Loaded For Latvia

*Central Nebraska Branch* volunteers were busy loading 165 boxes of warm blankets, church robes, diapers, medical equipment, bikes, toys, sports equipment, school kits, sewing machines and supplies and 1,139 boxes of clothing, coats and shoes for Latvia. Pastor Artis Eglitis will receive the goods to be shared with those in need at his homeless shelter and outreach programs for families and the elderly.

Many Meals To Be Served

OGT funded a shipment of 272,160 Manna Pack meals (fortified rice meals) from Feed My Starving Children to World Harvest Mt. Moriah Camp in the Philippines. The food serves children in orphanages, schools, families in need and for their roadside feeding programs. To God be the glory! The photos are from recipients in the Philippines.
Last month, OGT's Iowa West Branch in Ida Grove delivered bedding, school supplies, layette and hygiene kits, blankets and clothing to Eric's Closet/Siouxland Soup Kitchen and Beacon of Homeless Men’s Shelter. They also helped several local families with needed items. Thank you, donors and volunteers!

Down towards the very tip of Texas is the town of Mercedes where Mission Emanuel assists many families in need of assistance. Recently Wisconsin Branch delivered two pallets of mixed veggies, 84 cases of water, toys, diapers, medical equipment, household items, furniture and clothing for those in need.

Manna from Heaven helps many families living in poverty in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky. They recently received winter clothing, blankets, bikes, toys, school kits and household items from Indiana Branch donors and volunteers to share with those in need.

The Mustard Seeds/Days for Girls Ministry at Messiah Lutheran Church in Lincoln, NE made and packed 174 girls’ and women's’ feminine hygiene kits which are being sent by OGT to Latvia and the Republic of Georgia.

**Weekly Devotion**

**This Week’s Scripture:** “Jesus replied, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul & with all your mind.’ This is the first & greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law & the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matt. 22:37-40

**Commandments**  Wait a minute! I thought there were ten commandments? The Pharisees must have had those ten in mind when they tested Jesus by asking Him about the greatest commandments. His answer? The first & greatest commandment is “Love the Lord your God . . . “ Well, that’s obvious. Isn’t that the first commandment?

But Jesus doesn’t stop there. There is a second commandment, which “is like it,” Jesus says. “Love your neighbor as yourself.” How did we get from ten to two commandments?

Lutherans teach that the first tablet of the Law concerns our relationship to God. Those are commandments 1-3. The second tablet of the Law, commandments 4-10, concerns our relationship to our neighbor. And who is our neighbor? Jesus
taught that all people qualify as our neighbors. So the second commandment Jesus mentions is a summary of our relationship with our neighbor, & it’s part & parcel of the first commandment. Our love for others flows naturally from our love for God.

Today’s Prayer: Heavenly Father, may our love for others via our ministry at OGT be a reflection of our love for You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

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