



Children enrolled in the Malawi Prison Services primary and nursery schools joyfully receive clothing from the OGT Houston load that arrived last spring.

PEOPLE OUTSIDE STILL LOVE AND CARE FOR YOU

Shipment to Malawi Prison Service — OGT Houston's 1st International Load

Zomba Maximum Security Prison in Zomba, Malawi was built to hold 800 prisoners. Today it holds more than 2,000 prisoners and sometimes more. Zomba is the largest prison in the nation and the only maximum-security prison in Malawi.

Overcrowding is extreme, and most inmates, both male and female are serving long or life sentences. Most of the both male and female inmates have been given long or life sentences. In an already extremely impoverished nation, life in Zomba Prison is difficult and often without much hope.



The prison school consists of children of prison staff, prison inmates and people within the local community.

In December of 2025, Orphan Grain Train Houston was ready to send its very first international load. Working with Ginger Beckman, Orphan Grain Train International Shipping Director, they chose Malawi, more specifically Malawi Prison Service as a recipient. Their goal was to bring hope to prisoners in one of the poorest nations of the world. Beckman coordinated with Pam Nersesian of Christ's Footprints in Africa, and the Malawi recipient at Word of Grace Church. The needs of the recipients and Houston's inventory aligned perfectly. Houston volunteers loaded clothing, bedding, bicycles, and school and hygiene kits-all items urgently needed by prisoners in Malawi.

The shipment arrived safely and was received by the Malawi Prisons Service, which coordinated the distribution of the items to 15 of the 30 prisons in Malawi. The donations were given to 4,499 inmates, 440 learners enrolled at prison elementary schools and 35 prison chaplaincy staff.

PEOPLE OUTSIDE STILL LOVE AND CARE... CONT.



After loading their first international shipment, the volunteers at OGT Houston posed in front of the full container.



Commissioner Bazilial Chapuwala, head of the Malawi Prison Services and Kondowe's boss, shakes hands with the head teacher of Malawi Prison Services.

Presiding over the distribution of items was Malawi Prison Service National Chaplain Senior Superintendent Rev. Brian Natro Kondowe. Each inmate received at least two pairs of clothing.

There are several hundred elderly people detained within Zomba Prison. These are men who have been in prison for decades. They often cannot afford legal representation, have lost contact with their families and feel isolated and forgotten.

"As a chaplaincy, our mandate extends beyond spiritual nourishment. We are called to look after the physical well-being of those in custody," Kondowe said. "This generosity from our brothers and sisters in Christ in America addresses the clothing needs of our elderly population and assures them that they are loved and remembered."

In Malawi, many of the inmates are without a foundational education and lack basic literacy. At Zomba prison a program allows inmates to complete their primary education and take standardized tests in the prison, offering a pathway toward personal rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

The shipment was also shared with Thyolo Female Prison. In Malawi, young children up

until three years old often accompany their mother if the mother is incarcerated. The children's clothing and baby blankets that were included in this shipment were shared with the mothers and children.

Thyolo Superintendent, Emily Banda said the blankets would help reduce the cold experienced by inmates and make the facility feel more like home. The children received clothing and baby blankets as well.

Kondowe encouraged the female inmates, reminding them that people outside still care for and love them.

The shipment from OGT Houston contained more than 1,500 boxes of blankets and linens, clothing, shoes and school and hygiene kits.

"These items will benefit many inmates. Many are in need, and some leave prison without even basic clothing. This will bring relief and restore dignity to many lives," said Kondowe.



Children in Malawi express their great delight in receiving clothing.

GOD'S PEOPLE IN SURVIVAL MODE

The Sudan doctors Network, a group that tracks violence across Sudan and South Sudan, blames the parliamentary group, "Rapid Support Forces" for carrying out attacks, in June 2026, targeting civilians in Sudan and South Sudan killing 27 civilians, many elderly people.

The attacks worsened the already catastrophic humanitarian conditions that civilians are enduring through the ongoing war.

The full-scale war began April 2023, after long standing tensions between the Sudanese Army and the Rapid Support Forces. The area between Sudan and South Sudan has become the conflicts main epicenter. This fighting intensified on multiple fronts, mostly through the use of drone war-fare.

The recent attacks were carried out the 2nd day Eid al-Adha "Feist of Sacrifice" an Islamic holiday.

The doctors network said that "targeting villages and civilians and liquidating the citizens in this horrific manner constitutes a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law."



Presiding Bishop Peter Anibati Abia of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Sudan/Sudan speaking to the homeless people of South Sudan.



The destruction that is happening in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan. Many lives have been lost, homes burnt, thousands of people displaced into the mountains, and young children dying daily due to malnutrition.

