



Orphan Grain Train † Good Tidings

News *-for and about -*
OGT Maryland

December, 2024



*“For unto you is born this day in the city of
David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”*

- Luke 2:11

A Christmas Message

Dear OGT Brothers and Sisters,

Christmas, 2024

We are about to celebrate the birth of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for helping to make this a banner year for the OGT mission. The Lord has blessed us beyond measure.

Our finances have gone from a paycheck to paycheck budget to a budget that will allow us to strategically plan for the 2025 shipping year ahead. Praise the Lord for our amazing Fund-Raising Team members and their dedication in raising the financial bar this year.

I praise the Lord for our “Dream Team” of volunteers. You have sacrificially given of your time and talents to ensure this year's amazing success for OGT Maryland.

Our Lord calls us to feed, clothe, and provide for the impoverished and less fortunate of our country and this world. You have done this by filling boxes with needed supplies, loading containers to the brim, and shipping those containers from the streets of Baltimore to the mountains of Appalachia and into the rural areas of Africa. Your success is reflected in the 20 shipments/transfers made during this calendar year which included shipments to North Carolina Disaster Relief, 6 countries in Africa, 11 states along the Appalachian Mountain range and to the needy in the greater Baltimore area.

You all are truly the hands and feet of Jesus, fulfilling the royal commandment to love your neighbor as yourself. I feel blessed to work alongside people that show the joy of the Lord in what they do and are eager to serve our King in such a tangible way. Jesus praises his followers who saw people in need and responded in love. That’s what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus:

³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. (Matthew 25:34 ff)

In His service,

Bruce Coonradt, Branch Manager

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Many thanks to everyone who generously gave to OGT Maryland on Giving Tuesday. Including the \$10,000 match from Thrivent, we collected over \$42,000 in donations. This will go a long way in supporting our mission during the coming year. Special thanks go to Linda and Steve Zahn for the tremendous amount of work they did to make Giving Tuesday so successful for our organization this year, We realize that there are many organizations asking for monetary assistance at this time and we are most grateful that you chose to support OGT Maryland. May God bless you for your generosity!

The logo for Giving Tuesday, featuring the text "#GIVING TUESDAY" in a blue, sans-serif font. The word "GIVING" is on the top line and "TUESDAY" is on the bottom line. A red heart icon with a white outline is positioned between the two words, centered under the letter "I" in "GIVING".

Never Too Young to Serve



On Saturday, November 23rd, the Annapolis Hawks lacrosse team "flew" into our warehouse and landed long enough to get a good idea of what OGT is all about. The young athletes, aged 8, along with their coach and several parents were given a tour and then had an opportunity to "serve the less fortunate" by participating in several activities, i.e. folding and packing clothing, packing backpacks with school supplies, and inspecting and packing coats to be sent to the poor of Baltimore City. Participation in this community service project provided the

children with an opportunity to "give back". This experience was proof to all who attended that one is never too young to serve!

"Train up a child in a way he should go,
even when he is old, he will not depart from it."

-Proverbs 22:6

Shipment to CAP



On November 13th, the Maryland Branch loaded and shipped 1,642 articles of linens, clothing, medical and hygiene supplies, and much more to the Christian Appalachian Project (CAP) in Paintsville, KY. The load weighed in over 25,287 pounds. Of special note, our shipment included 386 winter coats, 55 student desks, 41 boxes of XXL+ sized clothing,

boxes of school supplies, 12 boxes of quilts specifically donated to Appalachia, and one church organ! We will never get tired of raising up and thanking all those that tirelessly collect, sort, clean, pack, store, organize, and prepare for these loads while maintaining the safety of our warehouse. Praise God from Whom ALL blessings flow!!!! From conversations with our CAP constituents, this donation and these articles are eagerly anticipated. A very special shout-out to our loading team which has the honor of seeing our Branch's collective efforts come to fruition, load after load.

OR Supplies Headed to Ukraine

On November 20th, the Maryland Branch delivered 45 boxes of Cardiac Operating Room (OR) supplies to the St. Andrews Ukranian Orthodox Church in Silver Spring, MD. These will subsequently be airlifted to the Ukraine in the coming weeks along with many other equally needed supplies. Luminis Hospital OR supplies come to us by the good graces and special efforts of one cardiac OR nurse, Ms. Kelley (pictured below w/Marie). Over the past 8 months, Nurse Kelley has repeatedly connected with the Branch to transfer loads of surplussed operating room articles ranging from surgical linens, to aortic punches and sutures, to intubation rods, and so much more. As you might imagine, our Ukrainian constituents eagerly anticipate and welcome these articles. While this load is rather small by our typical volumetric measure of shipping containers, its value and potential to save lives is incredibly enormous! As such, we extend a deep and heartfelt "thank you" to Ms. Kelley and ALL at the Branch who have touched these articles and boxes over the past months. Good work, OGT Maryland, your efforts touch more people than you might think...



Shipment to Sri Lanka



On December 2nd, the Maryland Branch loaded a 20-foot shipping container bound for Sri Lanka with 6,000lbs of medical equipment and supplies - including hospital infant bassinets, respiratory equipment and supplies, and 100's of eyeglasses; as well as, hospital beds and mattresses, durable medical equipment, sports equipment and soft toys. This shipment was formulated and executed in collaboration with the Hospital Services Council of Greater Washington Area of Potomac Falls, Virginia. The shipment will support a children's hospital in Sri Lanka. Good work, OGT Maryland Branch!

