

For the past year we have been free to carry on normal work, and that's what we've been doing — so eagerly perhaps that we've not had time to get out newsletters. Many things of interest have happened, but we doubt that we'll be able to record them within the space of this letter.

To begin, we're glad to report that our financial situation looks a bit brighter. In 1955 we showed a profit of just over \$7,000, but in 1956, the year the violence started, economic reprisals and legal pressures began, we showed a net loss from operations of \$26,068. This was partially offset by gifts totaling \$14,578, leaving us with a net loss of \$11,500. In 1957, while violence and pressure were at their height, our net loss spiraled to \$46,440. But once again, even as the opposition mounted in intensity, so did the loyal support of friends, who contributed, unsolicited, the amazing sum of \$37,099. We wound up the year only \$9,341 out of our pockets. Incidentally, this was the year that the Sumter County Grand Jury accused Koinonia of doing the violence to itself in order to stir up sympathy and get rich from the gifts. The next year, 1958, as the tensions began to ease and we were able to devote more energies to production, our net loss was \$22,059. Gifts that year amounted to \$12,685, leaving us with a deficit of \$9,374. Thus, the three years of struggle cost us \$30,215 over and above the gifts which were received. This money was borrowed from friends, and we are in the process of paying it back.

Last year, 1959, was a year of comparative peace, with nothing more serious than boycott with which to contend. Our production soared, and our gross revenue was high. For the first time since 1955 we showed a profit — \$1,732. Gifts of \$14,541 boosted this to \$16,274 and enabled us to lift some of the debt burden.

Some of the factors contributing to our heavy losses during the three years of violence were (1) destruction of property — \$14,000 plus; (2) loss of time, with energies consumed in non-productive work; (3) higher cost of procuring and selling commodities at great distances, due to boycott; (4) capital losses sustained in the shifting from poultry, hogs, field crops and roadside market to the processing and shelling of pecans; (5) expense of evacuating half of the community to New Jersey and maintaining them there; and (6) fines and legal expense.

The figures quoted above are from reports of a firm of Certified Public Accountants who annually audit our books. If more detailed information is desired, we shall be glad to give it on request.

But perhaps the greatest joy of the year has been the strengthening of the bonds of unity and love between Koinonia and other Christian church-communities. Forest River at Fordville, N. D., Reba Place Fellowship and Peoria Street Fellowship in Chicago have sent brothers and sisters at various times during the year to help with our physical and spiritual needs. And one of our members, Will Wittkamper, spent several months at Forest River helping with spring farm work. In June, five communities — Reba Place, Church of Hope, Forest River, Koinonia and the Community Farm of the Brethren, Bright, Ontario — held a three day conference near Chicago for fellowship, spiritual renewal and discussion of problems common to church-community life. About 60 people were in attendance. Growing out of the conference was increased awareness of and concern for one another, a renewed joy in our common commitment to Jesus and His Gospel and a deepened sense of responsibility to witness to His way of love, brotherhood and sharing.

Just before school opened the last of August, we were notified by the County School Superintendent that three of our children, Lora Browne, Jan Jordan and Billy Wittkamper, would not be admitted to the Americus High School. The three young people had graduated from Thalean Elementary School and, along with their classmates and others from the county, were given the option of attending either Americus High School or the County High School at Plains, Ga. Because the Americus school is a better one and would afford them more thorough preparatory training for college, the children elected to go to it. Besides our three, 27 others from the county made the same choice; and all 27 were accepted into the Americus High School. Ours were the only three in the county who were rejected. We asked the County School Board to explain, and they said they had released all 30 of the children, including ours, to the City School Board, but that the City Board had refused to accept our three. When the City Board was asked for reasons, they said that while the children had good scholastic and deportment records, they had been rejected "for the best interests of all concerned." It certainly did not seem to be to the best interests of our children, so all six parents appeared before the City Board and asked that they please reconsider their decision. The next day we were informed by the Board that their decision was unchanged.

Seeing no hope of resolving the situation, we phoned the state Superintendent of Schools and apprised him of what had taken place. When no help was forthcoming, we contacted the American Civil Liberties Union and related events to them. Their response was swift and decisive. In a short while they assigned a very capable attorney from Macon, Ga., Mr. William Harrell, to investigate. On the basis of this investigation we asked Mr. Harrell to file suit in the federal courts against the City School Board. We were reluctant to do this, for we feel that any kind of pressure, even legal pressure should be a last resort. After earnest deliberation and searching, we agreed to file the suit on Monday, September 12. The preliminary injunction is set to be heard Wednesday, Sept. 28. Meanwhile our young people are out of school and are being tutored here in the hope that they will not get too far behind. So far as we know, this is the first time white students have been barred from white public school because of the religious and social beliefs of their parents.

Georgia is still in the business of producing nuts. We're still trying to get as many of them as possible out of the state. Our prediction is that we can begin shipment around November 1. We have no carry-over of stocks, so can't fill orders for pecans until the new crop is ready. We believe that production will be less than it was last year — a year of shortages and high prices and low quality. We assure you of the highest

quality we can lay our hands on and at prices substantially the same. It may be necessary to adjust them up or down to meet the market situation. We will appreciate your orders, since our livelihood now comes almost entirely from pecan sales.

We are adding one more item — country cured hams. This was one of our major items at the roadside market before it was destroyed along with our curing facilities. We have built bigger and better facilities, and our hams are of higher quality than formerly. We buy fresh hams from a federally inspected plant, cure them with our own special formula, and smoke them the old fashioned way with a blend of hickory, sassafras, pecan and oak. They are aged to further improve the flavor. There are many government regulations and much red tape, but we believe we will have our permit for interstate shipments by Nov. 1. We can make shipments within the state of Georgia immediately. Prices are on the enclosed price list.

