

# Orphan Grain Train

Relief for Human Need Worldwide

**Being the Hands & Feet of Jesus**



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**Maryland Sends Food and More to Ukraine**



Bible Orphan Ministry in Zhytomyr, Ukraine received word that another amazing load of goods is soon to arrive. Volunteers of Orphan Grain Train Maryland loaded 5,832 processed rice meals, clothing, 160 solar room lights, sewing goods and 103 school chairs with ten desks. Also included are bicycles, hygiene supplies and medical equipment. It is awesome to watch the Lord at work in His people. Thank you, Maryland volunteers for all you do.

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## *OGT Central Iowa to Romania*



Good news! Another shipment is on its way to Foundation of the Blind in Suceava, Romania. Thank you volunteers of Orphan Grain Train Central Iowa in Clemons for the time and energy you put into getting this shipment ready. Thank you, Lord that you have placed people in the right place at the right time to carry out your mission.

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### **Orphan Grain Train Lincoln Blesses Many Non-profits**





Orphan Grain Train Collection Center in Lincoln, Nebraska met some of the needs of fifteen different non-profit organizations in the area: Redeemer Lutheran Church, Pregnancy Center, Operation Christmas Child, UNL/Barkley Center, Willy S Underwear Project, Clinic with a Heart, Women's Care Center, Capital Humane Society, Immanuel Lutheran Food Pantry, Community Cares Homeless, Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, Messiah Lutheran Church, MOST Ministries, People City Mission and Goodwill Industries. Everything from used clothing, medical supplies to animal and human food blessed people all around Lincoln. Many volunteer's hands went into gathering, packing and delivering these useful items. Thank you, Lincoln volunteers for serving the Lord with your joyful spirits.

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## **Summerland School Visits and Volunteers**



Two classes of students from Summerland School District in Ewing, Nebraska traveled to Orphan Grain Train Servant Center Norfolk last Friday to learn about OGT and volunteer. Twenty-nine eager third graders packed 210 boxes of stuffed animals, hygiene kits and blankets, quilts and linens.



One hour later, the sophomore class formed a bucket brigade and unloaded a trailer of 30 pallets. Students moved boxes, worked pallet jacks, and recorded inventory as they emptied the trailer. Well done Summerland students! We thank you for spending your day with us and accomplishing great things.

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Over two hundred forty thousand Mercy Meals are on their way to Guatemala City, Guatemala after leaving Orphan Grain Train Norfolk warehouse. Once they arrive in country they will be distributed by our recipient, missionary Mark Sewell. The photos are of a past fortified rice distribution in the village of El Guaje. This is one of 14 villages that this next shipment will be shared with along with the Lord's gospel.

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## Additional News

Orphan Grain Train Michigan distributed 21 pieces of medical equipment, 12 boxes of diapers and one sewing machine last month to individuals in the community. Thank you, Michigan volunteers for being there to serve others.

Congratulations to Orphan Grain Train Indiana! They were selected to receive grant money by the board of trustees of the Raymond James Charitable Grant Initiative. This money is intended to be used to purchase a pickup truck. The truck will be used to transport and deliver donated items. It will also allow the branch in Jonesville to be ready to deliver relief supplies when nearby disasters occur. What a blessing for OGT Indiana. Thank you to the Raymond James Charitable board for selecting the Jonesville branch.

Orphan Grain Train Houston sent out a truckload of 212 boxes of bedding, clothing and hygiene kits and supplies to Pavilion in San Benito, Texas. Thank you, Houston volunteers for working in April to pack and load this shipment.

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Orphan Grain Train Phoenix sent out 66 boxes of children's, women's and men's used clothing and infant diapers to Arizonans for Children in Tempe. They also gave out ten sleeping mats and used clothing to La Mesa Ministries. Thank you volunteers for your energy in glorifying the Lord.

# Weekly

# Devotion

*By Paul Leckband  
Orphan Grain Train Director of Spiritual Correspondence*

**I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me . . . This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples. (John 15:1-4)**

**Branches & Fruit: When I was growing up in Concordia, MO, our next-door neighbor, Mrs. Lange—who was also my 2nd grade teacher—had a number of fruit trees. Our favorite was her green apple tree. It was perfect for climbing, and we would help ourselves to the delicious albeit sour fruit. One year she asked me to cut down a branch from the tree, because it was no longer producing apples. I should have been more careful, because I cut down the wrong branch, but I digress.**

**Those who grow fruit understand an important principle. If a**



branch or vine is not producing fruit, it needs to be pruned. Otherwise, it is draining the plant of vital resources that are needed to continue bearing fruit. Jesus uses figurative language in the Gospel of John to compare our relationship with God the Father to the relationship a gardener shares with his or her fruit trees. Branches that do not bear fruit must be pruned, so that the plant will be even more fruitful. This pruning in our lives may take many forms. We may be pruned as we devote ourselves to Word and Sacrament. We may be pruned through the trials He sends us, so that we turn to Him in prayer. And we may be pruned as we sacrificially serve others. As we "remain in the vine," the Father's "vine," we bear "fruit," not by our own efforts but by the grace of God. That includes the "fruit" of faith, and it includes the "fruit" of good works, perhaps especially the "fruit" of "love."

St. John also writes in his 1st Epistle, "And this is His command: to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as He commanded us. Those who obey His commands live in Him, and He in them. And this is how we know that He lives in us: We know it by the Spirit He gave us." (1 John 3:23-24)

**Father, prune us, so that we may bear much fruit. We ask this in Your Son's name. Amen.**



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