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Orphan Grain Train's Logistics driver Bob Schleppenbach delivered a 5,300-gallon water tanker to Asheville, NC. We are working with Fuller Center Disaster ReBuilders at Calvary Church, whom will set up the tanker and take it to be refilled as needed. They have plenty of bottled drinking water but are in desperate need of running water to flush toilets. Pictured L-R: Aaron Ratliff, Construction Director for Fuller Center Disaster ReBuilders & Bob Schleppenbach, OGT's Logistic driver.

Helene's Horrifying Destruction

Hurricane Helene caused widespread destruction and fatalities across Southeastern United States in September. Helene made landfall at peak intensity in the Big Bend region of Florida, with maximum sustained winds of 140 mph. As it weakened it moved quickly inland to a post-tropical cyclone over Tennessee then stalled, causing catastrophic rainfall-triggered flooding particularly in western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee, and southwestern Virginia, and spawned numerous tornadoes before dissipating on September 29.

While writing this in mid-October, at least 228 people were killed from Helene and this number is predicted to rise as many are still missing. The heartbreaking reality is that some families have lost several members from households. Small towns were wiped out with little to no warning, killing many residents. The widespread destruction made it nearly impossible to reach people with hundreds of miles of roads destroyed and covered with debris from mudslides & raging waters.

Continue reading on pages 2 & 3 to learn more about OGT helping the many families devastated from Helene.

Helene's Horrific Destruction



Many small towns were completely flooded or washed away in western North Carolina. OGT plans to help the many families for the long haul of clean up and restoration.

Orphan Grain Train immediately sprang into action to find ways we could bring comfort to so many hurting people. We were able to connect with Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Asheville, NC to set up for disaster relief efforts. Orphan Grain Train headquarters in Norfolk, NE purchased 29,000 pounds of various non-perishable foods that was loaded with 108 disaster cleaning buckets, hygiene kits and other supplies for Asheville that was unloaded on Sunday, October 6. Then the request came in for water, not for drinking but for showers and flushing toilets. OGT immediately filled our 5,300-gallon tanker and headed to Emmanuel Lutheran Church again. OGT Logistics driver Bob Schleppenbach delivered the water tanker on Wednesday, October 9 and it was hooked up for showers & toilet use. The tanker was left which will be taken & refilled by disaster relief personnel.

OGT began talking with Fuller Center Disaster ReBuilders, whom we've worked with in the past with hurricane relief efforts. They are set up in another area of Asheville at the Calvary Church and requested help also with water. OGT's 2nd 5,300-gallon water tanker left a few days later to be used by Fuller Center in Asheville. The tanker was set up for flushing toilets for volunteers & local families to use. Toni Ratliff with Fuller Center Disaster ReBuilders had this to say about OGT "This area of western NC didn't have running water until Bob rolled in with a tanker full. We can only use running water to flush, so this water is truly a blessing! We love OGT!! Blessings, Toni"

This is just the beginning of relief supplies for this area of destruction. Several OGT locations have also taken action with collecting and delivering disaster relief supplies and food to various hurricane devastated locations.



OGT included 108 Disaster Cleaning Buckets on the first shipment of relief supplies & food to N. Carolina.



OGT's Logistic driver Dan Pollock is unloading food and disaster relief supplies at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Asheville, NC.



OGT's 5,300-gallon tanker is set up for use with showers and flushing toilets at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Asheville, N.C. Volunteers & local families were grateful for the use of the tanker and also for food and supplies that were delivered earlier. Praise be to God.

This will be a long-term clean up and restoration process and we plan to help families get through this devastating disaster. If you can find it in your heart to give, you can give securely on our website at www.ogt.org or use the enclosed envelope to mail a check earmarked for hurricane relief. Thank you for your support with giving comfort to many families that have lost so much. God's blessings to you and your family.

Give and it will be given to you...