In the midst of all this, there remains mystery among the "have not" people of the earth that, to my knowledge, has never been explained. The mystery is this, why do the children of poverty laugh so openly and loudly in the midst of their need? In the middle of Africa, I saw multitudes of children whose only delight on earth is the freedom to play in the red clay on land they will never own. They run and jump and giggle with glee at the sound of a morning greeting from a neighbor. Their morning meal is still in the bush. Dinner is a sugar cane stump. They greet a stranger with an open-faced grin and "hello" accompanied by a thrust hand.

Five hundred thousand survivors, mostly women and children of the first four, twenty years wars (1955-1972-1994-2023) cling to life on the boring brown desert twenty-five kilometers north of Khartoum. They heap up walls of mud covered with sticks and palm branches for shelter. Seven, lightweight South Sudan children hoist themselves onto the aluminum United Nations pump handle. When lowered it brings precious water from the depths of the desert reservoir. "Perhaps mother will bring rice tonight from her gleanings in the city to add to the water. Perhaps not." When I asked then

Lutheran Bishop Andrew Elesa how these throngs of people survived in this desert place, he said simply, "The Angels" I have no other explanation! "They have no jobs, no source of income and the United Nations food Supply ended last month."

All this hunger just nine hundred miles north of Goshen, the land that nourished and grew the Hebrews from a clan of seventy, to the two million that Moses led across the Red Sea in that ancient baptism of a nation who God drew from the water as Israel. All this in the ancient land of Cush, from whose loins came Nimrod that mighty warrior on the earth whose children both suppressed and nurtured God's people.

Suppression has been the byword for the past 43 years when military coup brought Islamist Omar Hassan al-Bashir to power. He immediately imposed "sharia" (Islamic Law) throughout the entire country. This launched the twenty-one yearlong war between the predominantly Christian south and the Islamic north. Six million people of the South fled for their lives amidst a hail of bullets, fording crocodile infested rivers. More than two million died. 31 million now seek refuge and home, under the present threat from the conflict between then "Government of Sudan" and the "Rapid Support Forces."

Orphan Grain Train began responding to this immense catastrophe by sending thirty thousand dollars, by means of regular bank transfers, directly to the Lutheran Church of South Sudan office in Juba. Bishop Peter Anibati Abia uses this money to purchase food and other survival materials for distribution among desperate people.



"Through your generous support, approximately 1,200 individuals have benefited from life-saving relief assistance. Each beneficiary received about 16 kg of food, consisting primarily of beans and cereals, maize meal or rice and a bar of soap."



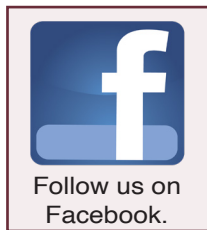
Orphan Grain Train

P.O. Box 1466
Norfolk, NE 68702-1466

Telephone: 402-371-7393
www.ogt.org

Inside:
Annual Shipments Poster!

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Norfolk, NE
Permit No. 86



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



A NOTE FROM BISHOP PETER, PRESIDENT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SOUTH SUDAN:

*"On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Sudan and Sudan (ELCSS/S), I would like to express our deepest gratitude for your generous contribution of **USD \$30,000** in support of our relief efforts. Your compassionate partnership has brought hope and tangible assistance to vulnerable communities facing immense hardship.*

*Through your generous support, approximately **1,200 individuals** have benefited from life-saving relief assistance. Each beneficiary received about **16 kg of food, consisting primarily of beans and cereals, maize meal or rice and a bar of soap**. The funds enabled the provision of essential food supplies to families in South Sudan and the Nuba Mountains, Sudan affected by conflict, displacement, and economic challenges. At a time when millions of people face hunger—including more than 7 million in South Sudan, about 20 million in Sudan and hundreds of thousands in the Nuba Mountains area alone—your gift helped ensure that children, women, the elderly, and other vulnerable people had access to food during this difficult time.*

Your generosity has truly helped save lives and has contributed directly to the mission and ministry of ELCSS/S. As we serve communities in need, we seek to demonstrate Christ's love through word and deed. The relief provided through your donation has opened doors for the Church to engage with communities, offer spiritual encouragement, and share the message of hope found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through these acts of compassion, many people have witnessed God's love in practical ways and have been encouraged in their faith.

Your partnership enables ELCSS/S to continue its holistic ministry of serving the whole person—body, mind, and spirit. We are profoundly grateful for your trust and commitment to standing alongside the people of South Sudan and Sudan during these challenging times."

This is a story of a long war. It is a that began in 1955. A war that has killed more than a million people, displaced 13 million and left 30 million people homeless and in need of assistance. This is the continuing story of the Sudanese conflict between the Sudanese Forces and the Rapid Support Forces.

We remain dedicated to continuing to supply survival goods and Christly Word to the survivors of South Sudan, the Nuba Mountain region and refugees fleeing from Sudan.

We are redeemed members of God's creative hand, so are they.

--Rev. Ray S. Wilke