Ida’s Destruction

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Merry Christmas

An excited young volunteer at a warehouse in Baton Rouge is sorting food, cleaning supplies and other items donated from Orphan Grain Train that were delivered to 500 families in New Orleans.

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Orphan Grain Train also worked with The Village Church in Lacombe, Louisiana which has a mobile food truck ‘Forged By Fire’ and prepares meals for families and volunteers effected by natural disasters. Their mission is to bring warm and delicious food, friendly smiles and the love of Jesus to communities that have been devastated by hurricanes, flooding and tornadoes. The Village Church received two pallets of various foods to serve those in need of a meal.

United Houma Nation was one of the hardest hit areas by the storm and most all the homes were severely damaged in the town of Dulac, a fishing town located 70 miles from New Orleans. Wind gusts sliced open roofs, tore down power lines and overturned mobile homes and boats. Jordan Menard is from New Orleans and went to work immediately to get food and supplies to people staying in their mangled homes. Jordan has a servant heart to help others especially during tragic times. He is also asking for help with repairing roofs for the families that do not have the means. Orphan Grain Train has purchased roofing materials at a local lumber yard and working with Jordan to distribute the materials for 5-10 homes to be repaired in the Dulac area. The destruction is wide spread yet the Houma Nation is tight and come together during tragic times to help one another. OGT will continue to monitor the needs and look at ways we can help these families get their homes and lives back. They estimate at least two years to get the infrastructure back in shape.

This is just the start of Orphan Grain Train’s disaster relief supplies and food for families devastated by Hurricane Ida. The need is great and future deliveries are planned for the long-term clean-up and rebuilding. If you feel it in your heart to contribute to help families rebuild their lives, please use the enclosed envelope or go to www.ogt.org for safe and secure online donation.

The destruction from hurricane Ida is enormous and devastating to thousands of families.

An excited young volunteer at a warehouse in Baton Rouge is sorting food, cleaning supplies and other items donated from Orphan Grain Train that were delivered to 500 families in New Orleans.
On May 5, 2021, the Orphan Grain Train’s Michigan Branch volunteers in Sebewaing loaded a container for Moldova. I wonder if they realized the impact of what they were loading would show such care, excitement and God’s love to so many children and adults? Bible Mission International works with Sister Galina, a volunteer who coordinates and gives both material and spiritual help to socially vulnerable families, children left with only one parent, and large families. The help from the Bible mission is offered in the local church, so that the pastor always has the opportunity to tell people that this help is a sign of God’s love for them. The two personal ‘Thank you’ notes are just a few that Orphan Grain Train received from recipients of Michigan’s donations to Bible Mission International. Thank you, Michigan donors and volunteers! We could not do what we do without YOU!

Dear friends, the Bardishev family would like to tell you how God cares for those that love Him. The Bardishev family are Christians, regularly attend church, and raise their children in the fear of God and obedience to the Lord. The family consists of 12 people, the parents and 10 children. They live modestly in a 2-room house. The mother does not work because she has a small child, but the father’s salary is not high, so they often need lots of things for school, especially clothes and shoes because the children are growing. In the packages with clothing, they have found a lot of suitable things because God knew their needs, and through you this family received what they needed. They are all very thankful and happy for you sending your love through all these packages. The family wishes you blessings, health, and that you may be able to help more children like them in Moldova.

The oldest girl said: “I really wanted to have clothes like the girls in my class, but I knew that the parents can’t afford to buy them. My heart was full of joy when I found in the package dresses, tops, pants, sweaters, and many other things that I really needed and could only dream of having. Thank you so much for your generosity on behalf of my family.”

‘Thank You’ from Moldova

Five of the 10 Bardishev children love posing with the new clothes & purses from OGT.

Raging Flood Waters

As hurricane Ida moved up and along the coast it dropped record-breaking rainfall in the middle of Tennessee causing catastrophic floods. On August 21, 2021, 17 inches of rain fell in less than 24 hours in a hilly rural area triggering flash flooding in lower elevations. Much of the rain flowed down to Waverly, a community of 4,100 people where entire neighborhoods were washed away by the floodwaters killing 20 people. Orphan Grain Train is partnering with Waverly Church of Christ to help families recover. We delivered and set up a shower unit for volunteers to use while cleaning up and rebuilding homes in Waverly. So far, nearly $60,000.00 worth of dry wall, mud and joint tape have been purchased that the church is distributing to volunteers repairing homes. It will take many months, if not years to rebuild the town of Waverly. Please continue to pray for the families having to rebuild their lives.
Cattle Crisis in Montana

