



A ray of light shines across a memorial that was erected across from Camp Mystic and beside the Guadalupe River that flooded on July 4th, 2025. It reads: "In memory of all those that were lost during the tragic flood on July 4th, 2026."

TRAGEDY AND HOPE IN TEXAS

*"We grieve for those who lost family in the Guadalupe River Flood.
We celebrate those saved in the baptismal flood of Christ."
— Pastor Ray Wilke*

Life changed for many people on July 4th, 2025 in Kerr County Texas. The rain came, and the Guadalupe River rose rapidly in the darkness of the night. The lives swept away will forever be grieved by those left behind. The devastation to the landscape will be evident for many years. The haunting evidence of what was once there remains: a memorial placed in honor of children who were swept away by the raging water, a cement pad where once a home existed and a water line etched into the wall of a house directly below the roofline - evidence of the river's defiance of boundaries. This is Kerr County Texas and it is trying to rebuild and heal from the loss and change.

Patrick O'Malley lived 20 yards from the Guadalupe River in Hunt, Texas, just 12 miles up-river from Kerrville. He woke in the night to water rising so rapidly that one minute it was at his ankles and the next around his waist. O'Malley managed to make his way out of a window and grab hold of a giant tree, climbing 20 feet up to get away from the raging torrent. He clung to the tree for forty-five minutes, waiting for help to arrive. When rescue crew finally arrived, he directed them to check on his 70-year-old neighbors before helping him from his perch. He was grateful to have made it out alive. When he returned to his home days later, it was no longer there. The river had carried it away.

TRAGEDY AND HOPE IN TEXAS CONT.



Two volunteers, Courtney Calhoun, and Dan Pollock, OGT truck driver, stand in front of one of three OGT containers that were delivered to the Kerrville area to store rebuilding materials for area residents. Calhoun serves as the OGT liaison for vetting recipients of these supplies.

Six miles east of Hunt, also on the Guadalupe River and in the Texas Hill Country lies Ingram, Texas. Thelma and Robert Kimbrough's property sits beside the banks of the Guadalupe River. They lived in their home on the Guadalupe for twenty-one years. Their grandchildren learned to fish on the river that meanders past their property. On July 4th, they were away from their home when the water came through. When the Kimbroughs returned to their home, all that was left of their residence was the cement pad that is sat on. The river had carried it away.



Pete Gnan, Patrick O'Malley and Grant Schmidt stand in front of O'Malley's new cement pad and blocking for his expected new home.

Several modular homes were donated to Orphan Grain Train from Scott Larson of Custom Touch Homes of South Dakota. The homes were sitting in Sulphur, LA waiting to become a "new" residence to someone without one.

On the second week of February 2026, both Patrick and Thelma and Robert had one of these houses sitting on a once empty pad. The modular units were individually transported from Louisiana to Texas on a hydraulic carrier.

Patrick no longer lives on the banks of the Guadalupe, but now in the city limits of Kerrville on land that was given to him. After losing his home, he stayed with relatives while he was trying to make plans for a new place to live. After

learning that he could receive one of these homes from OGT, he had a cement foundation poured for one of the two-bedroom homes to be placed. Atop the pad sits a two-foot cement blocking to anchor the house down and protect it from future flooding.

The Kimbrough's were also offered a modular home. They too had a new cement pad poured in the dimensions of the new modular home. Cement blocks raise the house above the cement pad. Embedded, within the pad are metal anchors with a strap running through that then attaches to the home. All of this allows added protection from flooding and high winds.

Not far from that pad sits a motorhome that served as their temporary housing. Not wanting to leave the river front property where so many memories were made with children and grandchildren, the Kimbroughs assumed that the home on wheels would be their dwelling for a long time.

"I can't tell you how happy I am," said Thelma Kimbrough after visiting with Grant Schmidt, OGT vice-president of operations and Pete Gnan, OGT field director. Schmidt and Gnan, traveled to the Kerrville area to meet with four of the recipients of these buildings.



Thelma and Robert Kimbrough and their son-in-law Robert were incredibly grateful for the "new" modular home that would soon sit on the newly poured cement pad they are standing on.



In early February, the Kimbrough's modular home was delivered to them and secured to the cement pad.

Two other recipients in the area are awaiting the placement of their "new" modular homes. Both recipients live in the Kerrville area and have prepared or are currently preparing either a cement pad or block foundation to place their home.

