



Kirk and Brian Rosin are surrounded by children as they visit an orphanage at Moscreti, Ukraine.

LETTERS FROM UKRAINE: Establishing More Orphanages and Planting a Hannah House *War is Terrible*

This is Brian and Kirk Rosin once again reporting to Orphan Grain Train on activities in Ukraine. War is terrible. Everyone in Ukraine has suffered something from this war. Whether it be no heat in winter, no electricity, no water, no friends. Perhaps there are loved ones dying or permanently disabled in the war. Everyone in Ukraine has been touched by this war. Why does God allow this? He tells us that all things work together for good. War and disasters give us as the people of God the opportunity to share the love of Jesus. Orphan Grain Train is the vehicle that announces the love of Jesus while meeting the physical needs of people. If this war wasn't going on, the need may not be here and we wouldn't get the opportunity to share the Gospel or show the love of Christ.

Of course, Orphan Grain Train has been sending containers to Ukraine for many years. But now, OGT is expanding into other areas. The first is Adopt an Orphanage-Ukraine. This is to reach out to orphanages to share the Gospel and assist them with their needs. We currently have ten orphanages that we are working with, mostly through our Bible Orphan Ministry partner.

LETTERS FROM UKRAINE CONT.

Please allow me to share a typical event that we were able to be a part of while here. We went to the orphanage at Korosten. Korosten is a regular target of Russia, even though it is 500 miles from the front line. There is a power plant here and if Russia destroyed that, the people of Zhytomyr would be without electricity for a year. The Bible Orphan Ministry did a program about the shepherd who had 100 sheep but one was lost. He went searching for it. They told the children Jesus was the shepherd and they were that lost sheep and Jesus wanted to find them. After this, the director, a strong Christian woman, who has been here for 23 years, asked the children to thank us. They did. After that she told them we had also brought them some special food. She told them we brought them cucumbers and butter. They were screaming for joy at the top of their lungs. It is heart wrenching to think things we take so for granted, like cucumbers, that children are ecstatic about getting to eat. Next, they had a little program they presented for us. They sang a song about dreaming of peace and no more war. They could play in peace, sleep in peace, and no more war.

We had an opportunity to meet a 13-year-old girl who had recently come to the orphanage. Her family was in Kherson which the Russians occupied. It is now on the front line. They fled the city when the Russians came. Her father was called off to the war and was killed. She, and her mother, who is a drug addict, had gone to Poland. They had now come back; at the train station, her mother abandoned her, Social Services picked her up and brought her to the orphanage. She had just the clothes on her back. When she got there, the orphanage shared some clothes with her that OGT had donated. She cried as she said she had never had so many clothes at one time in her life. Her troubles are far from over as she has no identification papers. In Ukraine you must have identification papers even to attend school. Kherson is under attack and she can't get papers from them. Korosten is not her hometown so she can't get papers there. Her mother is still alive, so they can't move forward on parental rights. The orphanage is working to resolve the problem, but there is lots of red tape and bureaucracy. This is a small example of the many things OGT is involved with through the adopt an orphanage program here in Ukraine.



Alla and Bible Orphan Ministry members acting out the Bible story of the shepherd who had 100 sheep, but one was lost. He went searching for the lost sheep until it was found.



Alla and staff from Bible Orphan Ministry share the story of the lost sheep with children from the Korosten Orphanage. The children are part of the presentation as they learn that the "sheep know the Shepherd's voice."



Brian, Kirk, Alla and community members move medical equipment and beds sent from Orphan Grain Train Maryland. The 18 beds were taken to the Chernyakhiv Hospital in Zhytomyr, Oblast.



Kirk and Brian Rosin gather with Bible Orphan Ministry staff and children and staff of Nova Borova Orphanage in Zhytomyr, Ukraine. Specially selected sweatshirts from an OGT shipment were given out to each child. They also enjoyed a Happy Meals treat of Chicken McNuggets.



Boys house of Elim (Hannah House) in Lutsk.

As we left the orphanage, the air raid sirens went off. We went to a site about two miles from the orphanage. About two weeks ago, Russia had fired a missile at Korosten power plant with a 500-kilogram bomb. The military shot it down, but the shock waves damaged houses in a 12-block area. Many people were killed and injured. Everyone lives in the unknown every day.