It's that time of year....THANK YOU.....for your prayers and financial support as your gifts help to build the Kingdom and assist Orphan Grain Train with fulfilling its mission and outreach. Allowing us to provide aid for disaster relief this year with Hurricane Helene and the Iowa and Nebraska tornadoes and floods. Shipping international aid -105 shipments to 20 different countries. Several states have received a total of 173 semi loads of disaster relief and humanitarian aid. You can read more detailed information in the shipping chart which is in the Fall Newsletter. Making a gift with your (RMD) Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA will be a great blessing to the many we serve throughout the USA and the world. The deadline for giving a gift from your IRA is December 31. Consider other ways of giving such as from your Donor advised fund or a gift of stock or mutual funds. Thank you....so much for your gifts. It is a great blessing through your generosity and warm hearts that Orphan Grain Train is able to do so much worldwide spreading the love of Jesus Christ! Special note that anytime of the year and especially at year end, please prayerfully consider a gift of Real Estate or naming Orphan Grain Train in your Will or Trust or naming Orphan Grain Train as a beneficiary to a life insurance policy or savings account. Spreading the love of Jesus Christ is what we do and 98 cents of every dollar given goes directly to our mission. If you have any questions regarding a specific gift or planned gift, please contact either Tom Watson (402-940-2007) twatson@ogt.org or Ralph Schmitt (260-452-4207) ralphschmidt1947@gmail.com. If you wish to complete a stock gift or gift of mutual funds, we have a Charles Schwab account. Please contact me, Tom Watson for assistance in completing that gift. May God bless you this season of the birth of HIS son, Jesus Christ.

OGT's Dedication of New Servant Center

Orphan Grain Train staff is humbled and thank God for supporters, donors and volunteers that helped the vision of a Servant Center become a reality. On Friday, September 13, 400 people from all over the US joined us for a Dedication Service and Ceremony to bless the new addition to the Norfolk warehouse in Nebraska.



Dedication Service

There was a common theme with readings, Gospel and sermon: How we live out Christ in our world, faith as a gift then faith in action. This new Servant Center is not about the new beautiful building but the real work is in the hands of everyone here, doing our part for OGT to help others in need. Love thy neighbor as yourself.

Dedication Ceremony

The ceremony was a time for many involved with the completion of the Servant Center to share briefly what this means to them. Those sharing included Norfolk Mayor Josh Moenning, Davis Design, Otte Construction, Thrivent Financial, OGT's Larry Zimmerman, OGT's former Norfolk warehouse manager Doug Trampe & Rev. Dale Meyer president emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. The ceremony closed with words from OGT's President Rev. Ray



The Dedication Service included L-R: Rev. Richard Snow; President of LCMS Nebraska District, Rev. Ray Wilke; OGT President, Rev. Ralph Schmidt; OGT Director of Donor Advising & Grant Schmidt; OGT VP to dedicate and bless the new Servant Center for the Glory of God.



Part of the Dedication Ceremony was L-R: Norfolk Mayor Josh Moenning & former Norfolk Warehouse Manager Doug Trampe discussing the grandeur of the new addition.

Wilke. He shared about the very beginning with his vision and many key people that helped form Orphan Grain Train. His thankfulness for supporters & volunteers from the Bible "You are our letters from Christ written on our hearts". Rev. Wilke was given a standing ovation as a tribute to all he has done through his vision to continued daily works with the mission of OGT.

You can view videos of the Dedication Service & Ceremony on YouTube at Orphan Grain Train channel - <https://www.youtube.com/@orphangraintrain3295>



Photos are of the new warehouse section being used during the dedication and today with pallets of aid. Soon racks will be put up on both long walls and in the center to be filled with pallets of aid ready to be shipped worldwide.

OGT's International Convention

On Saturday, September 14, OGT brought together speakers from as far away as Russia, Ukraine, Republic of Georgia and as close as Nebraska to share how food & donations from supporters impacts their part of His world. We had 22 out of 27 OGT locations with representatives attending the two-day event. Over 300 attendees from California to Connecticut came to be a part of this special day.

