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KOINONIA FARM, AMERICUS, GA. 31705 Nashville, Tennessee

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*"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who crush the life out of your men of God, and ostracize those who try to show you a better way, many a time I've wanted to bring your citizens together as a hen gathers her biddies under her wings, and you would have none of it. All-right, your city's future is left up to you. But I'll tell you this: you won't see me around again until you're crying out, 'Please, God, send us some spiritual leadership.'" [Luke 13:34,35, Koinonia "cotton patch" Version.]*

Like many other cities, Americus rivals ancient Jerusalem in her capacity for dealing effectively with her prophets. During her racial agony of the past summer, two men stood tall and strong, declaring humbly but firmly the whole counsel of God. Both were local men, with roots deep in the community. They urged the people of both races to walk by the teachings of the Nazarene who spoke from a mount in Galilee and died on a hill outside Jerusalem. Both men have now been hounded out of the city.

Dr. Lloyd Moll and his wife, Olga, are moving this week to Youngstown, Ohio. Dr. Moll came here fifteen years ago as president of Ga. Southwestern College, located in Americus. Under his capable leadership the college grew from a two-year junior college to a four-year senior college. He was very active in the civic, social, economic and political life of the community, and admired and respected by almost everyone. When he retired several years ago from the presidency of the college, he chose to make his home in Americus and continued to concern himself with every facet of its life.

It was but natural that he should speak out last summer when four Negro women were arrested for refusing to go to a segregated line at the polls. As the women, some of them mothers separated from their children, languished in the county jail, Dr. Moll wrote a kind and thoughtful letter to the city and county officials, urging the release of the women. At one point in his letter he referred to them as "gracious women." That did it! From then on the Molls were the victims of crank phone calls, cold stares and rather general ostracism. For almost fifteen years Lloyd had been teacher of an adult Bible class at the First Methodist Church. In fact, the class was named for him. He was informed that his services as teacher would no longer be needed. After several months in the deep-freeze, Lloyd and Olga decided that they could stand it no longer, and so the decision was made to move to Youngstown, where Lloyd will teach at the University there.

During 1956-59, when Koinonia was going through its bath of violence and harassment, Lloyd Moll was one of three local white men who never severed the ties of friendship with us. In fact, our love for one another deepened during this time and the years following, and we have drawn much strength from this relationship. We feel desolate without Lloyd and Olga. They left with us their dog, Abel, whose name is that of the first man to be the victim of his brother's hatred.

The other man who has been forced to leave is Warren Fortson. Both he and his wife, Betty, come from prominent Georgia families and they have five young children. Warren established a law practice here six or seven years ago and quickly became successful. He was elected to the city school board and later became county attorney. Our first contact with him was in 1960 when the school board, of which Warren was then a member, refused admission of Koinonia children to the public schools. We sought relief in the federal courts, and the school board was ordered to admit our children. A few days later Warren came out to Koinonia "to apologize for the wrong I've committed against your children; to ask forgiveness for my cowardice; and to thank you for having the guts to take us into court and make us do what we knew in our hearts we should have done all along."

From that time on, Warren grew increasingly sensitive to injustice, hypocrisy and bigotry. It pained him tremendously several summers ago when hundreds of local Negro demonstrators, some of them mere children, were herded into an old abandoned building and held for days with very little food and water. Slowly he became aware of the Negro's plight,  
(over, please)

and came to know some of them for the first time as fellow human beings. More and more, both as a private lawyer and as county attorney he took the side of justice. He worked almost single-handedly through the summer of 1963 to integrate the Americus city schools, and succeeded in doing so from top to bottom--immediately. But he angered the local power structure when he defended Negroes against trumped-up charges. And the climax came this past summer when he and Lloyd Moll exposed the sham of arresting four women for exercising their constitutional right to vote. Not long afterwards he lost his job as county attorney, both he and his wife were shunned by the business and social groups in the city, and their children were given the "koinonia treatment" at school. Like Dr. Moll, Warren had been a very active layman in the First Methodist Church (when will they ever learn to be Baptists!) and was quickly relieved of all duties and responsibilities there. Thus consigned to the deep-freeze, the Fortsons too decided to escape. They moved to Atlanta.

And so, with two-thirds of our white friends gone, we shall now more than ever be dependent upon, and thankful for, the sustaining love of the Negro community, the fellowship of friends like you scattered throughout the nation and world, and the power of the Risen One whom even death could not hold.

Our friend Rob McNeill, who was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ga., until he was forced to resign, has recently written a book describing his experiences there. Its title is GOD WILLS US FREE. It is delightfully written, sparkling with humor, laden with compassion and abounding in piercing insights.

Another book might be helpful to all of you who have written to us for more information about Koinonia and we've been unable to supply it. (We'll be getting out another brochure soon. After all, our supply was exhausted only about a year ago!) Well, this book is CENTERS OF CHRISTIAN RENEWAL, by Dr. Donald Bloesch. (United Church Press, Boston.) It has a chapter on each of eight communities scattered throughout the world, and Koinonia is one of them. Not only will this book answer most of the questions you've asked us, but it will acquaint you with other exciting ventures in Christian living.

Al Henry, who is heading up our "Bikes and Trikes for Tikes" program, reports that over \$275 has now come in for this purpose. As we said in our last newsletter, \$15 will buy a good used bike to be given to a kid who has never known the joy of owning one.

The pecan crop is good this year and the quality is above average. We're shelling as fast as we can but sometimes we can't keep right up to date with the orders. So please send in your orders just as far in advance as possible. Our fruit cake bakers, Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Champion, are now baking 192 three-pound cakes a day, which is just about the limit. But even if you should be late in ordering these superb cakes, the ladies are willing to work even harder to make sure you don't get left out. And after much experimenting and countless failures, we now have a "pecan-dy" with which we're beginning to be satisfied. It is a caramel-fudge, rich in pecan meats, milk and butter. It doesn't turn to sugar any more, nor get so hard you can't bite it. We would appreciate any comments you might have about it, because it is a new venture for us, and we still have a lot to learn. The coating on the spiced nuts is much smoother this year, and the flavor is better. The pecan stuffed dates are good, but we've got to find something besides powdered sugar to roll them in. It tends to be absorbed by the sugar in the dates and gets a bit sticky. Anybody have a solution? If you can help us, we'd appreciate it as much as we do the many other suggestions various ones of you send in from time to time. It's really heart-warming the way you take a personal interest in us and act as sort of an informal board of directors. We invite, too, your continued frank criticisms when our products or service don't measure up. Please don't spare us, because we would rather have truth than sympathy or praise. But if you should have some of the latter you can spare, send it along, for we can find a use for it. Our warm greetings to all of you.

---from the Koinonians.