Another Ingram couple, Jack and Jennifer Hudson, are also receiving assistance from OGT as they rebuild their home that was built in 1937 and is 20 feet above the river. It had never flooded until 2025. On the night of July 4th, they awoke to water running through their home. One minute it was at their ankles and five minutes later it had risen to chest level. Each of them grabbed hold of one of their 100 lb. dogs and clung to a porch trellis to get above the rising water. They each held on to the metal frame with one arm and clutched a dog in the other. They did this for over an hour as they waited for help.



Pete Gnan and Grant Schmidt stand with Jack Hudson as they point out the evidence of how high the water rose at Hudson's home.



Jack Hudson stands beside the new electric water heater purchased by OGT to replace the previous one that was destroyed by the flood.

The Hudson's water heater was completely submerged under the flood waters. OGT purchased a new water heater for the couple and is continuing to help purchase new building materials as they rebuild their water-soaked home.

While in the Hill Country of Texas, Schmidt and Gnan met some of the home recipients and also visited some of the places where OGT supplies were sent. Wall board and insulation were purchased and now wait to be distributed to vetted individuals as they rebuild their once flooded homes. While there, they met up with Courtney Calhoun. Calhoun grew up in the area and was instrumental in helping OGT distribute supplies to people affected by the flood.

Orphan Grain Train will continue to have a presence in the area as these families try to repair the damage from the flood and rebuild what has been broken.

From February 15-19, DeWayne Erickson and Dan Pollock, OGT employees, traveled to the Kerrville area to assist with the set up of the homes and manage the purchasing of materials for restoration. There is a waiting list of people still seeking help. The families of the 157 victims of the flood are prioritized by the state first. Orphan Grain Train will try to address some of the unmet needs of those on the bottom of the list.

NEW ENGLAND SHARES THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN LIBERIA



The wonderful smiling face of a child made in the image of God.

The Gbarnga Lutheran Mission Project in Liberia was started in 2014 as an outreach effort of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Providence, Rhode Island. Their congregation had an influx of immigrants from Liberia and they were interested in doing something for the people in their home country of Liberia. They purchased an approximately 10-acre tract of land and embarked upon building a school and other facilities. Within the first two years, the Mission Project had the first grade up and running. Since then, they have added to the complex each year. The school now includes grades 1 through 8 with over 230 children enrolled. They also added a health clinic and offer assistance to the surrounding community helping them dig wells to supply potable water, which is scarce. They purchased additional acreage two years ago to start a small farm. They are raising crops that they use in their meal program for the children. They also sell some of the crops to help the school.

The New England Branch of Orphan Grain Train has been helping by sending supplies since the inception of the school. In 2025, two box trucks full of requested supplies were delivered to the warehouse in Rhode Island. The first was 20,000 Harvest Pack Meals that were donated to the branch. The fortified meals were a provision from God for the school because of the recent drought that made food scarce.



A pickup full of three treadle sewing machines and boxes of supplies sent from OGT New England.

The second load contained school books, school kits and sewing supplies. All of these items shipped through the Mission Project out of Providence, Rhode Island.

Hospital beds, medical supplies, school, hygiene and feminine kits, school desks, books, Christian literature and even Communion ware have been shared with the school. OGT New England also supplied eight treadle sewing

machines and sewing supplies to help the school start a sewing skills class. Because of the lack of reliable power, manual sewing machines were needed over electric. Over 35 women have graduated from the class since it began. It is taught by a local tailor.



A young woman uses one of the durable old Singer sewing machines that was sent by OGT New England.



Jon Rossman, executive director of Gbarnga Lutheran Mission Project shares a moment with some of the students at the school.

In January, Jon Rossman, the Executive Director, visited the school to review progress and provide assistance. While there he sent back the following as part of his report. "I visited my friend, Eric, who works at the leprosy community in Suakoko (about 15 minutes away). Gbarnga Mission received a generous donation of backpacks and sling bags filled with school supplies from Orphan Grain Train in Connecticut (thanks Paul Arbesman and friends). I shipped them a few months ago so they were in the guesthouse waiting for my arrival. I shared a few boxes with Eric whose mission supports students at a local school and also has a reading center to encourage literacy."

So, Orphan Grain Train's efforts not only help the Gbarnga School but also have impact in the local community at large. You never know where Mission Outreach will take you. The Lord has surely blessed these efforts.