Orphan Grain Train is expanding Adopt-An-Orphanage into Ukraine and welcomed speaker Alla Vasylieva



The display of 56 donated handmade quilts that were auctioned off to raise funds for Iowa families recovering from massive flood waters.



Some of the special guests recognized were L-R: Garry Fuller, former Coordinator for Castle Rock Collection Center in CO, Cathy Robinson with the Brakebush family and is Wisconsin Branch Manager in Westfield & Elfe Eberle, former Maryland Branch Manager in Millersville. Grant Schmidt, OGT's VP introduced the volunteers.

God has blessed us to be a blessing to others and to share the Word of God and that is what Orphan Grain Train is all about. 'Thank You' to ALL our eager and dedicated volunteers, donors & supporters! We could not do what we do without You! To God be the Glory.

You can view videos of the speakers on YouTube at Orphan Grain Train channel - <https://www.youtube.com/@orphangraintrain3295>

with Bible Orphan Ministry to share how OGT's aid & food has helped many orphans in Ukraine. Pastor Evgeny Raskatov updated about OGT's Hanna House in Russia with the many orphans that have graduated from their program.

We also heard from Vitaliy Smolin with Public Organization 'Open Door Foundation' in Ukraine. OGT has shipped several containers of aid & Mercy Meals which have been shared with many displaced families and those hiding in their homes near the front lines.

Irakli Saralidze shared about hardships in the Republic of Georgia and the increased need for food and aid. Bill McAllister from Nebraska was instrumental with OGT's first mission trip which included Concordia Seward football team to replace two roofs on homes in Oklahoma.

Keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, Emeritus President of Concordia Seminary (St. Louis, MO.) shared how doing for others is our purpose on earth. A special recognition was given to several OGT long-time volunteers to thank them for their time & service. OGT also had 56 exquisite handmade quilts donated for auction which raised nearly \$13,000.00 to help families recovering from record-breaking flood waters in Iowa. Thank you for your time and the gift of these precious quilts.



Chris Carstens, OGT's Domestic Shipping & Inventory Manager/ Int. Shipping Asst. is standing with speaker Irakli Saralidze with Union of Investments & Humanitarian Projects in Republic of Georgia.



In memory of OGT's co-founder Clayton Andrews, who was instrumental from the start with Rev. Ray Wilke, a quilt of his ties and photo was displayed. Clayton passed away on OGT's 24th anniversary in 2016.

Food That Endures

During the Servant Center Dedication open house, people were able to take tours and see the new semi-automated Mercy Meals room that can accommodate up to two lines for groups of six to make meals to feed the hungry worldwide. This semi-automated Mercy Meals was started in the Norfolk warehouse in September of 2020 stemming from Covid shutdowns. The group pictured, with a couple of different volunteers, have been doing this since 2020 and are reaching 3 million meals made! As you might be able to see, they are producing a new Mercy Meals mixture with beans also containing soy, vitamins, minerals, dehydrated vegetables, flavoring & rice. The new room is larger and set up for more groups to pack meals for the hungry.



OGT volunteers are preparing Mercy Meals Rice & Beans mixture with the semi-automated line in the new Servant Center. They pack every Monday & Wednesday morning. L-R: Pat Levell, Nancy Dolesh, Donn Cheyney, Liz Hagmann & Phil Zastrow. Thank you for your time & servant hearts!

Would you and some friends, co-workers or church group like to help feed the hungry? We are looking for groups interested in making Mercy Meals to help increase the number of lives nourished & fed. For more information, please contact Nettie at OGT's Norfolk warehouse at 402-371-7393 X108 or email at agrizzard@ogt.org.



The new mixture of Mercy Meals contains the same needed nutritional value but with the addition of red beans.

