



Orphan Grain Train

Relief for Human Need Worldwide

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Announcements



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN CONVENTION 2026

SEPTEMBER 11 & 12, 2026

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN NORFOLK SERVANT CENTER
&
MIDTOWN EVENT CENTER
NORFOLK, NEBRASKA



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- 4:00** Opening of Convention
 - Ysleta Mariachi Band from Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso, Texas
 - Karla González - Director of Operations at 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

- 8:50** Toi Carter/Pastor Manning - New Orleans

- 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 FAIR WELL**
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.



King or 2 Queen \$123.00
(402) 379-3833
4200 W. Norfolk Ave.



King or 2 Queen
\$149.00
(402) 379-1524
920 S. 20 St.



King or 2 Queen
\$129.00
(402) 379-3585
904 S. 20 St.



King or 2 Queen
(402) 370-2244
1302 Cyhawk Loop



FOR ALL LODGING OPTIONS GO TO:
NORFOLK VISITOR CENTER SITE

<https://visitnorfolkne.com/home/places-to-stay/>



Orphan Grain Train's 2026 National Convention

Friday, September 11 - Saturday, September 12, 2026

Please register for the convention now by visiting

www.ogt.org to sign up online or print off the registration form

and mail to:

Orphan Grain Train

PO Box 1466

Norfolk, NE 68702-1466

In Need of Hay for New Mexico

Las Vegas, New Mexico, is currently facing severe to exceptional drought conditions, exacerbated by historically low snowpack and lingering watershed damage from the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fires. Approximately 94% of the state is under drought, with the Rio Gallinas—the city's primary water source—facing critical flow shortages. We

received a phone call from Las Vegas asking if we could send hay. The ranches are small, but the forage available to feed the cattle is depleted. If you have hay available to donate, please contact Orphan Grain Train Norfolk @ 402-371-7393. ask for Kamryn or kgreen@cgt.org. This hay would be going to New Mexico, not to western Nebraska.

Adopt-an-Orphanage Ukraine:

Orphan Grain Train is now supporting nine institutions in Ukraine, all of which are suffering great hardships because of the ongoing war.

OGT recently added the following orphanages to the OGT

Adopt-an-Orphanage program:

The Nadiya Orphanage in the village of Mokrets. It currently houses children, ages 3-14, but can accommodate up to 40

children. The conditions are those of an old kindergarten building.

The Volyn Regional Center in Kovel, which is operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine. It constantly houses 30-40 children, ages 3-18. These are children who find themselves in difficult circumstances: orphans, children deprived of parental care, children who have been subjected to various forms of violence.

The support we provide helps our mission partners in Ukraine do Gospel outreach & deliver humanitarian aid. If you would like more information or might be interested in supporting this institution, please contact Paul Leckband.

Email: pleckband@ogt.org. Call: 402-992-0578.

Western Nebraska Fire Disaster



[CLICK ON PHOTO TO LINK TO VIDEO](#)



A three-man crew of volunteers returned to Farnam, Nebraska on May 19th, 2026. DeWayne Erickson, Walt Rosenbaum and Larry Tweedy rebuilt a fence in a ravine near Farnam, Nebraska which was one of the areas that was affected by the 2026 Cottonwood fire in western Nebraska.

On May 26, 2026, a third fencing crew finished the final pasture fence in the same area. Loren Petersen from Minneota, Minnesota (orange shirt) and Tom Rudloff from Battle Creek, Nebraska joined Orphan Grain Train fencing lead, DeWayne Erickson on this final mission. Because of the ravines, most of the fencing on this trip was done down in the trenches and by hand.

Thank you to all the men who traveled west and helped complete this project. Thank you, DeWayne, Walt, Nick, Ross, Larry, Loren and Tom for your willingness to be a part of this venture.

Orphan Grain Train will be doing more fence restoration and repair in Hyannis, Nebraska. If you would like to be a part of this re-fencing project, please contact Orphan Grain Train at 402-371-7393 or at www.ogt.org or on Facebook.

Our Catholic Family / OGT Norfolk



Last week, around 100 incoming 9th-10th grade confirmation students from Our Catholic Family out of Fordyce, Nebraska spent the day at Orphan Grain Train Servant Center in Norfolk, NE. The students were divided into three groups and volunteered on three different days. Deacon Shane Kleinschmit led the three groups on each day they volunteered. The students, from the 12 churches that make up the four parishes, went through six bunkers of assorted school supplies, GTM products, and blankets and quilts. They also put together a pallet of Mercy Meals. This was an outstanding group of students who volunteered with great enthusiasm and attention to detail. We thank you, for

spending three days with us and accomplishing so much.

