

Orphan Grain Train, Inc.



In This Edition...

God's Timing.....	1-2
OGT Combating CV-19	3-5
Good Friday Blessings.....	6-7
Bless the Children.....	7

Students from CIPS are rejoicing after receiving Mercy Meals to eat at school and also to take home.

God's Timing

During these uncertain times we were able to see one of God's many plans unfold. On December 17, 2019, volunteers at the Norfolk warehouse in Nebraska loaded 10,000 pounds of edible split black beans, 51,840 Kids Against Hunger meals, and 153,000 Mercy Meals in a shipping container destined for Liberia. While planning and loading this shipment, none of us knew that the Coronavirus would soon be among us, changing how we live, socialize and work here in the US and in every other country of the world. God had a plan for this shipment to help ease some of the suffering and effects from the COVID-19 through Rev. Earley with Children Relief Services (CRS) in Liberia. Like other developing countries experiencing food insecurity, it remains a chronic challenge to Liberia's sociopolitical stability.

Recently due to the economic situation, coupled with the inception of the Coronavirus, many children, parents and the disabled were going to bed hungry thereby leading them to begging in the streets of Monrovia. The shipment of food arrived in time to share with schools, orphanages, widows, the blind and disabled individuals before the 'stay home' orders were put in place.

Continue reading on pg. 2 about the impact Orphan Grain Train has made in helping those in need in Liberia.

God's Timing

Since 2017, Orphan Grain Train has shipped five containers of aid and food to Children's Relief Services in Liberia. These life changing shipments are only possible because of our generous and dedicated donors and volunteers - Thank You!

The Christ Inspiring Pentecostal School (CIPS) is a faith-based institution to help take the orphaned children off the streets. The school was established to support the government's efforts of providing free education in Liberia. One of the major challenges is feeding the children in the schools. When CRS saw the need, they started supplying the schools with food provided by Orphan Grain Train with amazing changes in health and minds of the children. Because of the processed rice meals, there is a lunch to eat, their bellies are filled, and the children stay in school all day. As a result, parents are more willing to send their children to school.



The disadvantaged and war affected youths are nourished from processed rice and beans from Orphan Grain Train.

OGT also improves the lives of the visually impaired and the elderly by providing food every third Saturday of the month through the Children's Relief Services feeding program. As a result, these vulnerable groups are not going to bed hungry and are healthier from the nutrients provided in the meals. They no longer find a need to go to the street corners begging for food as this gift from OGT has brought hope and joy to their human dignity.

This one shipment of food along with the Gospel was able to aid 14 orphanages, 3 schools, 30 churches, 120 visually impaired and widows. Praise God for the establishment of Children's Relief Services with support of food from Orphan Grain Train's generous donors and volunteers so that many in need are provided daily meals.



Orphans are excited posing for a photo after receiving food.



The visually impaired are grateful for the hope and food received from Orphan Grain Train.

Sack Lunch & A Smile

Before COVID-19 showed up in Norfolk, NE, businesses, schools and later churches were closed. Social distancing and stay-at-home orders were put in place statewide. It wasn't long and we had our first reported case in town and it increased from there. The Norfolk warehouse decided to close temporarily for safety of volunteers and staff. With restaurants closed for sit down along with non-essential businesses closed, Orphan Grain Train headquarters saw a need to help residents in the community. A new mission would begin by providing free sack lunches to adults 19 and older to help with stress and finances of job loss and to lift spirits during this uncertain time. Orphan Grain Train's mobile disaster relief kitchen was set up in a parking lot for cars to drive through for lunches. The Norfolk Public Schools were offering free sack lunches to children 18 and under so OGT decided to assist the parents and adults. On March 23, OGT handed out its first lunch and on May 1, 10,000 lunches had been given out! As of May 21, 16,223 free sack lunches and a smile (under a mask) were shared with local residents! It is OGT's mission to help those in need worldwide and this includes our neighbors right here. Thank you to everyone that made this mission a success!



