



Grateful for OGT

OGT conventioners inspired by recipient messages.

On September 9th and 10th representatives from OGT branches congregated in Norfolk, NE, to celebrate 30 years of service. What began in 1992 as a missionary's visit to Latvia blossomed into a nation-wide effort to help people in countries all over the world. The two-day event was marked with acknowledgements, exhibits, and testimonials. Presentations on Friday highlighted emotional stories from Ukraine, and the live auction on Saturday raised over \$10,000 for Ukrainian Relief Efforts.

Attendees heard inspiring messages from Guatemala, the Baltic states, and Russia, as well as Louisiana, Montana and New Mexico. The presenters spoke of how OGT's humanitarian aid impacted their countries. Expressions of thanks renewed the branches dedication to OGT's ministry. Rob Hall, our branch representative, noted, "You could feel the caring in the room."



Rob Hall with Founder and President, Rev. Ray Wilke

In a video shown at the convention, Rev. Ray Wilke said, "We speak the language of love, and language of serving one another, especially those orphans and widows broken. Faith also is transported in containers—love is transported we know for sure—but so is faith, the Word of the Living God, of whom we are hands and feet, mouth and ears and eyes..." ■

Shipments Outlook

Shipments are determined by specific requests from our destination partners. Here are the latest updates.

Last March we sent a container to Malawi's *Action for Progress*, a charity that helps the poor, needy, and helpless members of African society. After a long trip delayed by supply chain issues, the container arrived in early August and was



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Ukrainian Relief Update

Multiple shipments help many fleeing war.

Since Easter Sunday, OGT has sent 10 shipments to help the people of Ukraine. Five air-cargos were received by *Charitable Foundation Light of Reformation* and distributed through Smolin Ministry in Ternopil, Ukraine. (See the recipient photos above.) Two air shipments and one ground container were received by *Bible Mission International* in Moldova and two more ground containers went to Romania's *Bread of Life Orphanage* and *Foundation of the Blind*. Everyone was so grateful to receive medical supplies, soap and baby formula, quilts, coats, infant and adult diapers, hygiene supplies, sleeping mats, bedding, layette kits, and food. Please continue to pray for the Ukraine people, and especially for all OGT relief shipments to reach their destinations quickly. ■



Mid-Atlantic Branch

Be a 'Friend' to Those in Need

MAB fundraises with Boscov's Department Store Chain.



Would you give \$5 to help people in desperate need of aid? This fall MAB volunteers are again asking for your donation to our Friends Helping Friends campaign. In

exchange, we offer you a 25% discount shopping pass (good on almost all store items) for Boscov's annual company-wide sale event on **Wednesday, October 19th from 8 am to 11 pm.** We have the potential to surpass last year's total of \$3,800 thanks again to an anonymous grant-match offer of \$2,000.

Passes are available from any volunteer, and also on sale day, when volunteers will be in 6 local Boscov stores: Neshaminy, Coventry, Exton, and Granite Run Malls in PA; and Concord, Christiana and Dover Malls in DE. MAB passes are valid in all Boscov's 50 locations, so if you live outside our area visit boscovs.com to find the store nearest you. Contact Sandy O'Hedy at s.ohedy116@comcast.net with questions. Remember, *you don't need to shop to help support our branch*, but your \$5 donation will help others. Thank you in advance for your participation! ■

Bikes Donated Locally, Part II

Restored bikes find happy homes.

In the spring/summer newsletter we reported that several refurbished MAB bicycles were donated to *Sunday Breakfast Mission* and *Friendship House*, two charities dedicated to improving the health and welfare of people in Wilmington, DE. In June, this beautiful photo of a bike recipient came to us from



Friendship House. We have more good news – ten bikes for children were recently given to *Temple of Prayer* church in West Philadelphia, just in time for a back-to-school event. Thanks be to God for all these opportunities to share our bounty of bicycles. ■

20th Anniversary!

Mid-Atlantic Branch marks a milestone in service.

Lutheran missionary Tim Nickel first introduced Cliff Kraft to the work of Orphan Grain Train in the 1990s. Inspired by Tim's message and moved by the Holy Spirit, Cliff met with local volunteers to pray and plan. In September 2002 the team committed to moving forward, and MAB was born.



Included in a celebratory lunch were founding members **Cliff Kraft** and **Caroline Goetz** (front, second and third from left) and **Roger Hazzard** (back row, far right.)

Over the years, the Lord led us through three Delaware locations to our beautiful warehouse in West Grove, PA. Blessings of dedicated volunteers and generous supporters allowed us to reach many people in need through the more than 30 containers and trucks sent all over the world and in the USA.

Cliff Kraft commented, *"All of this is due to the Holy Spirit working through His people to use the gifts which have been given to us and which we use out of love for others and for Christ our Redeemer."* ■

In Memoriam

MAB mourns the loss of retired board member, Pat Dorler, 81.