ADOPT AN ORPHANAGE NEWS



DOORS ARE OPENING! Even as we continue working to get funds to our orphanages in Russia, the Lord is opening doors for us in Ukraine. In addition to the seven institutions that we are currently supporting, we're now seeking support for three additional institutions. The **Korosten Orphanage** is located 85 KM north of Zhytomyr, near Belarus. There are usually about 40 children there from birth to 18-yrs-old. It is a very poor orphanage. According to local authorities, funds are only allocated for 25 children, so the rest of the funds must be found by the institution. The **Nadiya Orphanage** is in the village of Mokrets. It currently houses 18 children, aged 3-14. The facility is badly in need of upgrading. The **Volyn**

Regional Center is located in Kovel. It constantly houses 30-40 children, ages 3-18. These are orphans, children deprived of parental care, & children who have been subjected to various forms of violence. Contact Paul Leckband [402-992-0578 or email pleckband@ogt.org] to find out how you can help!

HUMANITARIAN AID KITS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

Orphan Grain Train humanitarian aid kits are a good way to meet the immediate needs of disaster victims and people living in difficult situations: prepackaged items designed to meet the specific needs of their current situation. For school children, it's a backpack filled with the basic tools of a student. For the mother, it's a carefully sewn layette kit holding fabric diapers and sleepers for a new infant. For the disaster victim, it is the hygiene kit that contains the basic tools for cleanliness after a home has been destroyed.

These kits are efficient and desired because they may replace lost items, provide dignity and cleanliness, and are specific to the need at hand.

Orphan Grain Train currently lists five kits on the OGT Wish List: Sewing Kit, School Kit, Hygiene Kit, Layette Kit and Teacher Kit. All of these kits can be shared with people domestically and internationally. This makes them a highly-requested item that moves in and out of branch inventories very quickly. During fiscal year 2025/2026 to the present, 3,480 boxes of kits were sent out by the 16 OGT locations that sent out shipments with kits. Some of those kits originated at other branches or collection centers but were shared with locations that ship containers.

The making of kits is varied. Sometimes it is a group of people who once a year utilize their Thrivent Action Team \$250 gift card, purchase the items for kits and gather for a kit making event. Sometimes it's a "call to action" by a church or a local OGT branch, sometimes it's a mother and daughter wanting to make a difference doing something together. However the kits are put together, it usually involves community and purpose.

The following photos are a snippet of the kit making activity that occurs in homes, churches, OGT locations and organizations across the United States: All gifted back to OGT locations to be shared with people around the world who can use a bundle of care to lift them up. More importantly, it is a body of believers hearing the word of Christ and putting it into action: **1 John 3:18: "Little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but, in deed and in truth."**

OGT MILBANK



Milbank, SD shelving for kits

Milbank, SD Kit making area



Julie Herman, Karen Behrens and Cathy Halverson show one of the layette kits they make.

OGT MID-ATLANTIC



Mid-Atlantic women making "kit day" about relationships



Rob Hall standing beside the boxed up finished products ready for delivery to N.C.



NOURISHING TIMES TOGETHER: Macungie group of 11 join in the packing on November 15, 2025.



Bearing gifts from afar, 11 women from Concordia Lutheran Church, LWML, in Macungie joined their energies with ours to pack 137 Hygiene Kits, help sort and pack donations and deliver to us many bags of donations including some special quilts.



A Mid-Atlantic volunteer removing the price tags on towels and wash clothes for hygiene kits.

OGT HOUSTON



Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Houston packed many bags of School Kits



Zion Lutheran's Ladies Guild who faithfully assemble hygiene kits every month.

OGT WISCONSIN



The Christ Lutheran Men's Group from Clinton, WI recently built 73 teacher kits to deliver to our Wisconsin Branch.



Nothing like young energy! At the Westfield, WI packing station, we have been blessed to have students in the Work Skills class from the high school volunteering with us again this school year. They became excellent school kit assemblers.



A group of ladies from Zion Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes, MN packed 164 school kits and 15 teacher kits for Orphan Grain Train

OGT NORFOLK



Susan Doellinger from Oregon who sews layette kits and sends them to OGT Norfolk



Immanuel Lutheran Youth Group in Atkinson, Nebraska fund raised to purchase items for hygiene kits. With the money raised, they were able to purchase enough products and put together 24 kits. The kits were delivered to OGT Norfolk.



