

In This Edition...

Comfort For Those Living in Fear	1-3
Devoted to Serve	4
Non-Cash Giving	5
Gifts for Orphans	6
Gabrielius – Giving Hope	6-7
Light Up Ukraine	7



Vitaliy Morinec, (L) a volunteer is with Vitaliy Kukarin, Deacon, delivering donated Bibles, food and supplies from OGT to many families hiding in basements from Russian invasion.

Comfort For Those Living In Fear

Vitaliy Koval with his wife Lena and their three young boys lived in a house in a quiet neighborhood in Nizhyn, located in Chernihiv Oblast of northern Ukraine along the Oster River. They were both teachers and Vitaliy served many years doing missionary work in Ukraine. Their lives changed dramatically on February 24, 2022 when Russia invaded their country but most importantly, the town they lived in. On the second day of bombings and gun fire, with a neighbor's house being destroyed, they left that day for Romania. Their drive was treacherous with bombings and gunfire all around them. On the third day, Nizhyn was controlled by Russian soldiers and no one could leave. As of April 2, Ukraine regained control back of the town after 80 homes, a school and the hospital were damaged or destroyed.

On December 6, 2022, the Koval family arrived in Norfolk, Nebraska after many hours of travel from Romania. They were the ninth Ukrainian family to come to Norfolk with the help from Orphan Grain Train, local organizations and community effort. Vitaliy told OGT about his friend Vitaliy Kukarin, whom he has done mission work with in Ukraine and most recently in Romania with spreading the Gospel and building a church. Orphan Grain Train was able to gain a partnership with providing aid and food to Vitaliy Kukarin to share with many families living in fear near occupied regions.

Continue reading how OGT's aid and food serves those near the front lines.

Comfort For Those Living In Fear

Vitaliy Kukarin is a Deacon in the Ukrainian Evangelical Pentecostal Church and is aiding thousands that remain in Ukraine. Orphan Grain Train has helped to provide Bibles, canned meat, baking items, oil, beans, toilet paper, soap, and water along with generators, instant pots and other needed items. Kukarin and many other church members and volunteers divide the items into sacks labeled with Orphan Grain Train with a cross. They load their van and drive to areas in the southern region where families are hiding in basements with little to no food, water or electricity. Many of these families hide for weeks or even months while under Russian control. When Ukraine takes back control of a city or region, most buildings have been damaged or destroyed along with utilities. It is very dangerous to drive on city roads because of the land mines left behind by Russian soldiers. New road paths are formed through fields to avoid hitting a mine. It is said that it will take 30 years to clear all the mines.



This mother with her children are overjoyed to receive OGT's food & supplies and gain freedom after 8 months of living under Russian occupation in Kherson, Ukraine.

Orphan Grain Train continues to send aid, food and most importantly, prayers of safety for those helping those in need and for an end to this horrific humanitarian crisis. We want to 'Thank' our donors and volunteers for your ongoing support and prayers as we continue efforts in Ukraine. To God be all the Glory.



These ladies have been hiding in fear and are grateful for food, supplies and people willing to bring hope and a smile. Thank you, OGT supporters!



Bibles are included in every care package to give hope.



These families are placing their hope & faith in the Lord to get them through this day and whatever comes tomorrow. This church is in Mykolaivska Oblast, southern region of Ukraine.



Ivan Antipov volunteered on the first trip with OGT's donated aid and food for families in Ukraine. On this trip, he was driving a van to pick people up to take to safety. Tragically the van was hit by a nearby rocket and Ivan lost his arm and has other health issues. He and many others selflessly encounter danger to help families in desperate need near the front line. Please pray for Ivan and all the others dedicated to showing God's love in a very dangerous part of the world.