**Against all hope, Abraham in hope
believed and so became the father of many
nations, just as it had been said to him,
“So shall your offspring be.”**

Romans 4:18 NIV

Christ Lutheran School / OGT Norfolk





Christ Lutheran School's older students volunteered at Orphan Grain Train Servant Center Norfolk on Wednesday, May 13. The very well-orchestrated group packed 11 pallets of hygiene kits, school kits, and quilts and blankets. A few of the students made hygiene kits, school kits and teacher kits, while others packed kits that were already made. In another area, students made 5,400 Mercy Meals. Amazing work, Christ Lutheran students! Thank you for volunteering at OGT, !and we hope you enjoy your well-deserved summer break

OGT Wisconsin / Benin



Mission d'Evangelisation Je'sus-Revient in Abomey-Calavi, Benin sent word that the container that Orphan Grain Train Wisconsin sent in February arrived safely! The load was received with great joy and appreciation! Thank you, Wisconsin volunteers for all that you do in the name of Christ.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1 NIV

OGT Castle Rock / Lithuania





Orphan Grain Train Castle Rock was busy last Wednesday, May 13th. Fifteen OGT Castle Rock volunteers loaded 1,413 boxes of clothing and 18 bicycles/trikes headed to Lithuania in only two hours! While those volunteers were busy loading a container, several other volunteers sorted and packed clothing boxes at the same time!

Thank you to all the volunteers who work tirelessly to make this all possible. What a beautifully packed container that will be going to Jubarkas Evangelical Lutheran Diaconia in

Lithuania.

Do you see a man skilled in his work? He
will stand before kings; he will not stand
before obscure men.

Proverbs 22:29 ESV

OGT Central Iowa / Republic of Georgia



Women for Justice from the Republic of Georgia sent word that the Orphan Grain Train Central Iowa load arrived safely in Tilbisi. This well-packed load contained 131 hygiene kits, 70 school kits and 25 teacher's kits. In addition, more than 300 boxes of blankets and linens were shared. Clothing, medical equipment and medical supplies were also part of the inventory in this container. Thank you, to all the OGT Central Iowa volunteers who made this shipment happen. You gathered, sorted, packed, boxed, lifted, packed and prayed over the contents of this shipment.

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:22-24 NIV

OGT Grand Island / Ysleta Lutheran Mission



Orphan Grain Train Grand Island shared 38,016 Mercy Meals, blankets, clothing, furniture and medical equipment with Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, Texas. There were also hygiene kits, diapers, bicycles and toys added to this load.

Ysleta Mission strives to transform lives through faith in action. They are responding to real needs with compassion, resources, and the hope of the Gospel. Their work spans across the El Paso region and into Mexico, where they serve individuals, families, and entire communities through practical outreach and spiritual care. Thank you OGT Grand

Island volunteers for all you did to make this load and delivery to Ysleta a success!

The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17

OGT Maryland / Ethiopia







This letter from Orphan Grain Train Maryland's manager, Tony Rodriguez, speaks about a recent shipment of aid to Ethiopia:

OGT Team – praise God from Whom all blessing flow!!! This morning we loaded a shipping container that is now headed to Ethiopia. The planning for this container started about two years

ago and finally culminated in a load of 19,793 lbs. of hospital medical equipment, medical supplies and mobility durable goods, operating room supplies, hospital beds, clinical-grade microscopes and weight scales, specialty wheelchairs, Samaritan's Feet Intl. shoes, Luci lights, sewing machines and supplies, and much, much more. Though I will spare you the abundant stories, please know this: the path which led to this container was repeatedly blessed by our Lord in so many tangible and visible ways! Our Lord indeed hears the prayers of the saints as promised in scripture!

Each one of us at OGT is a very unique part of a greater common body which is aligned to one mission: to serve the less fortunate of the world while extolling the Goodness of God! As such, no single personal contribution ever gets a shipment to its destination; rather, when we all work together for the Glory of God, our work and mission thrive and are blessed!!! May the hardship associated with this particular load be a wonderful reminder to us all that our God gives us these works to demonstrate our faith, which comes by His Grace! Also, let us not forget that these blessings include our partners at OGT Nebraska

and our Ethiopian constituents whose efforts were crucial to make this shipment a reality.