Nourishment for Haiti

Orphan Grain Train's Norfolk warehouse in Nebraska was able to ship 256,608 Mercy Meals to Josias Marin, our recipient in Thomassique, Haiti! The much-



1,188 boxes of Mercy Meals were distributed in Haiti! It has been 3.5 years since we have been able to get a shipment into the country. Praise be to God!

needed meals were received with shouts of joy! Our last shipment to Haiti which was to Josias was in March of 2021 – 3 ½ years ago! Thomassique is located in Haiti's Central Plateau region with high levels of poverty, malnutrition, and food insecurity. With the distribution of Mercy Meals comes hope, nutrition and the Word of God.

Josias and his wife Angela are with Hope Lutheran Church & Forde Christian Academy, where many of the meals were shared

with students and congregation members along with families from the community and rural region. Angela had this to say about distributing the life-saving food "We all praise and thank the Lord for His goodness in getting this support through to this destination in Haiti and for His mercy in the lives of many hungry people!!!" Praise be to God!

Where your money goes



Caring for the Orphans

Thanks to the efforts of Kirk Rosin from North Dakota and Alla Vasyloeva, Director of Bible Orphan Ministry, OGT is excited to announce that we are establishing an Adopt-An-Orphanage ministry to serve orphanages in Ukraine. This is in addition to our AAO ministry in Russia. Alla spent her childhood growing up in an orphanage. In 2002 she started serving in Ukrainian orphanages, conducting Bible studies and camps. Her team visits orphanages, nursing homes, and other institutions to assist orphans, the disabled, and the elderly. They share the love of Christ and provide humanitarian aid to



OGT donations of Mercy Meals, hygiene supplies, feminine products and Bibles are shared with children at an orphanage in Ukraine from Alla with Bible Orphan Ministry. Thank you, OGT supporters for sharing the love of Christ and giving comfort to many in need.

those suffering from the disastrous war with Russia. They have received shipments from OGT.

The *Doneshi Orphanage* is located about 50 miles west and south of Zhytomyr. These orphans are special-needs children with such things as autism, speech impediments, etc. The *Korostyshyv Orphanage*

is located about 40 miles east of Zhytomyr, on the way to Kiev. Many of these orphans also have extreme special needs. The *Nova Borova Orphanage* is located about 50 miles north of Zhytomyr. These orphans are extreme special-needs cases.

We ask you to prayerfully consider adopting one of these orphanages. We ask for a contribution of \$3,400 per year. Your gifts help cover the expenses of the AAO team and pay for humanitarian aid, as they visit these orphanages to do Gospel outreach and deliver relief supplies. Donors are able to specify which orphanage they wish to adopt. For more information contact Paul Leckband, Director of Spiritual Correspondence, either by emailing pleckband@ogt.org or calling 402-992-0578 (cell).

For Unto Us A Child Is Born

This will be the last Orphan Grain Train newsletter for 2024. As we come to the end of another year, we would like to thank everyone for his or her support, contributions and volunteer time during this past year. Orphan Grain Train would not be able to feed the hungry, clothe the needy or help those affected by natural disasters if it was not for your support. *Thank you!* We also want to 'thank you' for your continued support, especially for those less fortunate this Christmas season.



We would like to wish everyone a healthy and blessed Christmas with a Christ filled New Year.

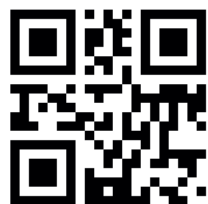
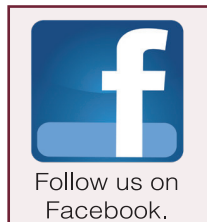


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Charity Navigator
has given Orphan Grain
Train "4 Stars", which
is their highest rating.



#orphangraintrain



Orphan Grain Train has already delivered two 5,300-gallon tankers for hurricane Helene relief efforts. Read on pages 1-3 how these tankers were used and about other relief efforts being done.