The rain didn't stop volunteers from handing out lunches in front of OGT's disaster relief mobile kitchen in Norfolk, NE.



Paul Brandt, OGT's Asst. Warehouse Manager, hands out the 10,000th free sack lunch. To date the program has handed out more than 16,000 free sack lunches.

OGT Helps Businesses to be Cleaner

Orphan Grain Train recognized the need for hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes to aid in halting the spread of the coronavirus for businesses. Bernie Wrede, an Orphan Grain Train volunteer and board member, headed up the effort with the help of area businesses and citizens. As of May 14, 2020, there have been 300 - 1-gallon jugs and 724 - three-gallon boxes of hand sanitizer given away. OGT has also given away 1,100 containers of 200 sanitizing wipes with more orders coming in daily. Both products are made following the World Health Organization



Bernie Wrede with Orphan Grain Train's hand sanitizer and wipes container, which are being donated to businesses for a safer environment for employees and customers. Photo courtesy of Norfolk Daily News.

guidelines. The hand sanitizer and wipes are being donated to businesses, clinics, nursing homes, day care centers, jails, and other such facilities in Northeast Nebraska. Local businesses that have donated

another way that OGT is combating COVID-19 and helping businesses manage the current crisis.

products to help produce the sanitizers include Husker Ag, the Vit-A-Men Company, NE Renewable Fuel Association & the NE Innovation Center. This has been a joint effort to supply businesses with needed sanitizing products to keep employees and customers safer. This is

Face Mask Sewing Project

Orphan Grain Train is providing fabric and a pattern for people interested in making masks. The cotton masks may not be effective enough for doctors and nurses, but they can serve the general public and business employees interacting with customers. OGT headquarters in Norfolk, Nebraska is working with and providing funds for 'I Bee Quiltin' quilt shop to supply material to people that would sew masks for OGT and the pattern is available at www.ogt.org. Not just in Norfolk do we have this project available but we mailed the pattern and examples of the face masks to all 27 OGT locations to begin their own Face Mask Sewing Projects. The finished masks will be shared with businesses and families wanting extra protection during these uncertain times.

We have distributed the masks to local restaurants, grocery stores, senior living facilities, day care centers, individuals, etc. The positive response and 'Thank You's' have been wonderful to receive. It is gratifying to know that we may be helping to slow the spread of COVID-19. Praise be to God!



Judy Wilke, wife of Rev. Ray Wilke, shows masks she has sewn that can be worn to slow the spread of COVID-19. She organized the Face Mask Sewing Project which will also be shared with OGT's 27 locations around the US. Photo courtesy of Norfolk Daily News.

Executive Chef of Gateway Vista Senior Living Center in Lincoln, NE, along with his family received face masks from OGT. All of the kitchen staff also was blessed with masks for a safer environment for residents.



God's Perfect Plan



New England Branch volunteers delivered hospital beds and other equipment to Bristol Hospital which was overwhelmed with patients sick with COVID-19. So many blessings shared during this uncertain and devastating time.

New England Branch located in Terryville, CT has been busy delivering medical equipment and supplies to assist health care facilities overwhelmed with patients ill with COVID-19. In early April, OGT volunteers delivered 42 hospital beds, 38 mattresses, 21 mattress toppers, 31 hospital style patient monitors, 10,000 gloves, and boxes of isolation gowns and disposable bed pads to aid Bristol Hospital during the pandemic. The need was great and 'thank you' to New England Branch volunteers and donors for providing the goods.

this time, Linda Arbesman, who is the wife of the New England's warehouse manager, found 650 surgical masks while working in the medical sorting room just as she heard the PSA. The masks were loaded for a special and much needed delivery to the Veterans home.

In mid-April there was a public service announcement that masks were needed for the patient aides caring for our veterans at the Veterans Administration in Newington. During

Time and time again we receive requests for needed items and just like that, we either have the items or within days someone donates them. Too much of a coincidence to be a coincidence. Praise be to God!

