

Orphan Grain Train †

Relief for Human Need Worldwide



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Being the Hands & Feet of Jesus

Trust God's Plan

This is a touching story that unfolded because a wrong GPS directive sent OGT staff to a wrong address in N.C. Recently OGT's President; Pastor Ray Wilke, OGT's Logistic Director; Brent Kummer, and Bauer Underground, Stu Bauer were driving in N.C. to meet Tony Ratcliff and Nathan West with Fuller Disaster Rebuilders when the GPS took them to a wrong house.



The house obviously had severe damage from the flooding and not livable. Stu and Pastor Wilke got out thinking this was where they were meeting the Fuller people when Tina, the owner of the house, appeared and they start to talk. She shared how her house is not livable and was rummaging through what was left. Then the people from Fuller Rebuilders found them and Nathan West got out of his truck and Tina began to cry and they hugged. Now for the rest of the story; during the flood, Tina was at Black Mountain and needed to get to her chemo treatment at Old Fort. Nathan, a complete stranger, drove her around the flooding to her needed appointment and she had not seen him since. She is a single mom fighting breast cancer and taking regular chemo treatments. Now OGT is learning of the struggles this young lady has and Pastor Wilke, on behalf of OGT, gave her a check for \$1,000.00. But the best part of this story is that The OGT crew went back later and the video below is of Pastor Wilke giving Tina an additional check for \$10,000.00 to help with expenses of all she is facing with loss of house, medical bills and a car that is needing some TLC too. And all of

this occurred because of the wrong yet right GPS directives. God had a plan with OGT's visit to NC. Please pray for God's healing hands on Tina.

[Video of Tina's Surprise](#)

The Thrivent logo consists of the word "thrivent" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. A small red heart icon is positioned to the right of the letter "t". A registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the upper right of the heart icon.

**Thrivent Choice Dollars
Expire Monday, March
31**

Attention Thrivent Members –

Please direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Orphan Grain Train before they expire on Monday, March 31, 2025. Please keep in mind that the phones will be very busy on that Monday so why not designate your Choice Dollars Today. It is simple and doesn't cost you anything but your time. YOU MUST RENEW THE DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR CHOICE DOLLARS EVERY YEAR. YOUR CHOICE OF A PRIOR YEAR DOES NOT CARRY OVER. There are two ways to direct your Choice Dollars. Go to www.thriventchoice.com or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "choice dollars" at automation.

Thank you for considering OGT when making your Choice Dollars donation.

'Increase Your Impact' Ends Soon

So far, OGT has given \$50,000.00 in \$1,000.00 checks to families that have lost everything in the California fires. We pray it will give some hope as families work through this very difficult time. Thrivent is offering a Match in support of OGT's

disaster relief efforts in California. We need your help and Thrivent will increase your impact until this **Monday, March 10.**

To Give go to: <https://thrivent.cotribute.co/events/1091098/detail>

This Thrivent Match can ONLY be made through Thrivent's online giving platform. OGT cannot accept checks or donations for the Thrivent Match. As part of the response, for every \$2 donated through Thrivent's online giving platform or gifts from a Donor Advised Fund through Thrivent Charitable Impact and Investing to Orphan Grain Train, Thrivent will match \$1, up to \$500,000. This matching opportunity will run until the sooner of the match cap being met or 3/10/2025. Thrivent pays all processing fees so 100% of your gift goes directly to the cause.

Thank you for your support of California disaster relief efforts.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

God provided an absolutely beautiful blue sky, sunny, warm day for Houston Branch's Ribbon Cutting event. It was exciting to see so many community people attending knowing they were hearing and seeing how

the OGT ministry provides for those in need. The above picture is of the Houston Board Members: L-R: Erika Adams, Bernice Wolf, Mike Rathje, Marti Rathje - backrow Steve Harris, Greg Balfany; front row Holly Harris, Jeff Bibler. The picture below is Jeff Wagner, the Mayor of Pasadena, TX with Mike Rathje, Houston Branch Manager. Make plans to attend their upcoming Dedication on Sunday, March 23. More details to come!



Houston Branch



Many Hands Helped

Mid-Atlantic Branch had beautiful weather for loading our third container to Ukraine on Saturday, March 1st. Twenty-two volunteers came to help at the warehouse, eleven to load and another eleven who packed 30 (!) boxes.

Our container team did a great job of fitting over 100 non-boxed pieces – bikes, medical equipment, children's items and suitcases – around 1,253 boxes. We finished in just three hours. Truck driver, Chris, was impressed by OGT's work and agreed that many people would be blessed by the shipment.



Mid-Atlantic Branch



Smile = Thank you!

Church of God of Prophecy in Panama was thrilled to unload a container of various aid and medical equipment from [Central Nebraska Branch volunteers in Grand Island](#). Many wonderful gifts to bless many in need! Distribution pictures coming soon.



Social Charity Fund Compassion in Kyrgyzstan will soon be receiving school desks, medical equipment and various aid from [Wisconsin Branch in Westfield](#). Thank you, donors and volunteers for sharing many blessings with families, elderly and those disabled living in poverty.



Pastor Carl Hampsch and his wife Karen, with Casa de Esperanza Orphanage, (House of Hope), located in Puerto Penasco, Mexico, stopped at the [Phoenix Branch warehouse](#). Pastor Carl shared the enlightening history of Esperanza with our volunteers. Before he returns to Mexico, he will travel to India and spend ten days training pastors in India. They picked up children's clothing and layette kits to take to Mexico. He thanked Phoenix Branch for these and past donations to Esperanza.

Additional News

[Norfolk warehouse volunteers in Nebraska](#) loaded 34 pallets of various foods to be distributed to many, many families living on reservations from Native American Heritage Association in Black Hawk, SD.

Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso was grateful to receive sewing machines, household items and other goods from Norfolk warehouse donors and volunteers in Nebraska.

Weekly Devotion

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are proved right when You speak and justified when You judge. Surely, I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely You desire truth in the inner parts; You teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones You have crushed rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (Ps. 51:1-12)

Failure: Have you ever failed at something? C'mon, you know you have. I have. We all have! I was a pole vaulter in high school. At the District track meet my senior year, I failed to clear the opening height. I failed my first English test in college. And I was an English major! There have been many times when I failed my wife and children. There were times when I failed at my jobs. I could continue, but I think you get the point. Most importantly, we have all failed against God. We have sinned against Him from the day we were born. In fact, we were even sinful at the moment

of our conception. Those failures were enough to condemn us eternally. That's God's judgment against sin. Take heart! Despite our sin, God has provided for our forgiveness and salvation. Jesus carried our sins with Him to the cross. We are no longer failures! The prophet writes, "*Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity.*" (Joel 2:13b). We may be failures by the standards of this world. We may be failures in our own minds and in the sight of others, but we have the clear testimony from Scripture that God's love never fails us. And His love covers up our failures.

Prayer: Forgive and cover our failures, Lord Jesus, even as You promised through Your own death and resurrection. Amen.

By Paul Leckband OGT's Director of Spiritual Correspondence



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