

# Orphan Grain Train

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## Relief for Human Need Worldwide



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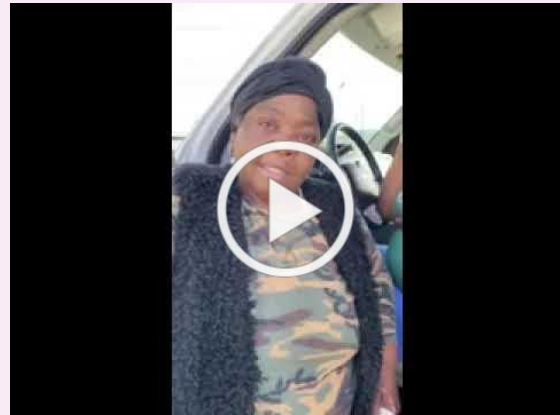
## Being the Hands & Feet of Jesus

*Answered Prayers*

Norfolk warehouse volunteers loaded Christmas Gift boxes, quilts made by Grace Lutheran Church quilters & Judy Wilke, along with 40 pallets of various foods for Broadmoor Community Church in Louisiana. The church has a food pantry and was grateful to be able to fill their shelves and share majority of the food with several other congregations, organizations and food pantries serving hundreds of families in need. Praise be to God! The video is of Mrs. Carmella, grateful to God & OGT for the much-needed food to share with many families living in poverty.



### What We Do



## *Christmas Blessings!*

The long-awaited container filled with humanitarian and ecclesiastical goods from OGT's Michigan Branch arrived in Yambio, South Sudan on Christmas Eve! Pastor Peter Anibati Abia is bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Sudan/Sudan (ELCSS/S) and was thrilled to receive several boxes of theological books for students of the Concordia Lutheran Institute for Holy Ministry. These were giving by Concordia Theological Seminary and Lutheran Heritage Foundation to parallel theological courses taught to men preparing for pastoral ministry in South Sudan. Also in the 40 ft. container were hundreds of boxes with various humanitarian aid & multiple tools to aid ministry students growing food. Praise be to God! Thank you, Michigan donors and volunteers, for sharing Christ's love to many in need in S. Sudan!



[Michigan Branch](#)

## *Warehouse Needed*

Houston Branch is having a fundraiser to build a warehouse to better serve those in need worldwide. Click the button for more information on their flyer or click below to order tickets or to give toward their new facility.



[Fundraiser Flyer](#)



## Houston Branch



## *Loaded with Love*

Social Charity Fund Compassion in Kyrgyzstan will soon be receiving quilts, clothing, shoes, medical equipment, wheelchairs, bikes, student chairs, desks/tables, and sewing machines from donors and volunteers at the Wisconsin Branch in Westfield. So many needed gifts to bless many!

[Wisconsin Branch](#)

[Newsroom](#)

Rev. Dr. John Samuel Loum, born in 1948 in The Gambia, West Africa, held a closeness for his birth-nation even when he became a citizen of the USA. His pursuit of theology and his endeavors in mission work became legendary. With expertise on Islamic Studies, he was determined to bring Christ to those who did not know Him.

Learn more about his work and ties to Missouri-Illinois Branch in St. Louis.

[Rev. Dr. John Samuel Loum](#)



### *Gifts from the Heart*

Jim Carter stands by beautiful quilts donated from quilters in Falls City, Chadron and Wahoo, Neb. Jim is the new [OGT Lincoln Collection Center coordinator.](#)



### *Additional News*

OGT's [Highland Lakes Collection Center volunteers](#) delivered school kits, toys, hygiene items, blankets and other goods to the Cove House in Copperas Cove, TX. They help the homeless and others in need along with sharing the Gospel.

Wisconsin Branch volunteers delivered 6,912 Food for Kidz meals, nearly 7,000 pounds of various foods and different household items and goods to Native American Heritage Association in Black Hawk, SD. NAHA will distribute the food and goods to many, many families living on reservations in two states.

[Maryland Branch volunteers](#) recently delivered coats & accessories and sleeping bags to various organizations that help the homeless and families in need.

Norfolk warehouse volunteers loaded a shipment of various clothing for People City Mission in Lincoln, NE. They have a homeless shelter that serves men and families along with a soup kitchen and community outreach program.

Norfolk warehouse volunteers loaded a shipment of goods for Cornerstone Children's Ranch in Quemado, TX.

### *Weekly Devotion*

*On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, & Jesus & His disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to Him, "They have no more wine." "Dear woman, why do you involve Me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." Nearby stood six stone jars, the kind used by Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water;" so they filled them to the brim. They did so, & the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine.*

*He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside & said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first & then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." (John 2:1-10)*

**The First Miracle:** Jesus' first miracle is described in today's Scripture reading. There are some amazing things about this miracle. First, He performed this miracle in Cana, not Nazareth. Was it already apparent to Him that His friends & neighbors in His hometown would reject Him as the Messiah? Secondly, His mother must have known that He had the power to perform miracles. Why else would she say to Him, *"They have no more wine."* I think this was more than just a statement of fact. Thirdly, Jesus said to Mary, *"My time is not yet come."* Did He perform this miracle anyway, out of respect for His mother?

And Jesus turned water into wine! This might be hard to accept by those who teach that any use of alcohol is wrong. Not only did Jesus turn the water into wine, He turned it into *"choice wine."*

Jesus didn't take any public credit for this miracle, *"though the servants who had drawn the water knew."* And *"He thus revealed His glory, & His disciples put their faith in Him."* (John 2:11b)

One last thing. Jesus still offers us *"choice wine"* today. That would be the *"choice wine"* offered to us in the Sacrament of the Altar, where we receive His body & blood in, with, & under the bread & wine.

**Prayer Prompts:** Praise Jesus, for He is a God of miracles, who still comes to us today in the miracle of the Lord's Supper.

*By Paul Leckband OGT's Director of Spiritual Correspondence*



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