



## Orphan Grain Train

### Good Tidings

News -for and about -  
OGT Maryland

March, 2023

### Volunteer Spotlight

Orphan Grain Train is powered by volunteers and Pastor Elliott Robertson is a reason for our success. Pastor Elliott has served on our OGT Board for the past five years. In addition to serving as a chaplain and secretary at our Board meetings, he has served as a liason to the needy in Baltimore City. OGT helps hundreds of families annually by providing coats and warm winter clothing, mostly through the churches. We've also distributed thousands of Bombas socks to the homeless across the city. Pastor Elliott is instrumental in making all of this happen!



After a happy and rewarding twenty-five year pastorate at the 105+ year-old Martini Lutheran Church in Baltimore, Pastor Elliott recently retired. "The congregation was great to allow me to spend time with three ministry loves: The Wyneken Project, Orphan Grain Train, and Lutherans for Life. In retirement, through the Wyneken Project, I'm continuing my love of city ministry - where so many are in survival mode - which is intense and joyful and time-consuming if you want to be at all effective. Comparatively, Orphan Grain Train is my ministry 'drive in the country' where things are more relaxed. OGT is a beehive of blessing, a place of community and service, and of those who want to be stewards of God's material and spiritual blessings with worldwide effect."

In his retirement, Pastor Elliott is able to find more time to listen to live bluegrass, watch race cars "go fast and turn left", and hopefully use his lifetime National Park Pass to see more of the American West! He continues to pursue theology, "which rightly done, is to draw closer to Jesus Christ and His cross, challenging the mind and apprehending the treasures God has placed throughout His written word. OGT Maryland is so blessed to have Pastor Elliott with us, and we wish him a long and fruitful retirement!

## PASTOR'S BREAKFAST

On Wednesday, February 15th, OGT Maryland held our first ever breakfast for pastors in our area. The purpose of the breakfast was three-fold:

- To provide an opportunity for pastors to learn about hands-on mission opportunities for their churches.
- To find out how they can partner with OGT to serve the poor here and abroad.
- To enjoy fellowship and food!



The pastors and other mission-related support folks who attended enjoyed a delicious breakfast organized by Bonnie Jordan and prepared by Bonnie and her team of volunteer bakers and chefs! The sorting room had a very festive look with red tablecloths, red heart balloons, and red goodie bags. After breakfast, Bruce spoke about OGT and its mission, Elfie spoke about Luci Lights, and Norm took them on a tour of the warehouse. A huge THANK YOU to all OGT volunteers who made our first Pastor's breakfast a huge success!

## AID TO TURKEY

On February 6th, Turkey was hit with an earthquake of massive proportion, affecting over 13.5 million people. As of February 20th, 41,020 deaths were reported, thousands of others are missing, millions are homeless. Immediately after the disaster was reported, a local Millersville resident from Turkey posted an appeal for help on social media. Linda Zahn, a long-time OGT volunteer responded. OGT was able to provide immediate assistance with a donation of winter clothing and coats for men, women, and children and several boxes of blankets. In addition, Judy White and her quilting group from the Annapolis Evangelical Lutheran Church donated 31 quilts. The items were picked up at the warehouse on a Friday. They were scheduled to be on site in Turkey and ready for distribution on the following Monday. Thanks to Linda and Judy for the crucial part they played in providing immediate disaster relief to the people in Turkey.



**Packing up donations to send to the Turkish Embassy to be transported by Turkish Airlines to AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management organization of Turkey).**

## **A VERY GENEROUS DONATION**

**OGT Maryland has been blessed! An anonymous donor has recently given us a truck. This generous donation will enable us to do larger pick-ups and drop-offs whenever the need arises. We will no longer need to rent a truck when transporting donations out of state, e.g., to the Christian Appalachian Project in Kentucky. The truck has already been used to transport goods to Pennsylvania and Delaware for further shipment to Malawi and Ukraine. This very generous donation is greatly appreciated!**



## **TEAMING UP WITH THE MID-ATLANTIC BRANCH**

**In early February, Bruce and Martha went on a road trip in our new truck! They delivered 17 sewing machines (some old, some new) to the Mid-Atlantic branch near Philadelphia. These machines, along with a sewing curriculum prepared by Judy White, will be shipped to Malawi, so that they can set up a sewing school in their country similar to the sewing schools that OGT Maryland has already established in Cameroon, South Sudan and Liberia.**

**Bruce and Martha then headed to a warehouse in Delaware where they dropped off over 2,900 Luci Lights and 162 boxes of winter clothing from our branch, as well as a pallet of winter clothing and multiple boxes of toys that were given to them by the Mid-Atlantic branch when they dropped off the sewing machines. These items will be**

airlifted and/or shipped to Ukraine in partnership with St. Andrews Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Silver Spring.