Donated Goods Heading to Ghana

On December 13th, a team of 5 OGT volunteers shuttled more than 12,000lbs of our inventory of medical equipment and supplies, clothes, books, beds, mattresses, and durable medical equipment to a collection point in Clinton, MD for the pre-staging of a shipment to Ghana to go the following week. Three full truck loads were used to transfer the inventory! Though many, many thanks go to our volunteers which touched every single box and article that were transferred, special recognition goes to Tony, Bruce, Norm, Rik, and Elwood for their tireless efforts and dedication in making OGT Maryland Branch into the arms and legs of Jesus Christ in this world. Via our Ghana constituents, we can be assured that the people of Ghana are indeed very grateful for the work that OGT Maryland does every day!



Feeding the People



At OGT Maryland, we are constantly working to help those we serve. On December 13th, Dawn and Rick made a delivery of food to Pastor Coats at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Baltimore. Pastor Coats was so appreciative of the donation, as it will help feed needy members of his congregation. We thank all of you who responded to our recent plea for food. Homelessness and food insecurity will unfortunately remain with us throughout the new year. Today, we are asking you to prayerfully consider helping us to combat hunger here in Maryland, as well as in the countries we serve in Africa. We will be accepting canned goods, dry goods, and powdered milk for our Maryland families. Donations may be dropped off at the warehouse during regular operating hours. For our African families, please consider a monetary donation. You can give online at our website. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

[Visit our Website](#)

Special Donation from MedStar Harbor Hospital

OGT Maryland has continued to foster ongoing relationships with local area hospitals including MedStar Harbor Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland. MedStar's most recent donation of fifteen infant bassinets will be a welcome addition to the hospitals and

clinics that we support abroad. Special thanks to Harbor Hospital for continuing to support OGT Maryland and our ecumenical humanitarian outreach.

2024 Coat Collection



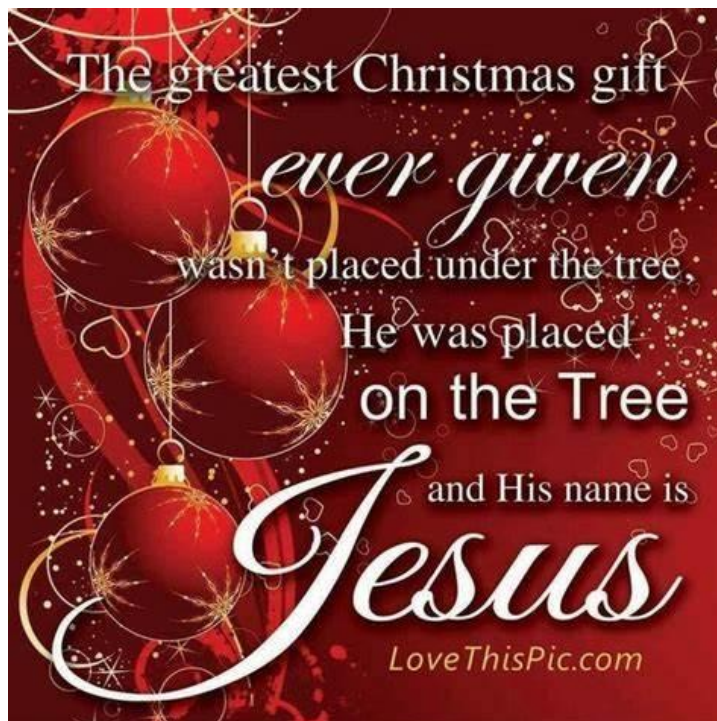
Thanks to everyone who donated or collected winter coats for our annual coat drive. A special "Shout Out" goes to Lianna and Ellie, students from Archbishop Spalding High School, who organized a coat drive at their school! This year was a banner year! Between November 1 and December 18, we distributed over 1,000 coats - 1,040 to be exact. Your donations have blessed many in Baltimore City, Appalachia, and Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties. How wonderful that your warm coats will share the warmth of God's love.

Closed for the Holidays



So that our volunteers can spend time with their families, the OGT Warehouse will be closed from December 23rd through January 5th.

REFLECTION FOR TODAY



JOIN US IN PRAYER

Please remember our OGT community in your prayers!

- Our Volunteers
- Our Donors and Supporters
- Recipients of our humanitarian aid

Continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and for an end to these wars.



USED PRINTER CARTRIDGE PROGRAM



Orphan Grain Train accepts your used printer cartridges as part of a recycling program that provides funding for OGT. Please continue to bring your depleted cartridges to the warehouse when you come to volunteer, donate, or visit.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Orphan Grain Train is always looking for new volunteers. Many opportunities, both large and small, are available. For more information, please call 410-417-9674 or stop by the warehouse any Monday or Tuesday morning (9:00 - noon), Tuesday evening (5:00 - 7:00 p.m.), or the second or fourth Saturday of each month (9:00 - noon).



Warehouse Location:
621 East-West Blvd.,
Millersville MD 21108

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1741
Millersville MD 21108

Branch Manager: Bruce Coonradt
Email: bkcoonradt515@aol.com
Call us at: 410-417-9674

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Contact us for details on our
Medical Walk Out Program
including donations and availability.
410-417-9674



