Air Force.

Michael grew up in a military family, living throughout the U.S., from North Dakota to Alabama, Virginia to Colorado. His family moved eleven times before he finished high school in Springfield, Missouri. He graduated from the U. S. Air Force Academy in 2001 with a general engineering degree and served 5 years in the Air Force. He left active duty in 2006 to prepare to be a pastor at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, completing a Master of Divinity in 2010 and a Ph.D. in 2014. He continues to serve part-time as an Air Force Reserve officer at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, and as a guest instructor at Concordia Seminary.

Michael and his wife, Amy, have four children. Amy enjoys being a home-school and Sunday school teacher, cooking, crafting, and being a catalyst for events aimed at strengthening bonds between family and friends.

**OGT Ships To 69 Countries**

OGT has now shipped humanitarian aid to 69 countries on 5 continents! The 69th country is Togo which is found in West Africa. OGT’s new recipient, Maranatha Bible Church in Lome’ is excited to be receiving 7,128 Mercy Meals, blankets, linens, clothing, shoes, layette kits, new underwear, sleeping mats, chairs, hygiene supplies, school desks/furnishings, school supplies, bicycles, and sports equipment from OGT’s Central Nebraska Branch located in Grand Island. God has blessed OGT to be a blessing to even more people in yet another region of His world.
We would not know about adorable little Mariam if it was not for an adult walker she was given from an Orphan Grain Train shipment. Mariam lives in the Republic of Georgia and was born with cerebral palsy. She had hurdles to overcome with a difficult surgery that affected her brain and a severe reaction to a medication. After strenuous rehabilitation she still could hardly walk. Women For Justice received medical equipment from OGT and decided to give a walker to little Mariam to see if she could walk with it. Well after a little help she took off walking with a bounce in her step; smiling and giggling! She had the freedom to get around by herself! To see her in action go to www.ogt.org/mariam. When we saw the video and pictures we knew we needed to ship her a pediatric walker. OGT’s Castle Rock Branch in Colorado had plans to ship to Women For Justice so a plea for a pediatric walker went out. Operation Project Cure heard about the need and donated a special walker for Mariam which should be delivered mid-June. We cannot wait for more wonderful photos of little Mariam walking and smiling to pass onto you. The first walker was shipped from the Norfolk warehouse in Nebraska with that shipment being funded by Minnesota

Shaarkan Akymbekova lives in Balykchy, Kyrgyzstan and received a pair of crutches about 5 years ago from an OGT shipment. She has been disabled since childhood and can only walk with the help of crutches. Now the crutches are old, she repaired them several times but they can hardly be used. This dear lady traveled about 170 miles by bus to Bishkek to receive a new pair of crutches from yet another OGT shipment. It was a difficult trip but well worth making. A pair of new crutches costs about US$20, which is a half of Shaarkan's monthly social welfare. Thank you to our donors and volunteers for helping Shaarken and others like her who are in desperate need of medical equipment.
Richard was finally able to get back into his home four days later; the basement still filled with water up to the ceiling and 4 inches of water on the main floor. Flood waters reached as high as 4 foot on the main floor. Richard has lived here 40 years and has never seen flooding like this. He is retired and will do most of the clean-up and repairs himself with help from family and friends. At the time of writing this, it has been 6 weeks since the flood and water continues to come into his basement because the water level underground is so high. Two basement walls have been weakened and will need to be repaired. Dry wall, insulation and flooring have been removed; most debris and mud cleaned but still waiting for the interior to dry out with dehumidifiers running constantly. He is staying with a friend and thinks it will be about a year before he is able to move back in. Richard shared being so grateful and relieved with the assistance and care he received from Orphan Grain Train. OGT was able to supply him with dry wall, insulation, install supplies along with a percentage of the cost on a furnace, washer and dryer paid. Most all of the furniture, appliances and interior cupboards, etc. need to be replaced along with all belongings in his garage and storage buildings, one of which the waters reached the peak at 9 feet high. It is unbelievable the muck and destruction flood waters left behind, the flowing emotions with all losses and damage and then where to start with starting over. Please pray for Richard and so many other families and farmers that have had their lives and livelihoods affected by devastating raging waters.

www.ogt.org

Richard Polt’s grandsons are playing in his backyard on the cornstalk covered playground and standing on several feet deep of mud and cornstalks. This is the scene of his whole acreage, no green grass in sight. It took Elkhorn Paving Company 14 hours to clear the stalks and mud from the ground of his one acre of land. The debris made a 50 foot pile set outside his yard to dry.

I am very grateful to you and your ministry, I used to trek long distances to School, but since you gave me and other friends bicycles, it has really helped us to go to School with ease. I want to stand on behalf of my friends and all those who benefited from your generosity and thank you so so much for this great support you have given to boost our lives and education. May God richly bless you. Yours Faithfully, Godwin Barfour

This was the 5th year that OGT, Mercy Meals of Yankton and Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, SD teamed up to provide a way for the men to serve those in need with a major meal packing event. There were over 200 men that volunteered their time from the state prison and packed just over 60,000 meals in 4 different shifts from 8:00 to 3:30. Someone would ring a bell every time a box was completed. Thank you again for helping to feed the hungry!

These Orphans are holding devotion books that are from the Lutheran Church in St Petersburg, Russia. We are finding more and more ways to let the children know that Christ Loves You or Kristos Luba Du in Russian. They can read these devotion books because they are in their language; Russian. We are very grateful for this opportunity to work together with the Lutheran Church in St Petersburg and bring the love of Jesus to the children!! Pray that this work continues in our Adopt an Orphanage program with Orphan Grain Train.

OGT Changes Lives

Bethel Bible College in Ghana received a shipment of humanitarian aid which included bicycles from the Norfolk warehouse. We received this heartfelt ‘Thank you’ from one of the boys that received a bike, his only mode of transportation.
The rains began to fall, snow began to melt but the frozen ground couldn’t soak up the water. The wet weather overwhelmed the Missouri River and its tributaries that run like veins through the Midwest and farmlands. Dams cracked open and waters rushed freely through homesteads and towns. Blocks of ice bigger than pickup trucks jammed the downstream waterway, tearing up roads and dismantling bridges. Waters rushed into homes, one of which was Richard Polt’s home, just north of Norfolk, NE on Hwy 81. Richard was home watching the waters rise around him and his daughter Kylie Hoff would call urging him to leave. He kept telling her “It will be fine, it can’t get much higher”. But it did and when the water was within 2 feet of his home, Richard reluctantly left. With the help of his daughter, they trudged through the rushing cold murky water, losing their shoes in the now thick mud that covered his driveway. Soon they got to her car that was safely parked down the road. All they could do was watch from afar as the water engulfed and rushed through his homestead. (Pictured above)

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