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This precious little boy is in a church with many refugee families in Ukraine, confused at what is happening and wondering when will he go home?

Finding Refuge in Romania

Mike Anderson, an Orphan Grain Train supporter, flew to Romania to see how he and Orphan Grain Train can further help refugees. This is just one of his encounters; I met Larisa Rudchenko, in the Kairos House in Suceava, Romania. She was housed with 45 other refugees who have become like family.

Larisa is 56, who suffers from severe arthritis making it difficult to walk, shares her journey from Ukraine to Romania. She said she was living with her son and her mother in Sumy, Ukraine, when the Russian invasion began. She lived in a three-bedroom apartment in a five-story building.

The Russian military engagement began in Sumy on Feb. 24. Sumy, which lies 30 miles from the border with Russia, was one of the first cities to be attacked by Russian forces. She was in her apartment when she heard missiles fired in early morning, and she felt the building shake. Outside her window, she could hear street fighting. Larisa and her family were all in shock. A practicing lawyer for 33 years, her worst fears were now realized, she said.

Some of the first deaths in the city were those of 14-to-16-year-old young prep school cadets. From her apartment she could see the car they were riding in outside of their training facility as it was fired upon, and everyone in the car was killed.

Continue reading about Larisa's horrifying journey and how OGT is sending aid and food.

Finding Refuge in Romania

Larisa said the first thing hit by the Russians was the radio station and, shortly after that, their phone communication was cut off as nearby towers were taken out. The water supply was hit the following day. They were without water, without medicine, and at times without electricity. It was apparent to Larisa, and her neighbors that it was only a matter of time before her apartment building would be hit by bombs and missiles dropping.

"I had to leave my mother behind. She is 85 and could not make the journey. My stuff is not important. My apartment is not important. Clothes and computers can be replaced, but to leave my mother, that was the most difficult."

"Once we were on the train heading west, we heard Russia was going to attack Kiev. Our train was headed directly toward Kiev as the train was 30 minutes outside of Kiev -- around

refugees traveled west, from Sumy to Kiev and then on to Chenivtsti, Ukraine. At each stop, fewer people were left. However, Larisa was determined to leave the country

and find safety and refuge for her son's sake. "In every church I visited on my journey across Ukraine, I was welcomed as a family member. I was given food, clothes, and even a wheelchair."

When asked what she was feeling and thinking, she said, "My trust is in the Lord. I believe what God says - that



Two women and a child just cleared Romania customs by 30 feet. Praise be to God!

9 p.m.— the lights were all turned off. Many of us were on the floor of the train, avoiding windows. As we began to arrive into Kiev 10 minutes before 10 p.m., God's peace came over all of us. There was nothing but silence. No bombs. Nothing." Larisa and her son and dozens of other

He will keep His promises. Before the war began, I was very anxious. Although I was scared, my faith is stronger than my fear." There are millions of stories about lives being horribly transcended from the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.



A hotel ballroom is used as sleeping quarters until the next part of a family's journey is known.



This young family with their newborn is getting rest and food from Charitable Fund 'Light of Reformation' in the Ukraine. They have a long journey ahead of them to get out of Ukraine. Then where to go? OGT has delivered two containers of aid and food to 'Light of Reformation' to help many families fleeing the Ukraine. More containers are planned for 'Light of Reformation'.

OGT's Ukrainian Relief Efforts

On February 16th, Bible Mission International (BMI) in Moldova received a shipment of aid from Orphan Grain Train's Rocky Mountain Branch in Julesburg, Colorado. I don't believe anybody would have imagined the impact this aid was going to have, but our Lord did,

fleeing their homes and their country. Mainly women, children and elderly people are leaving all possessions,



Ruslan Melestean, director of Bible Mission International in Moldova, is loading his car with hygiene supplies and blankets from OGT's Rocky Mountain Branch. These were shared with refugee families that they are feeding and housing. OGT continues to ship aid and food to BMI for refugee relief efforts.

and His timing was perfect for that shipment to offer comfort and warmth to many Ukrainian refugees

that they are leaving behind? Such sadness, turmoil and destruction.



These children are staying at 'Light of Reformation' facility with several other families in Ternopil, Ukraine. What they knew as 'normal' is gone. Uncertainty now fills their days.

home, and way of life behind. They do not know where extended family members, neighbors and friends are going. Will they ever see them again? Will they see their husbands, fathers or brothers again

Orphan Grain Train has had such an outpouring of donations, both monetary and goods, and volunteers are working to keep up with increased donations and shipments. We feel so blessed to be able to get the aid and food to these hurting families. Thank you, supporters, volunteers and donors! Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus!