Another program we are working on in Ukraine is similar to the Hannah House project in Russia. It is the House of Elim. It is for 18-to-22-year-olds that have come out of the orphanage system at age 18. Before the war, Ukraine reported these statistics for those coming out of the orphanage system. Among graduates of Orphanages, 90% are not ready for independent living, 50% are

at risk of conflict with the law, 23% become homeless, 10% of orphans commit suicide after leaving the orphanage before their 18th birthday, 60% of the girls end up in prostitution. Only 27% are able to find work. An orphan has their ID papers stamped orphan, so it is a label they carry all their life. It's difficult for them to find housing and employment. This is a widespread problem all across Ukraine. The government has no answers. We have found a partner in Lutsk that we want to cooperate with to address this need. They have a place where these young men and women can go that is safe with a Christian environment for them to mature into adulthood. Currently, they have a house with six girls and an apartment with two boys. There are five more boys waiting, but we have not been able to find any suitable place for them at this time.



Some of the destruction that is left from this war.



Alla of Bible Orphan Ministry of Ukraine walks away after viewing the destruction that occurred after a 500 kilogram Russian missile struck the city of Korosten in Ukraine earlier that week.

May 11, 2026

Greetings from Ukraine one last time. We hope to be on the bus at 10 AM tomorrow morning for Warsaw where our flight will leave at 9 AM the next day, (have to allow extra time at the border) and hopefully landing in Fargo by 10 PM on Tuesday.

We have had no air raids for the last two days due to the cease fire.

Come to the Orphan Grain Train convention September 11-12 in Norfolk and hear about exciting updated information on these undertakings.

Kirk Rosin

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN CONVENTION 2026

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- 4:00** Opening of Convention
Ysleta Mariachi Band from Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso, Texas
Karla Gonzalez – Director of Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso
- 5:00** Three-Quilt Spotlight Auction Break
- 5:15** Dinner - Paul's Paellas from San Diego
Introduction by Paul Dimech
- 6:15** Bar open
Three Quilt Spotlight Auction Break
- 6:30** A conversation with Rev. Ray S. Wilke
- 7:30** Three Quilt Spotlight Auction Break
Silent Auction Final Bids and Three-Quilt Auction Winners
Proceed to Checkout and Pickup your Treasures
- 8:00** Concordia Seward Choir

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- 7:45** Doors open at Midtown Event Center
- 8:30** Opening Service
- 9:30** North Carolina Disaster Recovery
- 10:15** Break
- 10:30** Dr. Pieper or Hyannis Connection/ Jamaica Water Demonstration
- 11:00** Alla of Bible Orphan Ministry in Ukraine/Kirk and Brian Rosin
- 12:00 to farewell!** Finish up speakers/lunch served either as sit-down for conversation or to-go boxes offered

QUILT AUCTION

Orphan Grain Train will once again have a quilt auction. This year, twelve quilts will be juried by three professional quilters and auctioned Friday evening. We are asking that all quilts donated be new, stitched, not tied and of good quality. Since space is limited, only one quilt will be accepted from each donor or organization. There is no set size or quilt style. ALL quilts have to be received at the home office in Norfolk, NE **before August 1, 2026 and clearly marked "For Quilt Auction."** If you have any questions, please contact Kamryn at (402) 371-7393

Lodging: Special Price Lodging Options. Please mention that you are with Orphan Grain Train, tax not included with price.

Norfolk Lodge & Suites	Holiday Inn	Hampton Inn	Fairfield by Marriott
King or 2 Queen	King or 2 Queen	King or 2 Queen	King or 2 Queen
\$123.00	\$149.00	\$149.00	\$149.00
(402) 379-3833	(402) 379-1524	(402) 379-3585	(402) 370-2244
4200 W. Norfolk Ave.	920 S. 20th Street	904 S. 20th Street	1302 Cyhawk Loop
Norfolk	Norfolk	Norfolk	Norfolk

For all lodging options go to: Norfolk Visitor Center
<https://visitnorfolkne.com/home/places-to-stay/>

**Orphan Grain Train
Convention 2026 Registration**
(Please Print Clearly)

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Registration On/Before August 1st, 2026 = \$30.00 × _____ (number of people) = \$ _____

Registration After August 1st, 2026 = \$40.00

Mail payment with this registration

**Orphan Grain Train
PO Box 1466
Norfolk, NE 68702**

**How many play to attend to eat Saturday
lunch either sit down or to-go?**

Registration fee includes access to all Saturday sessions plus lunch.
Online Registration is also available at **www.ogt.org**

RANCHERS GROANING...

It was pelting rain in Farnam, Nebraska when the OGT fencing crew drove into town on the first Monday of May. Green stubble of grass was beginning to poke through the charred earth and carpeting the rolling hills and ravines. After the historic western Nebraska fires of 2026, the mist of rain brought a new kind of hope to this place.