Christina Steffan and her 9-year-old daughter Clara put together 29 Hygiene kits to be shared with people in N. Carolina. They put these together every year for OGT Norfolk and are grateful these will comfort families devastated from the horrific floods.



Karen Mangels, a weekly OGT Norfolk volunteer, puts together a hygiene kit in the kit making center at the Servant Center. In the background are the kit making supplies that are either donated or purchased for volunteers to put together.

OGT ROCKY MOUNTAIN



Recently, the Orphan Grain Train Rocky Mountain Division in Julesburg, CO. Saturday morning volunteers, along with some church members of St Paul Lutheran Church in Julesburg, CO. worked together to complete 100 hygiene kits. Everyone pitched in, and it did not take long for all the kits to be boxed and put into inventory. With the success of this pack, they are looking to do other group packs in the future.

OGT MARYLAND



On November 3rd, Wendy Preslyn, the director of Orphan Grain Train Maryland's Feminine Hygiene Project, organized the first Sew-Along.

OGT OHIO



This group has been gathering for at least five years to put together hygiene kits. Using their Thrivent Action Team dollars, they have been able to purchase the materials needed, build the kits and donate them to Orphan Grain Train-Ohio.

OGT PHOENIX



The Orphan Grain Train Phoenix Branch volunteers Steve and Gayle Roberts drove to California for Thanksgiving to visit their children and grandchildren. They took with them the necessary supplies to make 24 hygiene kits and 10 backpack school kits. The family gathered and assembled the kits. The kits were later delivered to OGT Phoenix.



The Sunland Springs Village Quilting Club, located in Mesa, AZ, gifted the Orphan Grain Train Phoenix Branch with 50 Layette kits. Joan Pratt and Carol Wrede hold up some of those kits.

OGT NEW ENGLAND



Orphan Grain Train New England was delighted to receive the much-needed hygiene kits and supplies that were donated from the Mid-Hudson Zone LWML Fall Event in Fishkill, New York. Joan and Maddie hold up two rolled up hygiene kits that each contain a towel, washcloth, bar of soap, soap box, clippers, six band aides, prepackaged toothbrush, comb, and an individual prepackaged 10-tissue pack.



OGT New England made a lot of the kits and shipped them many places. For almost all our kits, we take advantage of Thrivent Grants of \$250 as a number of our volunteers are Thrivent members. When you see a pallet of kits shipped with 54 boxes, that can be up to 500 kits at a time.



An Orphan Grain Train New England volunteer organized a school kit packing day with her granddaughters.

OGT MICHIGAN



The Michigan branch is wonderfully blessed by the services of Nancy Brown. Among our many faithful volunteers, Nancy is the one who oversees the assembling of kits.

She double checks all kits received from donor organizations to make sure the contents conform to Orphan Grain Train specifications.

She also assembles school, hygiene, and feminine kits from the oversupply of individual kit items. Our branch has no one more dedicated to the successful efforts of our branch than Nancy. She is a treasure.

NOTEWORTHY APPRECIATION

Orphan Grain Train, Inc. is pleased to update supporters – St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Tom and Nancy Osborne (Founders of Team Mates Mentoring Program) and Roger and Jan Moore regarding the humanitarian shipment to South Sudan by OGT Lincoln, made possible in part through this generous support of Mercy Meals.



OGT distribution to Malek Leper Community in South Sudan

KITS

HYGIENE KITS

CONTENTS

- 1 bath towel
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 bath-size bar of soap
- 1 plastic soap box holder
- 1 sturdy comb
- 1 nail clipper
- 1 toothbrush (individually pre-packaged)
- 6 band-aids (½" or ¾")
- 1 small pre-packaged facial tissues pack (usually 10-15 per package)
- 1 piece of strong ribbon or cord

ASSEMBLY

Lay out the towel on a flat surface.
Fold over about 5" on each long side.
Place the rest of the items in the center under the folds.
Roll up the towel.
Use ribbon or cord to tie the towel together in the middle.

PLEASE NOTE

Dark colored linens are recommended.
We recommend leaving contents in the original packaging, but it is not required.
No additions, deletions, or substitutions.
Do not add money, photos, or personal notes.
Do not include items with religious, camouflage, patriotic or military symbols.
Pack only new or gently used items.
Do not include plastic bags.