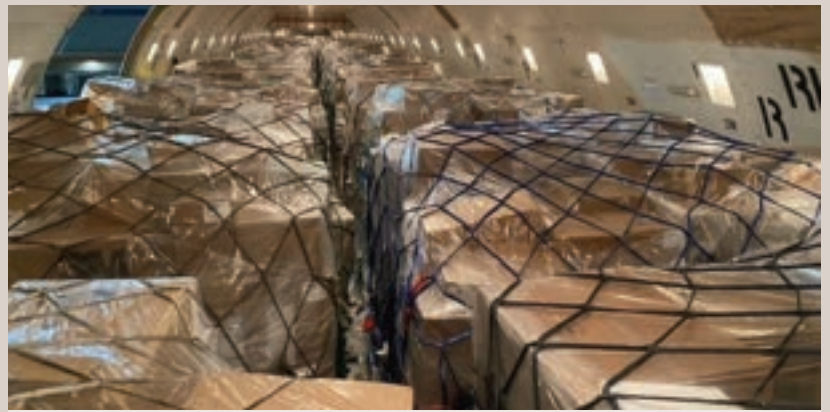
On Easter Sunday, our first air-cargo shipment of blankets, hygiene supplies, diapers, medical supplies and winter boots were delivered to churches in the Ukraine. It was immediately shared with many families that had left their homes with nothing but a backpack of belongings. Charitable Foundation "Light of Reformation" received the shipment and offers homes and churches for families to stay temporarily until the next part of their journey is decided. The families are in shock, disbelief, and uncertain about what their future holds.



To go from sleeping in the privacy of your own home to mattresses lined up on a floor. Grateful for a bed and warm food along a long journey to a different country.

A warm bed and hot meal are appreciated after walking, riding a bus or train to Ternopil, Ukraine. During the last week in April, we had two containers of aid and food delivered to Bible Mission International in Moldova and one container to Foundation of the Blind and Gary LeBlanc in Romania. These are our long-time recipients that are now helping thousands of refugees that have fled the Ukraine. On April 30, a container of aid from OGT's Wisconsin Branch in Westfield was unloaded and immediately shared with those families in desperate need in

Ukraine. During the first week in May, our 5th air-cargo shipment was loaded at the Norfolk warehouse and will again be received by Charitable Foundation "Light of Reformation" in Ternopil, Ukraine. We will continue to send more shipments as long as we have the food and other relief supplies to ship, as well as the funds to cover shipping costs. As you can imagine, these shipment costs are very considerable. Thank you to our donors, volunteers and supporters that have given and worked so hard to get these relief shipments to hurting and desperate families. We ask for your



OGT is working with Flexport, a freight forwarder that air-freights the aid and food to our recipients in Ukraine, Moldova and Romania. OGT trucks the 40-foot container to Flexport in New York where the aid is loaded onto a Boeing 747-400 plane.

continued prayers and support. We could not do what we do if it wasn't for you!



An elderly couple settles into their temporary sleeping quarters as they make plans to leave their home country of Ukraine.



Refugees stop to pray to gain strength and peace with the turmoil and confusion they are enduring.

Norfolk Warehouse Aid

When OGT locations found out that the Norfolk warehouse would be aiding the refugees, many took action. First Wichita Branch volunteers brought a trailer full of boxes filled with humanitarian aid for Ukrainian families. Then full trailers showed up from Iowa West, Missouri-Illinois and Rocky Mountain branches. Michigan Branch delivered a semi-trailer full of boxed aid. Also North Dakota and Minnesota South branches delivered needed aid. The warehouse volunteers were so busy that the office staff was called to help unload trailers! We were overcome with tears of awe & our hearts filled with love from so many people wanting to help in any way possible! Thank you Lord, for our supporters, volunteers and donors!



Disaster Relief Efforts

Louisiana

Ida was a deadly and destructive Category 4 hurricane that became the second-most damaging and intense hurricane to make landfall. Once again, Louisiana families had homes severely damaged or destroyed. Many of the families cannot afford insurance or were denied monies, because they received assistance for Hurricane Katrina. At the end of April, Pastor Wilke, OGT's founder and President, and Kamryn Green, OGT's Director of Special Projects and Outreach, went to Louisiana to learn more about the families' needs and how OGT can help. Kamryn has been working with Pastor Manning and Toi Carter, who have been assisting families that cannot afford materials and repairs.

Orphan Grain Train has supplied roofing materials for five homes with a goal to assist 25 homes total. Pastor Wilke and Kamryn were able to meet the LeBlancs family whose home was recently roofed. The daughter has gutted the interior and is working on finishing the walls herself. Many families are having to do the work themselves since they cannot afford to hire a contractor. The LeBlancs were very grateful to OGT for supplying roofing materials and to Toi for arranging volunteers to roof their home.



This is LeBlancs' home that was recently roofed with materials donated by OGT. Their daughter Missy Bright had to gut the interior and is working on finishing the walls. Pictured L to R: Ben Miller, member of Louisiana Just Recovery; Barbra Washington, co-leader of Inclusive Louisiana; Kamryn Green, OGT's Director of Special Projects and Outreach; Missy Bright with her niece behind her; Pastor Ray Wilke, OGT's founder and President; and Pastor Manning with Broadmoor Community Church in New Orleans.

