

SHIPMENT TO LIBERIA

-by Harold Gessner

A container was loaded at the Bottineau warehouse with 1180 boxes and some miscellaneous items on November 3rd. Included in the shipment were clothing, blankets, school supplies, school desks, hospital supplies, and Christian literature. It is scheduled to arrive in Monrovia, Liberia, on December 18th.

We speak weekly with Sam, and he told us that a theologian from Concordia University, St. Paul, MN, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Trapp, held a conference for the pastors of the new Lutheran Synod of Liberia at the church and school we support. Dr. Trapp felt a need for new blackboards and has plans to replace the ones at the school. He was also moved to provide funds to purchase ten acres of land as the beginning of a project for a Lutheran Theological Seminary in Liberia.

The Christian Day School has an enrollment of 208 students in grades one through twelve and 22 teachers and administrators; some are part time, rotating between other schools. There are several Lutheran schools in Monrovia operating under a governing board.

In a recent phone conversation with Sam, he expressed concern about an uprising in the Ivory Coast, the country that borders Liberia on the east. They elected a new president and the defeated one refused to step down; instead he led a rebellion. Now people from the Ivory Coast are flowing over the borders into Liberia.

VISIT www.ogt.org

See how Orphan Grain Train is bringing relief for human need worldwide.

HELP FOR HAITI

-by Harold Gessner

Early in November we received word from our home office in Norfolk, NE, describing the unbearable conditions of the people of Haiti. This was the result of the hurricane and torrential rains which followed the earthquake. One of the requests from Norfolk was for quilts. We had an inventory of 750 quilts. We also had boxes of light-weight clothing for children and adults.

So, on November 14th, after servicing the old '95 bus and trailer and praying a silent prayer, Avonne and I headed down the road on a 1400 mile trip to deliver quilts and clothing to Norfolk, where they would become part of a container to be shipped to Haiti. Upon our arrival, help was waiting to unload the boxes, and after a few visits with the staff, we were on the road again. The trip was completed without incident and Avonne and I shared the hours at the wheel.

Orphanages throughout Haiti saw a great influx of children following the earthquake. Thousands of children were left without parents and were forced to live in understaffed and undersupplied orphanages. The Lutherans have had a Christian mission presence and distribution ability in Haiti even prior to the earthquake. So, thanks to the expertise of our shipper, Clayton Andrews, there has been a constant flow of containers into Haiti from Norfolk. OGT, together with "Kids Against Hunger" have packaged thousands of packs of chicken, rice, vegetables, and vitamins to feed many of those in hunger.

The name and character of OGT is explained by the words of Christ recorded in John 14:18: "*I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you*". This verse is a great motivator for the work in Haiti, as much of it is directed toward orphans.

Thanks, LWML

-by Shirley Hall

Last June, at the ND District LWML [Convention](#) in Bismarck, the delegates voted a Mission Grant of \$7,500 for the OGT for this biennium (2010-2012). OGT has received \$4,000 of this amount and the \$3,500 will be available soon. OGT relies solely on donations and these monies help make it possible to ship containers to Liberia, etc. We want to thank all the LWML ladies for their "Mites", which make these Mission Grants possible.

We also want to say "Thank You" to all the ladies who sew the wonderful and warm quilts which can be sent to needy people at home and around the world. May God bless each of you for your labor of love!!

IT'S HERE!!

A NEW WAY TO HELP OGT

As you may know, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has launched a new charitable grant program and benefit of membership called [Thrivent Choice](#). As always, Orphan Grain train is grateful for your consideration when you make charitable giving plans. If you are a Thrivent Financial member who has Thrivent Choice Dollars, we ask you to consider our ministry as you help direct Thrivent Financial's charitable funds. This money must be used by March 2011.

1. CALL 1-800-847-4836

An automated system will answer the phone with a message that ends with the words, "Briefly, how can I help you today?"

2. Speak the Words: "CHOICE DOLLARS". The receptionist will come on the line and ask a few questions to verify your account information.