Really good work EVERYONE and may the Lord bless the enduring dedication of all souls of Orphan Grain Train.

Very Respectfully/Tony

Anthony T Rodriguez

Orphan Grain Train, Maryland Branch

Assistant Branch Manager, Operations

Thank you, OGT Maryland volunteers for your tenacity and resilience. To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Christ Church Lutheran - Phoenix / OGT Phoenix



Another Phoenix area church has now partnered with Orphan Grain Train Phoenix. This month Christ Church Lutheran - Phoenix has jumped on board. Their first request to the congregation resulted in the filling of two Gaylord bins. Jim and Cheryl Clough and Stephanie Alex will manage the donations from CCL and make sure they get to the OGT Phoenix warehouse. Pictured is Cheryl Clough and Stephanie Alex - with Jim taking the picture! Thank you members of Christ Church Lutheran Phoenix for your enthusiasm for this new partnership!

For when you see Me, you are seeing the One
Who sent Me. I have come as a light to shine in
this dark world, so that all who put their trust
in Me will no longer remain in the dark.

John 12:45-46 NIV

OGT Lincoln / Lincoln, NE



During the month of April, Orphan Grain Train Lincoln delivered to fourteen different service agencies in the Lincoln area. Fifteen boxes of infant/toddler clothing were shared with Barnabas Community, Trinity Lutheran Church's Forward, Women's Care Center, Birthright of Lincoln and the Pregnancy Center. One hundred forty pounds of canned and dry food was delivered in addition to packages of Mercy Meals. Clothing, household items, hygiene supplies and medical equipment were given to agencies that requested these items. Thank you, OGT Lincoln volunteers for responding to the real needs of people in your community.

"As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart."

Proverbs 27:19

Faith Lutheran Church, Trinity Lutheran Church /

Mercy Meals









Thirty-two dedicated volunteers packaged 16,692 Mercy Meals at Faith Lutheran Church on Saturday, May 16, 2026. Twelve were a group of faithful volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Church, Sioux City. Thank you to all our Siouland volunteers!

OGT Indiana / Kentucky



In late April, Manna from Heaven in Myra, Kentucky received a load of useful items from Orphan Grain Train Indiana. There were 66 boxes of fortified meals and 30 pieces of furniture, including the 12 student chairs. Clothing, bedding, and children's toys were part of the collection of items loaded. The eight fiberglass ladders and five bicycles will be welcome items as summer approaches. Bunkers of household items, school kits and a box of Bibles were also shared. Manna from Heaven provides food, clothing and personal hygiene products on a weekly basis to 350 people from the area. Cars line up every Wednesday to receive needed items. Household goods and furniture are also given

out. Thank you, OGT Indiana volunteers for another successful delivery to Kentucky. Thank you, for volunteering to prepare all of these items for delivery to an area where they are needed.

**And he has raised up for his people a horn,
the praise of all his faithful servants, of
Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise
the LORD.**

Psalm 148:14 NIV

Summerland Public School / OGT Norfolk



Summerland Public School from Ewing, Nebraska toured and volunteered at Orphan Grain Train Norfolk on Friday, May 15. The group packed two pallets of stuffed animals. Thank you, Summerland students and staff for visiting us last week and completing all those boxes.

Lincoln Lutheran School / OGT Lincoln



about:

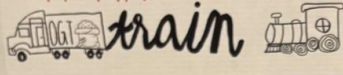
MAIN IDEA
An orphan is someone who has no family. In the story, the orphan is a boy named...

CHARACTER
The main character is a boy named...

SETTING
The story takes place in a...

PROBLEM
The main problem in the story is...

ORPHAN GRAIN



ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN
This is a story about...



PROJECT DISPLAY BOARD

Of
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We're on an adv
HOP
and
sign
most disadvantaged
KAPY





Aliya Wieting a Lincoln Lutheran middle school student did her school Mission Fair project on Orphan Grain Train. Aliya volunteers at OGT Lincoln with her family and school. Thank you, Aliya for sharing the OGT story and for volunteering at OGT Lincoln. Well done!

Start children off on the way they should go,

and even when they are old they will not turn
from it.

Proverbs 22:6 NIV

Christmas Box Project / OGT Norfolk





During the last seven years of our Christmas box project with Orphan Grain Train, we have sent 11,981 Christmas boxes to children all around the world. Once again, we are collecting monetary gifts, clothing, and toys to pack more boxes.

