

KOINONIA PARTNERS

ROUTE 2

Americus, Georgia 31709

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

1969

Building. Building. Building! *A trip to Africa.* An incident with the police. *Order pecans NOW before prices go up.* A new record and a new book... These might well be headlines for current happenings at Koinonia. Read on for details.

Response to formation of Koinonia Partners last Fall has been most encouraging. Contributions and non-interest loans to further the work outlined in the enclosed KOINONIA PARTNERS brochure have exceeded our expectations. Also, scores of volunteers have come to help. Three groups of students (from Indiana, Vermont, and North Carolina) were here in the Spring to help with clearing of brush from the streets in the new housing project. A student from Wittenberg University and another from Antioch College were here for three months each, helping with painting, farm labor and repair work. Willard and Henrietta Matz of Attica, Ohio, a semi-retired couple doing volunteer work for LAOS, stayed with us for three months while Mr. Matz erected a tractor shop for the farming program. Mrs. Matz helped in the office.

At the present time, and until September 1, a group of six college students affiliated with YOUNG LIFE, are here developing the four acre community park and playground for the housing project. A New Jersey "partner" has pledged up to \$3,000 for use in purchasing the needed equipment.

Lorraine DeGilio, an outstanding young secretary from New York, attended one of the Koinonia Partners Discipleship Schools in that city last Fall, and, as a result, felt a call to come down to help with this work full time. She has now been with us since mid-March--and has she ever been a blessing!

This outpouring of support has enabled all phases of the work to proceed rapidly.

The first two houses in the housing project are now complete and a third house is under construction. If funds continue to come in as they have within recent months, we will build steadily until this forty house development is complete. We hope this can be done because we want to keep the Negro contracting company that is erecting these houses in steady employment, and we want to meet more of the crushing need for housing in this area. For most of the families who move into these homes, it will be the first time they ever had indoor toilets, or a bathtub or hot water or, for most, even water in the house--or even in the yard!

The two houses now finished are three bedroom, complete with dining room, kitchen, living room and full bath room. The payments will be \$25 a month for 20 years (no interest). Cost of conventional financing for these houses with present high interest rates would be \$65 a month. Most poor people in this area couldn't pay that much. The families will be encouraged, though not required, to contribute to the Fund For Humanity (see page 10 of the KOINONIA PARTNERS brochure) above this required payment in order to help with the building of other houses for the poor. We firmly believe this spirit of voluntary sharing will be infectious, even among the poor.

In addition to the housing construction, a new combination "office, shipping room, storage" building for use primarily in the pecan business is now going up. Sales were up in this partnership enterprise last Fall by 50%. Just before Christmas we shipped as many as 1,000 orders a day from a tiny 25 foot square room! This new building will free a four room block house (now used for the office) for occupancy by another family. Also, we are getting a new oven for cooking the Koinonia fruit cakes. You can expect even better cakes this Fall! (And, we are introducing a round cake in a tin this Fall. Excellent for gifts, these cakes will sell for \$4.15 each.)

Al Zook and Joseph Johnson are in the middle of their summer farming program. They have 100 acres of corn and 87 acres of peanuts planted. They expect a bumper crop. Lennie Jordan, Clarence's youngest son, and a classmate, Thomas Woods, a Negro young man, are now engaged in a partnership cattle operation. They are feeding out 97 steers.

In the area of communications, Clarence and Florence Jordan toured four African countries (Congo, Ghana, South Africa and Kenya) this Spring (February 24-April 10). Clarence spoke scores of times in these countries to college groups, churches, pastors convocations and conferences. The trip was underwritten financially by the United Church Board for World Ministries, the Foreign Mission Board of the American Baptists, Association Press and a few individuals. In northern Ghana, Clarence instituted a Partnership enterprise by making a non-interest loan of \$500 for a grinding mill in a rural community. The money is to be repaid to a Ghanaian Fund For Humanity over a period of time and re-loaned for other pressing needs of the area.

In the United States, Clarence Jordan and Millard Fuller have spoken all across the country to all kinds of groups. Also in the department of "Communications," we have distributed many hundreds of books, records and pamphlets. This Fall, another book by Clarence will be published--"The Cotton Patch Version of Luke-Acts," as well as another record, to be entitled "Judas."

In May, our corporate charter was amended and filed to fully conform with the present work and to accurately define Koinonia Partners as a non-profit corporation.

A few weeks ago, Millard and Linda Fuller and their two year old daughter, Faith, were arrested in the nearby town of Unadilla for "visiting with Niggers" in violation of a city ordinance. The town police chief came to the home of the Negro family where the Fullers were visiting (in the afternoon) and blew the siren to call them out. Outside, the chief physically forced Millard into the police car and then pulled his gun on Linda, with Faith in her arms, to get her in the car. They were hauled off to the police station and questioned for nearly two hours before being released with a warning to leave town because their safety could not be guaranteed. Such is still the state of "equal protection" and "justice" in many parts of Georgia.

On a happier note, David Wittkamper graduated from Sumter High School in June, the first white graduate of that school. David's brother, Greg, returned to the farm this summer for a few weeks after being away for nearly three years in Friends World College. Many of you gave books to this college three years ago in a program to provide Greg with a scholarship. He has made good use of the opportunity and within one year he will graduate. Already, he has traveled and studied in forty countries.

"Cookie" Johnson, Joseph's daughter, is studying this summer in an Upward Bound program at Tougaloo College in Mississippi. The seven school age children at Koinonia are attending summer school in the pecan sorting room. Linda (who has her degree in elementary education) is the teacher. She is trying to supplement an education dispensed by a school system that is more concerned with segregation than it is with quality of education.

Enclosed you will find a price list for pecans and other farm products. NO SHIPMENTS ON FOOD PRODUCTS WILL BE MADE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1 (shipments are made throughout the year on books, records and pamphlets), however, by placing your order now you can take advantage of the listed prices. There will be an increase in price on some of the items when the Fall price list is issued, but all orders received prior to the new price list will be filled at the prices indicated on the enclosed price list. Especially keep in mind the Pecan Cookbook as an excellent gift item throughout the year and also as a fund raising product for your club or organization this Fall.

Whether you're a "Nut" partner or a partner of greater interest, we are grateful for your continuing interest and support. When you're in our area, come to see us. You're always welcome.