



ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN MID ATLANTIC DIVISION FALL 2010

"I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you" John 14:18

Exciting happenings this fall at the Mid Atlantic Warehouse, Auction, Unfashion Fashion Show and gathering of items for those in need. The Lord continues to bless us with opportunities to help others.

The warehouse is being "Cleared out". On Friday October 15th we loaded a 40ft. container for Haiti, which will be distributed by our person there, Sandra Koch. Sandra distributes to those in need by working with and thru pastors who know where the needs are. She also has items trucked and 'head carried' to the hill country for those who have no access to the port city of Port au Prince. We were pleased to have a dentist in New Jersey donate a dental x-ray unit and lights, which were on this shipment along with clothing, a pallet jack, food and clothing for the Haitian people. The items will go to a "compound" managed by Sandra and distributed from there. We therefore are very sure of proper distribution. Over 45 containers have been shipped by Orphan Grain Train to Haiti, both with our own items and items from others.

We are planning to send another container as soon as we have packed enough summer clothing and possibly have a food processor who will sell to us at a reasonable price due to the quantities which we can ship. If you have contacts with a producer we would be pleased to be put in contact with them to ascertain the possibility of obtaining canned and processed food for Haiti. In the meantime one of the local stores has sold us flip-flops at cost. Over 550 pair were placed on the October 15th container and we will obtain another 2000 pair of flip-flops for the next container. If you find items such as the flip-flops, and your congregation or organization would like to purchase them, let us know. There are tax and federal numbers which make us tax exempt, and often the buyer or the owner will grant a special price, as in the case of the flip-flops

Our Sixth annual Live and Silent Auction went very well. With over 100 items and a new location with a different agenda, the afternoon and evening was successful. The big hit was mashed potatoes, both white and sweet along with various toppings, served in martini glasses and other food items were just as delicious. Silent auction items were displayed in a more professional manner, the piano player was excellent, and the auctioneer wore a tuxedo, which added to the ambiance. On the "down side" some of the

high ticket items did not go well nor did some large framed pictures. However the silent items exceeded our expectations. The final numbers are not in yet but we feel that we will be a bit below last years numbers. Thrivent is contributing to the final number and we appreciate their cooperation. Mark your calendar for next year— OCTOBER 16th 2011 at the Sheraton Hotel in Frazer, PA at the corner of route 202 and route 30, probably starting at 4:30pm. Stay tuned for further information!!

The Annual Board Meeting and Convention of Orphan Grain Train took place in Norfolk, Nebraska in September. There were many in attendance from around the country including Sandra Koch whom I mentioned earlier. Sandra manages the distribution of the items we ship to Haiti. She shared what was happening and the vast need in that country. Some startling statistics - 65% of the people live on less than \$1.00 (one dollar) per day and 80 out of every 1000 children die before the age of one year due to dysentery caused by dirty drinking water and malnutrition. It will be many years before the crisis in that country is over. In the meantime we will continue to send clothing, hygiene materials, food and whatever else is needed.

An opportunity exists for you! Girl's dresses are being made from PILLOW CASES. The closed end is cut to allow for arms and the neck and then sewn in a particular fashion with the addition of ribbon ties. The completed dress is already hemmed on the open end of the pillow case and there you have a simple dress for a young girl. We have the instructions to sew these dresses and I will be happy to send you a copy – email me at kraftcm1@verizon.net or phone me at 610 420 0380. The Haitian girls can use as many of the dresses as you can sew—no limit. Printed pillow cases make a very nice dress.

Hygiene Kits are also needed. A number of congregations have been making them for shipment to Haiti and other areas. An easy project for any organization! A much needed item for those who have nothing. Take a bath towel, dark color preferred, lay it lengthwise and fold in the sides about 1/4 th in on each side. In the center lay a wash cloth and on it place a wrapped bar of soap, tooth brush, tooth paste in a box, comb or brush and a few band aids held together with a rubber band. Fold the wash cloth around the items, roll up the towel with the wash cloth and items in it and tie a ribbon or rubber bands on each end of the roll. There you have it, a Hygiene Kit for those in need. Place the Hygiene Kits in boxes and bring them to the warehouse in Wilmington for shipment.

There also is a great need for summer clothes. As soon as we can again fill a container we will send it off to Haiti. How many boxes and bags of summer clothing can you gather and get to our warehouse? The sooner we have them, the sooner we can ship!

We are not only sending items to Haiti, but also to Appalachia on a regular basis. On Friday October 22nd we loaded a 26ft. truck packed full with household items and clothing for the Lutheran Social Services in Caldwell, Ohio to be distributed to those in need regardless of creed, color or national origin. There was a large amount of winter clothing and household items to help those who are jobless, burned out or flooded out of their homes. The need has expanded and so they now have two locations to help the families in that area.

Funding is always a challenge for a non-profit organization. The Auction helps to a large degree, however other fund raisers are needed. We want to thank Concordia in Wilmington for having another *Unfashion Fashion Show* on November 13th at 6:30 pm at

Concordia in Wilmington, Delaware. We get a number of “unique” items in our gathering of clothing, which we put aside for this “Fashion Show”. These items are “modeled” during the evening and then returned to our warehouse where they are packed and shipped to those in need. No charge for the show, just a free will offering and a lot of fun. Mark your calendar for November 13th. Enjoy Valerie Hutchinson as she announces the “models” with humor and enjoy the deserts.

A number of congregations have put Orphan Grain Train in their annual budget. Amounts ranging from \$100 to \$1000 have been designated and so we receive an amount every year to help with the warehouse operations, shipping and to purchase some items to be shipped. Those are our only expenditures. How about considering Orphan Grain Train for your congregation’s annual budget?

Thrivent has also now given its members the opportunity to designate the Mid Atlantic Division of Orphan Grain Train to receive funds by allowing them to apply their designated amount to us. When you receive a notification that you have an amount to designate please consider the Mid Atlantic Division of Orphan Grain Train as the recipient of those funds. We appreciate your involvement and contributions.

You are really needed to invest only a few hours to help those in need. Please, no guilt feelings! Only pray about volunteering, and if you decide to help, consider a number of possibilities. Pray for guidance and direction for Orphan Grain Train that those in need will be served. Gather clothing at your church or organization and bring it to our warehouse, or come to the warehouse to sort and pack (donuts and coffee usually served), or have a fund raiser in your area, or sew some of those pillow case dresses mentioned above. Consider what the Lord has in store for you and follow thru, you’ll be richly rewarded. *For warehouse hours and sorting and packing call Roger Hazzard at 302 883 1760, for other questions, ideas or thoughts call Cliff Kraft at 610 420 0380.*

A final opportunity – we have two winged back chairs, which need to be reupholstered. We will furnish the material if someone will do the upholstering. We can then send them to Ohio in good condition. Call Cliff if you have the desire.

The Lord has richly blessed us with volunteers, a warehouse, items to process for the needy, a truck driver, and much more too numerous to list. We thank and praise Him for the opportunity to serve Him by helping others.

To God alone be the glory.

Cliff Kraft
10/22/10