

Orphan Grain Train

Relief for Human Need Worldwide



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Girls State Mercy Meals Packaging Event



OGT LINCOLN HOSTS GIRLS STATE PACKAGING EVENT

The Orphan Grain Train Lincoln Collection Center hosted a Mercy Meals packaging event on June 2-4 at the Cornhusker Girls State meeting in Lincoln. 149 high school seniors-to-be packaged 49,260 meals in three sessions. The young women came from communities throughout Nebraska, and spent the week learning about government, responsible citizenship and service to others. PHOTO: 'girlsstatevolunteers2025'



Little Lily is learning early about volunteering at Orphan Grain Train Norfolk. She is the granddaughter of Karen Mangels. Karen and Darlene Wolff, Nancy Dolesh and Gertrude Hofmann pictured, front to back) are all regular volunteers in the Servant Center working on sorting, kits and special projects. Karen was the International Shipping Director in the Norfolk office for nine years and now shares her expertise in the Servant Center as a volunteer.

"Please, send hay."



The lack of rain for over a year prompted a call from Lori Mercer, Ministry director and part owner of Cornerstone Children's Ranch in Quemado, Texas. Both Orphan Grain Train Wisconsin and Norfolk responded. OGT Wisconsin sent 38 bales of hay and 480 four-gallon bottles of water in late May, while OGT Norfolk just finished sending a second load of 32 bales of prairie hay.

"Dear God, we thank You and praise You for the many ways You provide for us. We humbly ask that You send rain to all areas that need it."

Orphan Grain Train Michigan



From OGT Castle Rock to Taurage, Lithuania



Orphan Grain Train Collection Center in Castle Rock sent out a shipment of linens, quilts children's and adult clothing, medical equipment, bikes and children's toys and backpacks. The shipment will be welcomed by Taurage Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Thank you, Castle Rock volunteers for gathering on that beautiful blue-sky day and joining forces to ensure this load was packed securely for its long journey.

Return to Harmony!



Orphan Grain Train Norfolk returned to Harmony, North Carolina with another load of disaster relief. The goods were delivered to Mike Toberer of Mission Mules. His team will deliver the food, disaster buckets, quilts and other supplies to the communities still in need of care around North Carolina and Kentucky. Thank you, Mike and Michele for answering the Call. Thank you, Bob for the enthusiasm you bring with every delivery.

Additional News

OGT Phoenix to Tohono O'odham Nation

Orphan Grain Train Phoenix delivered a load of linens, blankets, clothing and household items to Tohono O'odham Nation in Sells, Arizona. Sixty boxes of hygiene products, 30 layette kits and 24 pieces of medical equipment were also delivered with

this load. The Tohono O'odham Nation is located within the Sonoran Desert in south central Arizona. Thank you, Arizona volunteers for packing up this stellar load of goods and heading south to share it with others.

Devotion

By Paul Leckband

Orphan Grain Train Director of Spiritual Correspondence

Read John Chapter 3.

Today's Verses:

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know You are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs You are doing if God were not with Him . . . "(Jesus said), "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:1-2, 16

Nicodemus is an interesting character. He was "a member of the Jewish ruling council," the Sanhedrin—the same men who would later condemn Jesus to death for what they considered to be blasphemy [claiming to be the Son of God]. "He came to Jesus at night." He obviously didn't want his fellow council members to know that he was taking it upon himself to

speak to Jesus one-on-one. And he admits, “We know You are a teacher who comes from God.” Not only did Nicodemus recognize that Jesus “(had) come from God,” he also admitted that he was not the only one who believed this. Apparently, there were other members of the Sanhedrin who accepted that “(Jesus was) a teacher who (had) come from God.” Jesus’ “miraculous signs” had gotten their attention.

Notice, however, that these men, including Nicodemus, were not prepared to accept Jesus as anything other than a “teacher.” Jesus certainly couldn’t be the Messiah, could He? Verses 3-21 contain Jesus’ reply. The first thing He declares is this: “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” (John 3:3) Nicodemus’ reply seems to be sarcastic. At the very least he is incredulous. “How can a man be born when he is old? . . . Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” (3:4)

Jesus’ answer? “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.” (3:5) Nicodemus, along with all of humankind, must be born again. Lutherans and many other Christians understand that we are born again in our Baptism when the Holy Spirit, through water and the Word, creates faith in our hearts.

Then there is John 3:16, the “Gospel in a Nutshell,” probably one of the first Bible verses you and I learned. “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” Nicodemus believed that the only way to be saved was by keeping the Law. In other words, good works are what save a person. Sadly, there are many people today who still believe this. Jesus makes it clear—not only to Nicodemus but also to us—that it is only by God’s grace, His undeserved love, won for us by “His one and only Son,” that we can be saved.

Nicodemus, along with Joseph of Arimathea, is given custody of Jesus’

body after He dies on the cross. [SEE John 19:38-42.] It appears as if Nicodemus has become a believer, albeit a secret one. Thanks to our being born again by the love of Christ, we do not have to be secret believers. We can proclaim and live our faith boldly through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Consider: What are some ways that you can boldly proclaim and live your faith?

We pray:

Thank You, Father, that You gave Your one and only Son to die and rise again in order to win forgiveness and salvation for us lost and condemned sinners. We pray in His Holy Name. Amen.



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