

Where do we begin to tell you of the work that is ahead of us? So many avenues open to absorb energies that it is hard to know where to best use them. We can't escape the international crises we see headlined in daily papers. It's hard to see any out unless there is a way beyond the law. Certainly our studies in Galatians would bear this out for Paul is insisting that there is something that goes beyond imposed observance. It is an attitude that makes one want to assume voluntary responsibilities and actions of love toward his brothers.

Many of you want to know about the Albany Movement. Albany is the town where we do most of our business. 42% of its 56000 people are negroes. As southern cities go it seemed one of the more progressive, but the superficial contact between negro and white left little communication of basic feelings.

Nov. 1, 9 young people were ordered out of the white waiting room of the trailways Bus Depot, and on Nov. 17, the Albany Movement was brought into existence by the Negro Community asking for desegregation of parks, libraries, hospitals, train and bus terminals and for a look into jury representation, public and private employment and police brutality. Later 10 freedom riders were arrested at the train terminal.

Between Dec. 10 and Dec. 16, 737 people, demonstrating in sympathy with those arrested, were booked on charges ranging from refusal to obey an officer to contempt of court (praying on the courthouse lawn.) A verbal agreement was reached on Dec. 18 to open bus and train terminals, release demonstrators, call off demonstrations, promise to hear the negro grievances at the first meeting of the City Council in January.

But in telling you this have we told you of the Albany Movement? You have to feel it! The mood is not explained rationally: prayers that well up from a lifetime of hurt with a compassion for the oppressor; rhythms that are outlets for determination and solidarity; actions that rise out of a new attitude—"What is there to lose?"

Perhaps this is the clue - sub-human existence on one hand, atomic extinction on the other. What is there to lose? The theme on lapel buttons, over the speaker's platform I BELIEVE IN HUMAN DIGNITY! Not just for me, but for all men. When the worth of men is valued, it may be possible to Turn Toward Peace on home front and international.

There has been an identification of our young people with the Movement - a desire to share, stemming from courtroom and school experience. We have been involved mainly in advisory ways where we have tried to help think through the implications of boycott and non-violence about which you hear a lot in Albany.

None of the court cases have been heard. Expenses to carry trial cases to higher courts will be high. Some of the 40 students expelled from the local college want to finish their courses, but not at Albany State. They will need considerable help to finish elsewhere. Contributions may be sent to Albany Movement, 914 Cedar Avenue.

In February we had a rewarding series of meetings with members of the following communities: Church of Hope, Reba Place Fellowship and Forest River Community. Again our attention was drawn to consider the fact that we need to share the gifts prevalent in each group. It was a rich spiritual experience which opened up relationships and revealed the work of grace among us.

Among the Koinonia family it was decided to send Margaret, Will, David and Danny Wittkamper to Forest River Community in North Dakota to help them out temporarily, and to help Koinonia meet the financial crises we had hoped to stave off. That leaves 4 family groups, so to speak, at Koinonia. Dorothy Swisshelm acquired housekeeping responsibilities for Greg Wittkamper until school is out, and for George Hardin -- a young man from Atlanta who is serious about the Way of Christ in his life. The Dorrells, who came to us last April are finding more responsibility in the community and we've been blessed by their contributions. The Brownes and the Jordans remain the "oldtimers". Jim Jordan shares many weekends with us from his Mercer University schedule. It is good to have him near after being away for High School.

Con Browne just finished teaching a course on the LIFE OF CHRIST for the Interdenominational Theological Center's Thomasville Extension School--16 weeks of work with

negro ministers and teachers in southwest Georgia. Clarence Jordan has not been speaking as much lately, but will be in the saddle again soon.

The young people have had a tootin', pickin', bang-up time with the 3 violins, 2 clarinets, alto horn, mandolin, drum, flute, harmonica and cornet which came in as a result of the request in the last Newsletter. A \$50 donation was received for Project Music (maybe to buy us all ear stoppers!)

Since the boycott rather completely deterred the enterprises in which we gained hard earned experience, we have had a second struggle to learn new skills. Last year had its disastrous aspects. "Our nuts are moldy!" "We got rancid nuts." Imagine folks writing scurrilous things like that to us who never shipped anything less than perfect, magnolia scented Georgia nuts! And hadn't we built a cold room to keep our nuts as fresh as the day they pipped the shell? Somebody even had the nerve to return some nuts, and—well, now we know our customers are always right. It took us a long time to figure it out because when the nuts left here they were top-notch quality. We did not know that due to the humidity of the cold room, they absorbed just enough moisture to make them mold and turn rancid when exposed to normal temperatures during transit from here to there. At high cost, we've learned that high moisture in the presence of high temperature, light and air, will make the freshest nut as stale as warmed-over waffles in a matter of hours. We think we have the problem licked now, but if any of you did, or should, receive a bag of our errors, please give us the opportunity to replace it or refund your money. Just don't stay mad at us. We'd hate to think we were separated by a nut.

We have not yet been able to acknowledge all the kind notes and gifts towards postage sent by many following our Oct. Newsletter. We appreciate more than we can tell you the concern prompting these. We do not like to lose touch with friends, nor to remove names of interested people from the mailing list - PLEASE keep us informed of changes of address! When ordering products, especially for groups, IT IS IMPORTANT that the full name and address of the church as well as the name and address of the person ordering be given. Ministers and officers change, causing us to lose contact with your church. Orders included in letters addressed to individuals may be delayed. Please address all orders to KOINONIA FARM MARKET.

For some time we've been directing our thinking to re-evaluating the basic premises of Koinonia. As most of you know, we have had common goods, work and life. The question under consideration is whether or not the church community is obligated to provide work for all people who come to it. Just where we come out is not certain, but we'll keep you posted in future letters.

"You can only be free when even the desire of seeking freedom becomes a harness to you, and when you cease to speak of freedom as a goal and a fulfillment."

Kahlil Gibran

KOINONIA COMMUNITY

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