Driven by high winds and dry conditions, the Cottonwood fire of 2026 quickly spread from Lincoln County into Dawson County, where Farnam sits nestled in the rangeland. The fire danced around the rugged and rolling hills threatening to consume anything in its path. When it was finally subdued in late March, it had consumed over 129,000 acres.

The historic fires in western Nebraska collectively destroyed close to a million acres. It began with the largest Morrill fire in the Nebraska Sandhills and quickly ignited in the drought-ridden areas of central and southwest Nebraska and the Pandhandle, destroying grazing land during the crucial calving season.

Almost immediately, Nebraskans and people from the surrounding states responded by an outpouring of aid to the area. Convoys of truckers rallied together to transport hundreds of bales of hay to the area. Fellow ranchers and farmers, unaffected by the fires, offered to take in cattle that no longer had pasture land to graze.



DeWayne Erickson and Nick Weber setting fence posts in Farnam, Nebraska



Nick Weber, Ross Nelson, DeWayne Erickson and Walt Rosenbaum working together to set fence posts in the hilly terrain.



Fence posts laid out ready to be placed.



DeWayne Erickson stretching the first line of barbed wire.

On Monday, May 4th, DeWayne Erickson, Ross Nelson, Walt Rosenbaum and Nick Weber were prepared to begin fencing in western Nebraska. They journeyed southwest from Norfolk trailering a skid loader, a post driver and post hole digger, pallet forks and all the supplies needed to tear out and restore fencing in the ranching community.

After talking with the rancher who rents the property from a widow and long-time resident of Farnam, the crew began. They wound up the, no longer usable, barbed wire which had lost its galvanization from the heat of the fire. They tore out the singed posts, some dangling by a thin layer of wood.

On the second day, the crew worked in the rain setting posts in the ground. Some went in easily with the use of the machinery. Others, that were down in the ravines had to be manually dug with a post hole digger. By evening, the whole western side of the pasture had been fortified with new posts and wire.



Two truckloads of treated fence posts and one truckload of barbed wire rolls were delivered to Farnam, Nebraska for disaster relief.

The third day saw three-fourths of a mile of new fencing set in place. As often happens so close to the end, equipment failure forced the end of completion. Equipment repaired, the crew will return to complete the pasture and move onto another area.

Orphan Grain Train and its donors have marshalled efforts in support of western Nebraska ranchers since the fires began in March. Donations of hay, cornstalks, fencing and monetary support began pouring in to OGT branches. Twenty-three loads of hay were donated north into the sandhills and south along the Platte River Valley. Loads of hay continue to be donated to ranchers, as the first donations have been used up and new support is still needed.

Orphan Grain Train has now moved into the next phase of recovery relief by donating fencing supplies and bringing a fencing crew to work in the area. Three semi loads of fence posts and 49 miles of barbed wire have been sent to western Nebraska. Some of the branches have trailered smaller loads holding t-posts, wood posts and barbed wire rolls that individuals have donated to OGT.

The gentle rain has been good, but western Nebraska ranchers are preparing for a summer of drought conditions. "Pray for rain" is frequently invoked by many a rancher in the area. While we pray for rain, Orphan Grain Train will continue to deliver hay, fencing supplies and support to farmers and ranchers in western Nebraska. We thank everyone who has donated money and support to western Nebraska. We ask you to pray for rain.



Dr. Pieper and his assistant, Jessica, both of Farnam, stand beside the freezer of 100 ten pound packages of hamburger that were donated by OGT in support of the people of western Nebraska.



Ross Nelson and Walt Rosenbaum manually dig a fence post in an area that is too hilly for machinery to traverse safely. The new grass growing in the forefront brings hope despite the charred earth beneath.



Altogether, twenty-four loads of hay have been delivered to western Nebraska by OGT branches. OGT will continue to deliver hay to ranchers in need.

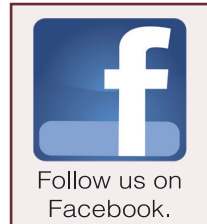


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Charity Navigator
has given Orphan Grain
Train "4 Stars", which
is their highest rating.



#orphangraintrain

NOTE FROM TOM WATSON

Did You Know..... that you can include a Christian preamble or also known as a family blessing letter in your Will or Trust? This would be a final message of your Christian faith to your family. Did you also know that you can include Orphan Grain Train in your estate plan such as a gift of real estate, stocks, IRA designation, Life Insurance or Beneficiary designation on your bank accounts, brokerage account? If you are interested in learning more about including the Lord's work in your planning, please contact us —

Tom Watson, twatson@ogt.org; 402-940-2007 or

Ralph Schmidt, ralphschmidt1947@gmail.com; 260-452-4207