Besides the new cold storage room and smoke house, we have recently completed construction of a large hay shelter. It is 52 feet by 52 feet, 12 to 13 feet high, made of creosoted poles and aluminum roof, and is capable of holding about 150 tons of baled hay, or about half our annual production.

Last winter we planted about 200,000 pine trees, and they have survived the summer fairly well. We seem to have about 70% livability, which gives us a stand of around 700 trees per acre. This number will be adequate if we can keep out rabbits, which consider the young trees a winter delicacy, and fire.

Muscadine grape harvest is now in full swing. We have four acres of them, and rather than trying to process them ourselves, as we did last year, we are selling them to a cannery which is making them into muscadine sauce, a cranberry substitute.

During the past year, John and Joan Veldhuizen have become novices, and Arthur Lacey has been taken into provisional membership. Cliff and Peggy Campbell decided to return to Canada, where he has been assigned a parish in the United Church of Canada. They are now located at Springwater, Saskatchewan. Jim Jordan will enter Mercer University in Macon, Ga. this fall.

Practically all of us have been on trips this summer, visiting relatives and filling speaking engagements. Clarence has delivered lectures at Duke University Divinity School and at Eden Theological Seminary, as well as addressing the Ohio Disciples of Christ Convention, the South Dakota Congregational Ministers' Convocation, and the Student Christian Movement of New England. He held meetings in Newark and West Milton, Ohio, and spoke at the Men's Mass Meeting of the Church of the Brethren in Ludlow Falls, Ohio. In March he was the guest of the Community Church in Honolulu and addressed church, civic and student groups on the major islands. His fall schedule includes the Detroit Baptist Men's Retreat, the Second Congregational Church of Grand Rapids, the Agawam (Mass.) Church Federation, the New York State Baptist Convention, the Overseas Friendship Center in Utica, N; Y., and the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., and the Elders Association of the Baltimore (Md.) Presbytery.

Con was one of the speakers on the Florida Open Forum in West Palm Beach, Florida early in the year and he, John Veldhuizen and Cliff Campbell took part as speakers and discussion leaders in the University of Florida Ecumenical Conference this spring. This summer Con spoke to the Family Night fellowship of the First Baptist Church of Chicago and to the Evanston First Baptist young adult group.

As a result of the journey and meetings at Florida University, Miss Judy Ruhnke came to visit with us for several months during the summer. It was a very productive time for us since she was capable of fitting in wherever the need arose, whether it was in the field or in the kitchen. We trust it was profitable for her. So many others enriched our lives by stopping to visit this year. One of the joys of our existence is to know the many of you who have joined us in this witness. The door is open to any of you who can find a way to Koinonia.

From all of us at Koinonia

## Koinonia Community

RURAL ROUTE 2, AMERICUS, GEORGIA

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Nashville, Tennessee

BULK RATE U. S. POSTAGE PAID AMERICUS, GA. Permit No. 271
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Form 3547 Please

A.C. Miller,  
161 Eighth Ave., North,  
Nashville 3, Tennessee

Effective November 1, 1960. Subject to change without notice.

## KOINONIA FARM, Americus, Georgia

### SHELLED PECANS

#### One Pound Box

Postpaid anywhere in the U. S.

For foreign postage add 75¢

#### HALVES

\$2.25

#### PIECES

\$2.15

#### Two Pound Box

Postpaid as below

4.25

4.00

Boxes of 4, 6, 8, and 26 pound cellophane bags

1.80 lb.

1.70 lb.

Bulk - in boxes of 25 pounds (halves); and 26 pounds (pieces)

1.70 lb.

1.60 lb.

Special discount on shelled pecans. You may deduct 10% if you order two or more cases (25 to 26 pounds each), shipped to the same address. This applies to nuts in either cellophane sacks or in bulk, but only to shelled pecans.

### PECANS IN THE SHELL

Bulk 5 lb. bag - \$3.85 10 lb. bag - \$7.50 50 lb. bag - \$32.50 100 lb. bag - \$57.50

In one pound cello sacks 4 lbs. - \$3.50 6 lbs. - \$4.75 8 lbs. - \$6.50 26 lbs. - \$19.50

All prices are postpaid to one address except on orders going west of New Mexico, Colorado, Cheyenne, Wyoming and the Dakotas. For these, add 10¢ per pound on orders above 25 pounds going to one address.

We will be glad to mail your gift packages for you, enclosing a card; or you may send us your own card to enclose.

Our shelled pecans are packaged in attractive cellophane sacks printed with a Koinonia design on the front, and recipes for pecan pie, cake and pralines on the sides and back. You will want to use them for gifts for nearly any occasion.

### COUNTRY CURED HAMs - Smoked with a blend of hickory, sassafras, pecan and oak.

7 to 8 lbs. - \$8.00 8 to 9 lbs. - \$9.00 9 to 10 lbs. - \$10.00 10 to 11 lbs. - \$11.00

11 to 12 lbs. - \$12.00

We hope to begin shipping both hams and pecans around November 1.

To order, cut on line and send to Koinonia Farm, Americus, Georgia

### ORDER BLANK

Date of order \_\_\_\_\_

When ship \_\_\_\_\_

SHIP TO Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Street (or RR) \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_

#### QUANTITY

#### DESCRIPTION

#### PRICE EACH

#### TOTAL

If you wish part or all of this order sent to addresses other than above, please attach separate list with instructions. Be sure to print names and addresses plainly.

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_