3. Please select ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN, INC, NORTH DAKOTA DIVISION as your charitable organization.

Thank you for your past and present support. "GOD BLESS YOU"

For more information, contact Harold or Avonne Gessner at 701-228-5102 or E-mail hgogt@srt.com

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

-by Harold Gessner

Thanks be to God for moving the hearts of all of you to do what you do to help and support the Orphan Grain Train and especially our ND Branch here in Bottineau. All of our ND supporters have been great. Inasmuch as there is not a Branch in Wyoming and Montana, we have received a great deal of support from all of you out west. I must not forget a few faithful givers in the east from Minnesota and Michigan. "Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me".

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

-gleaned by Myrlin Hall

As promised, we will include in our ND Branch Newsletter, news on an international scale as reported by our head office in Norfolk, NE. Our God has opened many doors and has enabled us to be the hands and feet of our Lord Jesus to many destitute people.

By mid November, OGT had already logged 125 containers shipped in 2010. This takes much effort and co-operation on the part of our Branches and their volunteers across the nation.

HAITI

Sandra Koch, our receiver in Haiti, recently E-mailed our office commending the OGT on the high quality of goods sent to Haiti. Some of what they receive from other sources is sub-standard and even has to be thrown away. She very much appreciates our gifts. Let's keep up the high standard of quality.

A container of dental equipment and supplies was recently sent to Haiti. It will be turned into a dental clinic there. Also, a

container from the IN Branch and 2 from Norfolk were sent with various supplies.

Sandra has visited two orphanages. At the first one they delivered NEW underwear, clothes, soap, paper, crayons, and a chalk board and chalk, It's amazing what an actual chalkboard will do! They propped it against the old wall under the ripped tarp roof, and you know—it looked like a school. She also took them a soccer ball and jump ropes. There are 35 children living there, some from the earthquake, living in tents on rock ground. All the children do have bunk beds salvaged from the quake and she noticed the beds were made with single blankets (from Orphan Grain Train) and it looked orderly. Their food is stored in a old rotted corner room and cooked outdoors in charcoal pots. The wash lady is ALWAYS doing laundry and lays the children's clothes out on the rock to dry. The children do not push or scream and it seems like a family unit. OGT will continue to provide food to them and when our next shipment of school desks come in, they will receive 30 desks with chairs.

At the second orphanage she visited, the conditions were BAD. Approximately 35 children ages 1-14 are living outdoors in tents on the rocky ground with no blankets. They do not go to school. Their orphanage was destroyed in the quake and some people allowed the pastor and the orphans to camp out on the side yard. There is no water, no kitchen, but somehow the children are peaceful ...some are very sad, others quiet, some scared, but they seem like a unit. They have looked at houses to house this group, but the group was declined by the owners since they did not want an orphanage in their houses. This group has not one bed, not one chair, nothing but some clothes and pots. Some of the children look sickly and malnourished, but Sandra has put them on the OGT food distribution plan so they will get at least one meal per day. (Imagine what those children would have thought if they would have sat up to any one of our dinner tables on Thanksgiving Day!)

There are now more than 2,000 deaths attributed to cholera in Haiti.

****WISH LIST****

New or good used Bibles
School Kits
Health Kits
Layettes
Personal Care items
Portals of Prayer
Sunday School Materials
Christian Literature
(but not The Lutheran Witness)
Children's Clothing
New underwear for children & adults
Winter coats & jackets for adults & children
****Especially financial support**

****NEEDED****

We are in need of volunteers (men and women) to help at the Bottineau warehouse. We work each Friday from 9:00 AM to noon sorting and packing clothing. Come as an individual to help, an LWML group, a group of friends, etc. Work just one day or more—whatever fits your schedule. Extra hands are greatly appreciated and you'll enjoy the fellowship. Please notify Avonne of your intent at 701-228-5102 or hgogt@srt.com

Orphan Grain Train's Mission Statement

In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near. Sometimes that character expresses itself as a word well-spoken, sometimes as a bandage well-applied, and sometimes as a child well-fed.