On July 17, 2022, Patricia A. Dorler went to be with Jesus. For many years she served as the MAB board secretary, faithfully recording meeting minutes and volunteering at OGT events whenever possible. Pat initially offered temporary assistance "just to help out," but stayed on for over ten years until she retired in July of 2018. As a long-time member of Concordia Lutheran Church in Wilmington, DE, she showed great faith, living her life to honor Christ. Now she rests in His perfect peace. ■



Shipments Outlook

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unloaded for inspection. The recipient gave us an “above expectations” rating for the container's contents! We look forward to stories and photos once goods are received by the people who need them. We hope to send a third shipment to Malawi in early October. ■

Sustaining Us with Gifts

Supporters faithfully give material goods, time, and finances.

In summer heat and humidity, when even simple tasks become arduous, MAB was blessed with faithful friends whose dedication carried us through the season.

Material collections came in from Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Rehoboth Beach, DE; Penn Fusion Soccer Club of West Chester, PA; and St. Timothy’s Lutheran in Crystal River, FL. Our local Project Linus Blanket Circle gave us 50 more children’s blankets *plus* 50 Hygiene Kits. St. James Lutheran on Long Island organized their second donation drive in three months. Rob Hall brought back walkers, multiple pairs of crutches, cartons of diapers, and several boxes of medical supplies. Even a watermelon bin was filled with clothing donations!



We welcomed a team of seven Rotarians from the Kennett Square Club (L) for their third Saturday work session with us. The energetic group packed 48 boxes in just

over two hours! The financial generosity of supporters like Episcopal Church of the Advent in Kennett Square, PA, helped us purchase many Kids Against Hunger (KAH) meals, all earmarked for an October shipment to Malawi.

Our mission work begins with all these gifts. The items purchased or processed will be sent to people in need, showing the love of Jesus. While our recipients can’t thank you in person, rejoice knowing their gratitude is heartfelt. ■

Multiple Blessings from Conventions

MAB shares our mission and purpose at regional meetings.

Over the summer, MAB volunteers traveled to meetings of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) as both exhibitors and presenters. In June, Rich Gruenhagen (R) gave an OGT presentation to 129 registrants in Syracuse, NY, at the Eastern District’s convention. At his exhibitor’s table he distributed literature, offered Boscov shopping passes and Staples Rewards cards, and encouraged visitors to become involved with our branch. We were thrilled the delegates voted “yes” to our request for a \$5,000 grant in shipping funds.



In August, Sandy O’Hedy and Carla Niesen manned another exhibitor table at the LWML convention in Morristown, NJ, where attendees made 86 Hygiene Kits as a service

project for our branch (above). In addition, they gave us pillowcase dresses, approved a grant of \$1,500 for meals from Kids Against Hunger, and learned about our branch while they ‘shopped’ our MAB display (R). Sandy’s presentation to the assembly about the work of OGT MAB was well received.



Thanks to everyone for taking our mission message beyond the warehouse walls. Many needy people will receive Jesus’ love through the blessings of grants and gifts from LWML. ■



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Hours of Operation:
Wednesday, 10:00—2:30
2nd and 4th Saturday, 9:00—1:30

Our Mission Statement

In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people, both far and near.

Mid-Atlantic Branch Purpose

To build a Christ centered team who can use their God-given talents to be a blessing to others through their service in the Mid Atlantic Branch of Orphan Grain Train fulfilling the Mission Statement of the OGT movement.

Genesis 12:3 - "I will bless those who bless you ... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

"I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you." John 14:18

did YOU KNOW?

- ◆ **OGT Scored!** Charity Navigator awarded OGT a 100% rating for the third consecutive year, and a 4-star rating (90% or higher) for the past 10 years. Why is this important? You can give with confidence knowing that over 98% of your donation dollars go toward missions.
- ◆ **In the News** — On August 15th, The Chester County Press newspaper recognized MAB's commitment to service, and dedication to helping those in need. To read the article, search for "Orphan Grain Train" at chestercounty.com.
- ◆ **Seeing Things in a Whole New Light** — LED lights were installed in the warehouse in July, brightening our work area and making our jobs easier. Come and see for yourself! Join us every Wednesday from 10 am-2:30 pm, and on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 9 am-noon.

what's AHEAD...

- ◆ **Boscov's is Back** — Mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 19th and enjoy a day of discount shopping while supporting our branch. Get your pass early from a volunteer, or stop by the OGT tables in stores.

- ◆ **Annual MAB Fall Grant-Match** — Thanks to generous supporters, we will again be offering you the opportunity to double your donation. Watch for the fall campaign letter and prayerfully consider helping us raise funds for people in need.
- ◆ **Saturday Hours** are limited in November and December due to the holidays. Please take note here and on our webpage. We will be open Oct. 8th and 22nd, Nov. 12th, Dec. 10th, and Jan. 14th and 28th in 2023.

To God alone be the Glory!