This church is 150-years-old, and OGT will supply the roofing materials. There was a lot of interior damage, and the roof must be fixed before refinishing the inside. There are many homes and businesses still needing roof repairs nine months after Hurricane Ida.



Three OGT locations delivered furniture for families in Kentucky. Some families are able to move into temporary mobile homes while their homes are being rebuilt. The temporary homes have no furnishings.

Kentucky

Earlier in March, several towns in Kentucky were leveled by a massive tornado. Orphan Grain Train delivered truckloads of food to help feed the victims and volunteers during the clean-up. Some of the families are now able to move from hotels or living with others into temporary mobile homes while their homes are being rebuilt. OGT received requests for furniture and household items to help furnish the bare mobile homes. OGT's Norfolk, Nebraska, the Indiana Branch in Jonesville and Ohio Collection Center in Napoleon delivered furniture and goods to Wingo and Madisonville, Kentucky.

Orphan Grain Train Convention 2022

September 9 & 10, 2022

Mid-Town Event Center

1102 Riverside Boulevard ~ Norfolk, NE 68701

Tentative Schedule of events:

Friday, September 9, 2022

3:00 pm doors open at Mid-Town Event Center. Pick up Welcome packet and name tag. Tour OGT's mobile 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 local legendary performer Jim Casey Trio at 7:30 pm. Jim is a nationally known entertainer and songwriter born in Norfolk, Nebraska.

Saturday, September 10, 2022

8:00 am doors open at Mid-Town Event Center. 8:30 am morning devotion followed with a welcome and presentations from our recipients near and far. We will have a live quilt auction prior to lunch with keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer. Presentations include Domestic Disaster Relief efforts, speakers from the Republic of Georgia, and Baltics and Russia programs update. Silent Quilt Auction results and closing devotion at 2:45 pm.

Quilt Auction

Orphan Grain Train will have a live and silent quilt auction. Since time is limited, some quilts will be chosen for live auction and the rest will be placed on silent auction during the majority of the convention. We are asking that the quilts be new, stitched and not tied and of good quality. Since space is limited, only one quilt will be accepted from each donor or organization. There is no set size or quilt style. ALL quilts have to be received at the home office in Norfolk, NE before August 15, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact OGT at (877) 371-7393.

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

Norfolk Lodge and Suites

1 King or 2 Queen \$89.99
King suite \$99.99
(402) 379-3833
4200 W. Norfolk Ave. Norfolk
<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/JG06X6>

Holiday Inn Express

King \$109.95
2 Queen \$99.95
(402)379-1524
920 S. 20 St. Norfolk

Hampton Inn

King \$109.95
2 Queen \$99.95
(402)379-3585
904 S. 20 St. Norfolk

For all lodging options go to:

Norfolk Visitor Center

<https://visitnorfolkne.com/home/places-to-stay/>

Orphan Grain Train Convention 2022 Registration

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Registration On/Before August 01, 2022 = \$60.00 X _____ (number of people) = \$ _____

Registration After August 01, 2022 = \$80.00 X _____ (number of people) = \$ _____

Mail payment with this registration form to: **How many plan to attend:**

**Orphan Grain Train
PO Box 1466
Norfolk NE 68702-1466**

Friday Dinner _____

Saturday Lunch _____

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

If you prefer to register online go to: www.ogt.org

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer

President emeritus and professor emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Meyer retired in 2020 after 15 years as Seminary president. Meyer was a speaker on The Lutheran Hour radio program (1989 to 2001). Through 2003, he hosted the national television show On Main Street for Lutheran Hour Ministries. In 2001, LHM received two prestigious Emmy awards from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS) St. Louis/Mid-America Chapter for two On Main Street episodes.

Meyer has served The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the church at-large over the years in several capacities. Meyer has been speaking and preaching for more than 40 years. His areas of interest and study include 1 Peter, the church in a changing culture and the Sabbath applied to life today.

He lives in Collinsville, Ill., with his wife, Diane. They have two grown daughters, Elizabeth (Darren) Pittman and Catharine (Charles) Bailey; and five grandsons, Christian, Connor and Nicholas Pittman, and Andrew and Jacob Bailey.



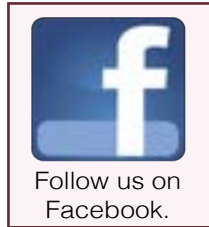


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Orphan Grain Train

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



These two families have spent the last three weeks together at a refugee home in Romania. They are saying goodbye, as one family is leaving for Spain and other is uncertain where they will be going. Read about another family's journey through the Ukraine and how Orphan Grain Train supporters are making a difference. Pages 1-4