FEMININE KITS

CONTENTS

- 1 drawstring bag
- 1 small water-resistant carrying bag
- 2 pairs panties (girls size 10-14, must be new)
- 2 panty shields
- 8 tri-fold panty liners
- 1 travel-size bar of soap
- 1 wash cloth

ASSEMBLY

Please visit www.ogt.org/specialprojects to print the sewing instructions and patterns for the panty shield, panty liner and carrying bag.
Place the completed items inside the drawstring bag with a printed copy of the picture instruction sheet and close.

PLEASE NOTE

No additions, deletions, or substitutions.
Do not add money, photos, or personal notes.
Do not include items with religious, camouflage, patriotic or military symbols.
Pack only new items.
Do not include plastic bags.

TEACHER KITS

CONTENTS

- 1 drawstring or tote bag
- 1 12-pack pencils
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 12-pack chalk
- 1 chalkboard eraser
- 4 highlighters
- 1 clipboard
- 1 adult scissors
- 1 ruler
- 2 red pens
- 4 pocket folders
- 4 sheets stickers (stars or smiley faces)

ASSEMBLY

Stack flat items together.
Place all items in bag.
Close bag if applicable.

PLEASE NOTE

Chalk may be white or colored.
We recommend leaving contents in the original packaging, but it is not required.
No additions, deletions, or substitutions.
Do not add money, photos, or personal notes.
Do not include items with religious, camouflage, patriotic, or military symbols.
Pack only new or gently used items.
Do not include plastic bags.

SCHOOL KITS

CONTENTS

- 1 backpack
- 2 spiral notebooks
- 2 pencils
- 2 pens
- 10 sheets of construction paper
- 1 package crayons (24 count)
- 1 ruler
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 scissors
- 1 rectangular eraser
- 1 package, colored pencils (12 count)
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 single pocket folder

ASSEMBLY

Stack flat items together.
Place construction paper inside pocket folder.
Place all items inside school bag.
Close bag if applicable.

PLEASE NOTE

Backpacks, drawstring athletic bags, or homemade tote bags are all acceptable.
We recommend leaving contents in the original packaging, but it is not required.
No additions, deletions, or substitutions.
Do not add money, photos, or personal notes.
Do not include items with religious, camouflage, patriotic or military symbols.
Pack only new or gently used items.
Do not include plastic bags.

It costs an average of \$11 to ship each box of kits. Please consider a donation to your local OGT branch to help with shipping. Although well-meaning variations are tempting, please do not do this. It may result in heavy fines and/or the entire shipment being confiscated by customs officials.

SEWING KITS



Orphan Grain Train serves many families living in poverty around the world. Many barely have enough money for basic necessities or even to purchase new clothes. Orphan Grain Train saw the need for a basic sewing kit for families to mend children's clothes or their own. This sewing kit can be used to reattach a button or stitch a torn sleeve. If you would like to purchase mini sewing kits for Orphan Grain Train to distribute to families in need, please either deliver or mail the kits to an OGT location near you.

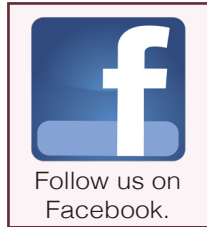


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Charity Navigator
has given Orphan Grain
Train "4 Stars", which
is their highest rating.



#orphangraintrain

SAVE THE DATE

OGT CONVENTION 2026

Friday and Saturday, September 11 and 12, 2026

More information to follow as time gets closer!

ATTENTION ALL QUILTERS

We will once again have a quilt auction. "Thank you" in advance if you plan to make a quilt! We are asking that the quilts be new, good quality and stitched. Because of limited space, we can only accept one quilt per person or organization. All quilts must be in the home office in Norfolk, Nebraska before Friday, August 7th, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact OGT at **402-371-7393**.

NOTE FROM TOM WATSON

Many thanks to all of you who gave generously and sacrificially at year end. It is a great blessing to Orphan Grain Train and to our disaster relief and humanitarian aid throughout the world. A reminder that we continue to receive stock and mutual fund gifts through our Charles Schwab account. For information and transfer instructions, please contact me at: **twatson@ogt.org** or **402-940-2007**. We thank you for sharing your blessings with Orphan Grain Train. Please also prayerfully consider including Orphan Grain Train as a beneficiary to your IRA, Life Insurance or in your estate plan.

—Tom Watson