Ivan Antipov volunteers at the Pentecostal church to help Ukrainians in the southern region. In late February 2023, he helped deliver OGT's first care packages to families in hiding. Then a couple days later, he took the van to help families escape invasion by Russian army. His van was hit by a nearby rocket and Ivan was badly hurt and spent days in a hospital. Unfortunately, he lost his arm and hopes to have a prosthetic soon. Six weeks later, he is having health complications from the attack and asks for prayers of healing. Ivan is one of thousands that have stayed behind to selflessly volunteer and give of themselves for others. And pray for the many young men that are volunteering to fight and defend their country. May God wrap his loving arms around everyone that is giving of themselves and those hiding courageously from the invasion.

Devoted to Serve the Lord

Orphan Grain Train is dependent upon our volunteers for getting things done. From OGT's humble beginnings at Grace Lutheran Church basement to now having 27 locations and a Capital Campaign for a warehouse expansion, Paul Warneke has been a part of the changes and growth. In 1992, Pastor Ray Wilke, OGT Founder & President, asked Paul to help at Orphan Grain Train so he and his wife Dorla began sorting and packing medical supplies and other donations one night a week. Paul shared that he had to write everything on the box because there were no labels or computer system yet. One night, after returning home, Dorla realized her wedding bands were missing and went back that night to look through the boxes she had packed. Upon going through only the third box of many packed, her wedding rings fell out of some folded clothing. What a relief, especially that they weren't shipped overseas.

Paul recalled helping to load some of the first shipments with irregular sized boxes. It was quite challenging to strategically load everything and with few gaps. Paul reminisced about the early beginnings and amazed with now more than 4,320 shipments worldwide – "I would have never imagined this."

Volunteering part time, he worked full time at the Norfolk Daily News in the print room. He helped on weekends at OGT's Wisconsin Style Fish Feed fundraisers with another longtime volunteer, Dale Pinnt. He continued helping in the Norfolk warehouse with driving fork lift, sorting & packing boxes and loading trucks.

In 2009, Paul retired as Production Manager after 50 years at the Norfolk Daily News. In 2010, Norfolk had a massive flood that washed out a train bridge and damaged many homes and businesses. Paul began volunteering full time assisting Mike Widhalm with OGT Logistics LLC division to help flood victims and wherever else needed.

In 2014, OGT's treasurer and board member, Jim Brenneman became ill and Paul began to assist him with duties and responsibilities. When Jim passed away in January of 2015, Paul took over as treasurer and board member. At the young age of 86, Paul continues in this role and feels blessed to be a part of an ever growing and expanding ministry.

In October 1955, Paul volunteered for two years active duty for the U.S. Army. He then served 3 ½ years of active Army Reserves in Norfolk. He has fond memories of the Army and serving his country. In his spare time, Paul enjoys spending time with Dorla and their 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He is an avid bowler and has participated in 22 National Bowling Tournaments! He continues to bowl on a league and loves it. When the weather is warm, you can find him golfing, his second love of sports. He is also a Husker fan, of course with being raised in Nebraska.

Orphan Grain Train is grateful for the many dedicated years of service Paul has given to help those in need worldwide. Thank you and may God continue to bless you and Dorla.



In 1955, Paul Warneke volunteered for active duty in the U.S. Army.



Paul Warneke in 2018, still wearing a tie but with a smile and many years of wisdom gained.

Non-cash giving...Give more, more wisely.

By donating long-term appreciated assets such as stocks, real estate; gifts of farm assets such as harvested crops and livestock; gifts of life insurance and retirement assets such as your RMD from your IRA and/or 401k, you are investing in lives through the outreach of Orphan Grain Train. Estate gifts - proceeds from wills or trusts. Naming Orphan Grain Train as a beneficiary to a life insurance policy, savings account or CD. All are examples of non-cash giving. You can give significantly more to Orphan Grain Train with non-cash giving. You transfer part or all of your asset to Orphan Grain Train before the sale, thereby reducing or eliminating capital gains taxes, then we liquidate the asset. The net proceeds go to the fund of your choice, servant center or just to "Where most needed". By participating in non-cash giving, you are investing in lives bringing Christ's name to needy people both in the USA and overseas and assisting the Orphan Grain Train movementas well said in the mission statement on the website....."to be a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us".