Maryland's Many Masks



In response to COVID-19, OGT's Maryland Branch volunteers began to produce cloth masks. First priority recipients were our hospitals, seniors and disabled population. Of course, as requirements increased and everyone was required to wear a mask when interacting, we found many other groups that also benefitted. As of May 5th, volunteers have produced and distributed close to 3,000 masks. Recipients have included Johns Hopkins Hospital, Anne Arundel Medical Center, and the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center. In addition, masks have been donated to senior centers, police departments, schools, restaurants and businesses. Just as quickly as we got our sewing machines going for the masks, we are now accepting the challenge of producing scrub caps and head bands for nurses at local hospitals. Maryland Branch volunteers have stepped up to these challenges to help in this time of need.

Good Friday Blessings

On April 10, Good Friday, Pastor Artis Eglitis with Biedriba Gaujaslici in Latvia was overjoyed to receive a shipment of goods from OGT's Central Nebraska Branch located in Grand Island. Pastor Eglitis had eager volunteers to off load bikes, toys, school kits, sewing machines with supplies, hygiene kits, quilts and clothing and still keep social distance of 6 feet. Pastor Eglitis made a special request for a grill, washer, dryer, range, refrigerator and a lawn mower; all to be used at their facility that hosts summer camps. The ministry offers youth camps and adult meetings and he wanted the campers to be able to have a cooking and laundry facility. The appliances were purchased from donations received at the OGT branch and the lawn



Pastor Eglitis is grateful to have a new washer and dryer to be used by those that attend his summer youth camps.

mower was donated from a family that had visited the Gaujaslici Center on a mission trip. These are wonderful gifts to aid Gaujaslici ministry in spreading the Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Pastor Eglitis has been a speaker at Orphan Grain Train's conventions and has visited OGT's headquarters in Norfolk and Central Nebraska Branch in the past. He is also dealing with the impact of the Coronavirus closing down schools, businesses and churches just like we have encountered here in the States. Pastor Eglitis shared that the ministries' activities are much slower and many were cancelled for the first part of the summer and is disappointed that they are not able to have the youth camps at this time. The economic impact will be felt long-term. It was a different Easter Celebration at his parish in Rubene, Latvia. He spent the whole day there with families and small groups coming in for Holy Communion, prayer, message and discussions - many questions asked about this uncertain time.



Volunteers while keeping their 'social distance' raise their hands in praise after unloading goods for those in need!

These are definitely uncertain and unusual times, not just here but throughout the entire world. Slowly businesses and organizations are beginning to re-open with many restrictions. Face masks are the new norm. Will we get back to where we were? Who knows? But one thing is certain and has never changed – our merciful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are to bring our cares and concerns before Him and to have faith that He has a plan.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6,7



Bikes are a great necessity, especially for adults since that is the main transportation when living in poverty. Bikes are always being requested for shipment to help those in need.

Bless the Children

Adopt an Orphanage update. We have recently heard from our co-workers in Russia. They say, “Not a day passes without somebody calling or sending an email with a ‘Thank you’ for your programs! Growing concern about the virus threat makes people even more thankful to our generous, caring friends.” Thank you! Thank you! To the many sponsors of Adopt an Orphanage. From Karen Reehl Tiedeman



Children at Kludonkei Orphanage in Russia were excited and very thankful for the gifts and supplies delivered from their sponsor's support! The co-workers always let the children know that because of the blessings from the Heavenly Father these gifts are shared with them!



Children at Thikvin Orphanage received gifts from their sponsor and immediately got to work cleaning their home! What wonderful gifts to show hope and love from Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior through our sponsors.



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Charity Navigator
has given Orphan Grain
Train "4 Stars", which
is their highest rating.



Orphan Grain Train saw the need to help local residents struggling with job loss and other stressors caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. Read more about the Free Sack Lunch program and other ways OGT stepped up to the challenges on pages 3-5.