This summer we are collecting:

DOLLS

BARBIES

BLOCKS (Legos, Duplos, Wooden)

BASEBALL GLOVES

SMALL CARS (Matchbox, Hot Wheels)

PONY BEADS

EMBROIDERY FLOSS AND SCISSORS

DECKS OF PLAYING CARDS

HAIR BARRETTES

RUBBER HAIR BANDS AND BOWS

PLAY FOOD

JUMP ROBES

STUFFED ANIMALS

T-SHIRTS (sizes 2 Toddler - Youth Large)

All items (except crayons, underwear, and socks) may be either new or used and can be dropped off at Grace Lutheran Church, Norfolk, Nebraska.

Monetary donations will be used to purchase other items to fill the boxes and can be sent marked "Grace Lutheran Christmas Box Project" to Grace Lutheran Church or Orphan Grain Train, Norfolk, NE 68701.

This year we are working on this project one month earlier than previous years. Donations will be collected through June 30th and packing will be done in July. If you have any questions or would like to help pack the boxes, contact Kelly Asbury at 402-371-3521.

You can bless these children who are precious to God and help them know that Jesus is the greatest gift of all and He loves them!

Orphan Grain Train Branches / Ukraine

Alla Vasilieva of Bible Orphan Ministry in Ukraine frequently sends emails to Orphan Grain Train branches keeping them up to date with what is going on in Ukraine and how some of the items from shipments have been used. These are photos that were taken throughout the year of some of the distribution of items. We continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and God's peace for the people of Ukraine. In the past year, seven OGT branches sent one or more containers to Ukraine. These photos may represent items given from one or more branches.

First photo: Mothers who have taken orphans under their care. We gave them blankets for Mother's Day. They were thrilled to have such a beautiful blanket!

Second photo: The boxes contain fabric for the Nova Borova

orphanage. It will be used for various types of handicrafts.

Third photo: A stack of quilts

Fourth photo: Needed aid including strollers, crutches, clothing, and more went to hundreds of families in need and military personnel.

Fifth photo: Boxes of aid went to military personnel in the hospital who lost limbs due to the war.









Generous Volunteer / OGT Milbank SD



In May, Larinda delivered 63 plastic sleeping mats to the Orphan Grain Train Collection Center in Milbank, S.D. Every year, she shares these beautiful mats with OGT Milbank.

