

Orphan Grain Train

Relief for Human Need Worldwide



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2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans

Orphan Grain Train staff and volunteers attended the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 19 - 23, 2025. Youth groups from all over the United States participated in a variety of on-site, service and learning opportunities. OGT offered a planned servant event which involved a three-day goal of making and packing 150,000 Mercy Meals. Over 1,300 young people and youth leaders prepared 160,704 Mercy Meals for shipment both domestically and internationally!





The Orphan Grain Train Team along with Young Adult Volunteers stop for a group photo while volunteering at the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering at the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans, LA.



Orphan Grain Train Field Work Director, Pete Gnan and his wife Michele, greeted over 2,000 young people each day of the LCMS Youth Gathering at the OGT booth.



Deb Schmidt reads the prize wheel for a visitor at the Orphan Grain Train booth. Deb is the wife of OGT Vice President of Operations, Grant Schmidt,



To a job well done! Orphan Grain Train's Logistics team- OGT Director of Logistics, Brent Kummer, along with OGT Drivers, Bob Schleppenbach and Dan Pollock, drove the semi-trucks loaded with supplies needed to pack over 150,000 Mercy Meals to New Orleans. Praise God for all you do. Those Mercy Meals will be distributed domestically and internationally.

**Future Farmers of America
from Humphrey, Nebraska
Move 1,015 Boxes!**



Fifteen members of Humphrey's Future Farmers of America spent part of their day last week volunteering at Orphan Grain Train Norfolk's Servant Center. Working together, sometimes forming a moving chain, they emptied out a truck of packed boxes onto pallets. After two hours, they had moved 1,015 boxes and created 29 completed pallets ready for shipment. Thank you, Humphrey FFA for bringing your joyful energy and strength.

Additional News

Orphan Grain Train Ohio

Orphan Grain Train Ohio Collection Center in Napoleon delivered to three locations in Ohio and one in Indiana. Clothing was shared with Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. North American Lutheran Disaster Response in Caldwell, OH were the recipients of 31 boxes of linens. They also received hygiene and school supplies along with Christian resources. The Salvation Army in Napoleon accepted household items and St. John United Church of Christ in Holgate received clothing, toys and hygiene supplies. Thank you, volunteers from Ohio branch

Weekly Devotion

By Paul Leckband

Orphan Grain Train Director of Spiritual Correspondence

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I

am strong.

2 Cor. 12:7-10

A Thorn in the Flesh: Have you ever suffered from “a thorn in (your) flesh? I have. Are you suffering from one now? You’re not alone. I can relate to that, too. St. Paul was “given . . . a thorn in (his) flesh.” We’re not sure what that was. Some think it was an eye disease. Some think it was malaria, which was endemic in Asia Minor at that time. Whatever it was, Paul “pleaded with the Lord to take it away from (him) three times.” The Lord’s answer? No! And Paul not only accepted the Lord’s answer, he “boast(ed) all the more gladly about (his) weaknesses.”

Boasted about his “weaknesses?” Seriously? Surely they hampered his missionary efforts. And we’re supposed to boast about our own “weaknesses?” But consider why God answered St. Paul the way He did. “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weaknesses.” Paul could claim with all sincerity that “I delight in my weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Are we supposed to stop praying for deliverance from our “weaknesses” after we’ve prayed three times without success? I’m not sure. However, we can and should consider that the Lord’s “power is made perfect in [our] weakness,” as well. Maybe our “weaknesses” are meant to remind us that God’s grace is greater than any of our “weaknesses.” Maybe our perseverance, despite our “weaknesses,” is meant “to let (our) lights shine before men, that they may see (our) good works, and glorify (our) Father which is in heaven.” (Matt. 5:16) And maybe by our “weaknesses,” God allows others to see the power of His Son in our lives.

Dear Lord, remind us that despite any of our weaknesses, Your grace is always sufficient for us. May others see Your power in our weaknesses. Amen.



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