If you would like additional information or to discuss a specific gift, please contact either Ralph Schmidt 260-452-4207, ralphschmidt1947@gmail.com or Tom Watson 402-940-2007, twatson@ogt.org May the Lord continue to bless you.

Gifts for Orphans

Adopt an Orphanage mission has other projects that help orphaned children in Russia and the Baltic countries. One of them is "Warm Boots". These funds provide coats, gloves, hats, and winter boots for children who do not have them for the harsh winter months in their countries. Here are two children from Pavlovsk Orphanage who benefited from the Warm Boots program, having fun in the snow!



Gabrielius – Giving Hope



Warm quilts and clothing were shared with young men defending their country.

Rev. Valdas Miliauskas is director of Psichotery Rehabilitation Center 'Gabrielius' in western Lithuania. He also oversees six Lithuanian Lutheran Churches of nearly 700 members in the combined congregations.

Rev. Miliauskas saw the need for a rehabilitation center for those that have lost hope from struggling with addictions and nowhere to go for help. The center is called 'Gabrielius'; named after the angel Gabriel and is the only recovery center in western Lithuania. It was an old building that was restored with many hours of work by community helpers and volunteers. Many of the individuals that seek help are alone and have hit the bottom of desperation, ready for change. Orphan Grain Train has been shipping aid to Rev. Miliauskas since 2019 and he shared this note

of gratitude: "Many of the clients had arrived at the center with only the clothes on their backs, and now because of Orphan Grain Train donations they have new clothing to wear. Our staff also received much needed items. With the supplies from your donations, the rehabilitation center was able to carry out day-to-day activities with more ease. Our clients feel more comfortable and confident in their new clothes, and the staff has the necessary supplies to carry out their work. The impact of the Orphan Grain Train donations went beyond just material items. Our clients felt seen and heard by the community, knowing that people cared enough to donate to them. Our staff felt supported and appreciated, as they saw the impact the donations had on their clients."

The show of love and impact from OGT donations went beyond the center to helping families in the local community of Juknaiciai. Parents, children and others were elated to receive much needed clothing, bedding, hygienic kits, wheelchairs, bicycles and more! Income is very low and employment hard to find so the goods helped their pocket book and to receive items they would not normally purchase.

Rev. Miliauskas is serving many in need through the donations and time of many dedicated OGT supporters. He had this to say inclosing: "We are also sharing part of Orphan



Living on a limited income with no extra money for needed hygiene items, OGT dontions help to stretch their money.

Grain Train donations by going into Ukraine and giving families items most needed to try and keep them warm. We believe that together with Orphan Grain Train we can help the innocent people suffering from war."

"Orphan Grain Train showed the power of community and the difference that small acts of kindness can make. From the day that cooperation between rehabilitation center 'Gabrielius' and Orphan Grain Train started, the center had a renewed sense of hope, knowing that we are not alone in our mission to help those in need."



This young boy is thrilled to receive his first bike!



Boxes of food, hygiene items, blankets and warm clothing are loaded for the drive into Ukraine.

A small chapel in Lithuania was grateful to receive an altar and chairs through OGT's Indiana Branch donors and volunteers. How special for others to enjoy in worship.



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

Orphan Grain Train's Maryland Branch in Millersville "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. They were received by a Ukrainian Bishop who is a friend of our partner church in Silver Spring, MD, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral. He has 6,000 churches under his parsonage and shared the solar lights with those in need. 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.





Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Norfolk, NE
Permit No. 86

Orphan Grain Train

P.O. Box 1466
Norfolk, NE 68702-1466

Telephone: 402-371-7393
www.ogt.org



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



Many families came out of hiding to receive OGT's donated food, bread and supplies. Read pages 1-3 to learn more about Orphan Grain Train's donations serving families near the front lines in Ukraine.