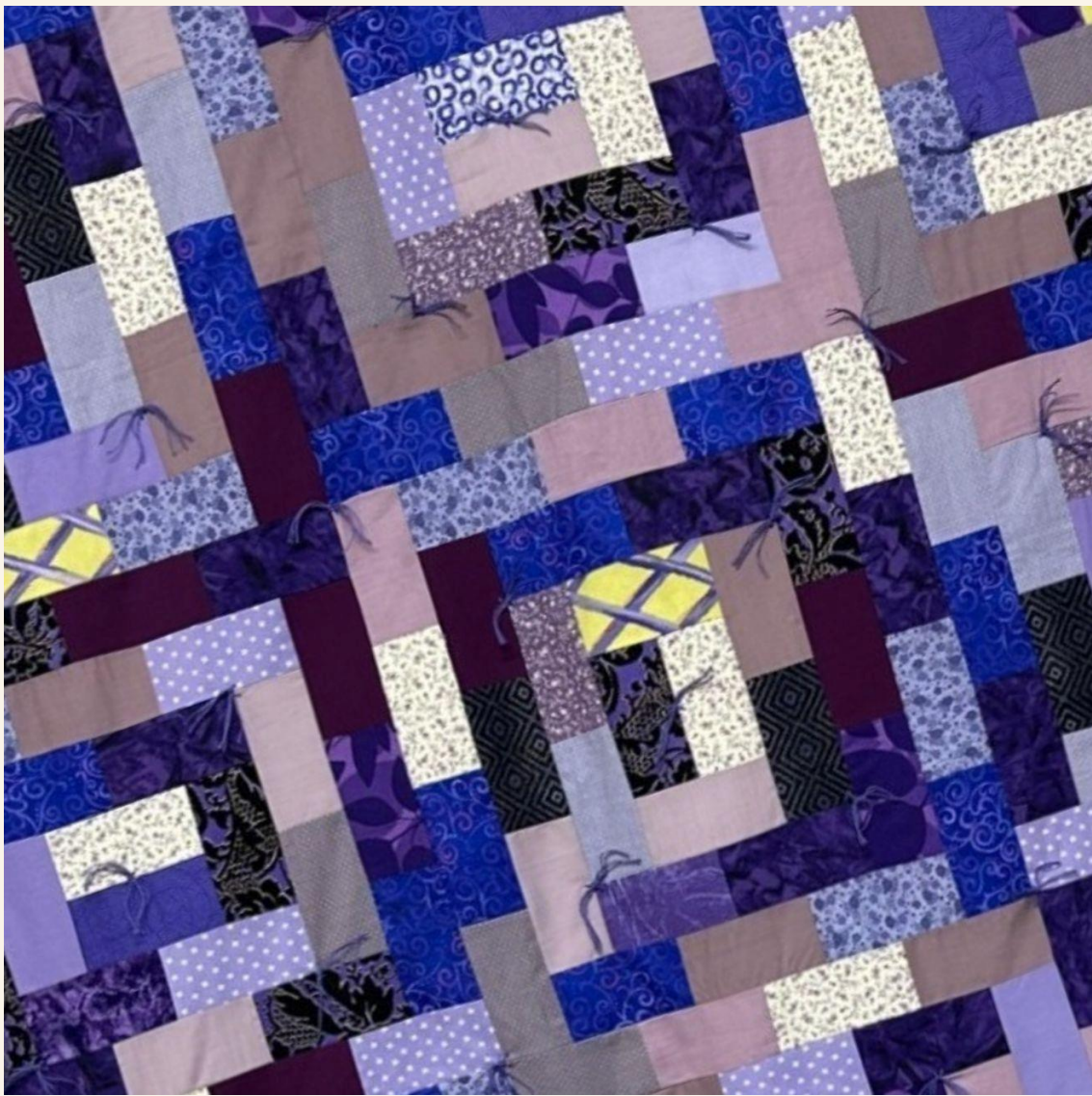
Larinda (on the left) stands by her trunk load of mats as a Milbank volunteer carries an arm full of mats inside. Thank you, Larinda for this yearly gift!

**A gift opens the way and ushers the giver
into the presence of the great.**

Proverbs 18:16 NIV

Q U I L T

OF THE WEEK



Quilt #28

Do you recognize this quilt?

Every quilt has a story. Many beautiful and unique quilts are shared with Orphan Grain Train, but not their story. Quilts are sewn into the history of Orphan Grain Train. Quilts were

included on the first shipments to Latvia and Russia in 1993, and were given to children in orphanages.

Orphan Grain Train accepts quilts and blankets in all sizes, year-round.

All 27 Orphan Grain Train branches and collection centers receive donated quilts which are shipped by OGT to people in need both domestically and internationally.

Weekly Devotion



By Paul Leckband

Orphan Grain Train, Director of Spiritual Correspondence

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.” But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. The Lord said, “If

as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.” So the Lord scattered them from there all over the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

(Genesis 11:1-9)

Language: It didn't take long before the people of the earth, following Noah's Flood, were up to their old tricks. They settled "on a plain in Shinar." Then they determined to "build (themselves) a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves." In other words, they sought to position themselves as gods. The result? God "confused(d) their language . . . The Lord scattered them from there over all the earth." How great was the city and tower these people set out to build? According to bing.com, "The site of the tower of Babel has not been identified but

there is a possibility that its remains might still exist in the Great Temple of Nebo in Barsippa in modern day Iraq. These ruins are of a pyramid mound that exists today some 8-10 miles southwest of Babylon.” And there is also some evidence of a common language spoken by the people of the post-Flood world. “A hypothetical language known as Proto-Indo-European . . . is no longer spoken . . . The earliest possible end of Proto-Indo-European linguistic unity is believed to be around 3400 BCE.” [Source: worldhistory.org]

That date is suspiciously close to the date which Bible scholars ascribe to the biblical account of the Tower of Babel.

So what? On that first Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit enabled the apostles to speak in a variety of languages and dialects, so that the people of Jerusalem could understand their message in their own tongues. And what was the message? “Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.’” (Acts 2:38-39)

**Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift
of Your Holy Spirit and the Gospel
message, found in the Bible. We pray in
Jesus' name. Amen.**



Orphan Grain Train, Inc. PO Box 1466 Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1466

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