Dropping off the sewing machines at the Mid-Atlantic branch. Final destination - Malawi



Mid-Atlantic branch added women's winter clothing and toys to our donations for Ukraine.

## MORE AID REQUESTED FOR UKRANIAN SOLDIERS

A new list of needed supplies for wounded soldiers in Ukraine has recently been shared with us by our partner church, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral. The following items have been requested:



- Men's new underwear
- New and gently used t-shirts and long-sleeved t-shirts
- Rain Ponchos (sturdy type, not disposable)
- Protein bars
- Gauze and bandages
- Pain killers
- Allergy medicine
- Multivitamins
- Water purifying tablets
- Burn gel
- Blood stoppers

Items may be dropped off at the warehouse on Tuesdays from 9:00 to noon and 5:00-7:00 p.m. or on the second Saturday of the month from 9:00 to noon. Please be sure that all medical items are unopened and are not already expired. Mark all donations for Ukraine. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated!

## 'LIGHT UP UKRAINE' CAMPAIGN .... A Huge Success

Our "Light Up Ukraine" Campaign has officially come to a close. Through the overwhelming generosity of OGT supporters, we collected a total of \$92,798.38, enabling us to purchase 11,759 Luci Lights to benefit the people of Ukraine. These lights were transported via airfreight to either Moldova or Poland and trucked to Kiev where they were received by a Ukrainian Bishop who is a friend of our partner church in Silver Spring, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral. He has 6,000 churches under his parsonage. Many thanks to each and every one of you who participated in our campaign. Along with our prayers, these lights are intended to bring LIGHT and HOPE to the Ukrainian people.



## REFLECTION FOR TODAY



### The Three Pillars of Lent Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving

**PRAYER** offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted

in our baptism.

**FASTING** and **ABSTINANCE** are old traditions in Judeo-Christian history and early Lenten practice. Found in the Scriptures, they offer a way of growing closer to God.

**ALMSGIVING** is a response to God, one that we can come to through prayer and fasting. It is a way to live out our gratitude for all that God has given us, reflecting the realization that we are the Body of Christ, responsible for each other. Justice, mercy, and charity are integral elements of our baptism that call us to be disciples of Jesus.

## JOIN US IN PRAYER

Please remember our OGT community in your prayers!

- Our Volunteers
- Our Donors and Supporters
- Recipients of our humanitarian aid

February 24th marked the one-year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Please continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and an end to the war.



## USED PRINTER CARTRIDGE PROGRAM ... 2022 Total!



Orphan Grain Train can accept your used printer cartridges as a part of a recycling program that provides a certain amount of funding for OGT. During 2022, we received \$200.25 in cash from Toner Buyer and \$352.00 in merchandise from Office Depot for a grand total of \$552.25. Continue to bring your depleted cartridges to the warehouse (621 East-West Blvd., Millersville) when you come to volunteer, donate, or visit. A huge "THANK YOU" goes to Frank and Maurine Anchondo for keeping this program alive!

## VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Orphan Grain Train is always looking for new volunteers. Many opportunities, both large and small, are available. For more information, please call 410-417-9674 or stop by the warehouse any Tuesday morning (9:00 - noon) or Tuesday evening (5:00 - 7:00 p.m.).



**Warehouse Location:**  
621 East-West Blvd.,  
Millersville MD 21108

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 1741  
Millersville MD 21108

**Branch Manager: Bruce Coonradt**  
Email: [bkcoonradt515@aol.com](mailto:bkcoonradt515@aol.com)

Donate to Orphan Grain Train

**Call us at: 410-417-9674**

[Visit our website](#)



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**Contact us for details on our  
Medical Walk Out Program  
including donations and availability.  
410-417-9674**