Montana has been hit hard this past year with fires that engulfed ranchlands. Whatever was left untouched from fire was decimated by drought and some areas were eaten up by grasshopper infestations. More than 90% of Montana has drought to extreme drought conditions. Grasshoppers thrive in warm, dry weather and their numbers increased last year, setting the stage for an even bigger outbreak this 2021. Most of the ranchers in northeastern Montana have sold their cattle because they are unable to feed them. Orphan Grain Train is working with Michelle Tebay of Whitehall, Montana to relieve some of the worry and stress facing the ranchers in southeastern Montana. Orphan Grain Train has purchased and delivered 8 truckloads of 36 round hay bales each for a total of over 400,000 pounds of hay to ranchers in desperate need of feeding their cattle. We will continue to assess the situation and determine how we can continue to help.

Michelle has been at every cattle-saving hay delivery and is touched by the stories and tears of relief from each family. Below are stories from two families that received donated hay.

Diane Fitzgerald sits under a bale of hay wiping away tears of joy for the hay, while her husband Cory unloads a semi full of hay donated to them by Orphan Grain Train. They did not ask for it, some neighbors recommended they get it after a terrible year. Diane’s mother and aunt died this year, and then the fires began. Diane and Cory lost all of their fall pasture to fire and had to go searching in the flames for their cows when the Haystack Fire erupted, one of the largest fires. The summer had not gone well either, as their reservoir dried up and almost no hay was harvested due to the extreme drought. Living near Whitehall, Montana temperatures hovered in the high 90’s and 100’s for most of July and August, as well as parts of September. In the end, the authorities on the fire used a back burn to stop the fire, but burned a lot of their next year’s pasture. They were overwhelmed at the kindness and generosity of Orphan Grain Train.

82-year-old Bonnie Hagdahl is smiling and rejoicing with receiving small square bales for her to manage with feeding her livestock. Bonnie’s Husband died just one month after they purchased their own little ranch. Bonnie and her husband worked for other ranchers for years as well as Bonnie cleaning houses and commercial buildings. Bonnie was asked to remove her 40 cows and 80 sheep from her leased pasture the first of August. She brought them home and they ate her hay ground and fall pasture, thus the need to start feeding in August. Bonnie called an Orphan Grain Train representative inquiring about donated hay. We delivered a semi-load of hay for Bonnie and you can see her look of amazement and joy. She said “God answered my prayers.”

One of many loads of hay purchased by OGT for ranchers in desperate need of feeding their cattle or having to sell them.

Diane Fitzgerald sits under a bale of hay wiping away tears of joy for the donated hay from OGT to feed her hungry cattle.

So much relief seen on this face of 82-year-old Bonnie Hagdahl with receiving the much-needed hay to feed cattle and sheep.
The community of Mauger, Haiti was the site of a gala event on October 4 of this year. Located some 80 miles to the north and east of Port au Prince, Mauger is one of many Haitian communities where parents can ill afford to send their children to school.

Education is the key to a better life! The literacy rate in Haiti is about 61%. It is less in rural areas like Mauger and less for girls than boys. But October 4 was the start of a new day and a new opportunity for the community of Mauger as Helping Hands for Haiti had the grand opening of their new “free” school! Outside of a small government required registration fee of $1, the uniforms, books, tuition, and tests are all free. Now all children in the area can attend school!

While Mauger was not affected by the recent earthquake and subsequent hurricane, it still remains a struggle for families to eke out a living in the rugged mountainous terrain. Now that the children will be able to attend school at no cost to the parents, it will free up money to use for fertilizer and to rent land to help bring the families out of poverty.

Orphan Grain Train played a role in the new school as they provided 40 desks and Mercy Meals for the school. We have plans to ship more desks, school supplies and Mercy Meals for the lunch program but the gang activity and instability have put shipments on hold.

Meanwhile the 200 plus students at the Mauger school are all smiles as they attend classes, many for the first time in their life!
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This young family with 3 children were grateful for the help of a layette kit, clothes, diapers and other items especially since the father has a genetic debilitating disease and cannot work.

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We would like to wish everyone a safe and blessed Christmas with a Christ filled New Year.

Shop For You and Help OGT

Did you know you can donate to OGT while shopping on Amazon for your family? When you shop at AmazonSmile, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Orphan Grain Train. Simply go to www.smile.amazon.com and register Orphan Grain Train as your charity of choice and set this website as your place to order from. Let the shopping and donating begin!
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