

## KOINONIA PARTNERS

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### KOINONIA WINTER NEWSLETTER

February 1970

Since Clarence Jordan, the co-founder of Koinonia, died on October 29, we have been flooded with phone calls, telegrams and letters from friends around the world expressing their sense of loss and appreciation for his life and influence. We want to share with you excerpts from a few of the letters:

*"Clarence's words, his understanding of scripture remain in those of us who have been touched by his ministry. Our sense of direction in the Christian life has been profoundly influenced by his understanding and sense of commitment."*

*"In the passing of Dr. Clarence Jordan, many who never knew him personally felt a keen loss. The far-reaching values of his life will never be known. 'Our echoes roll from soul to soul and live forever and forever'."*

*"It was with sadness that we learned of the death of Clarence Jordan -- and yet also with a deep sense of Christian hope and joy. His life was a reflection in the midst of a chaotic and mad world of the Man of Peace who created a living-space of obedience and brotherhood and reconciliation in his life and ministry."*

*"My heartfelt sympathy in your great loss in Clarence Jordan's passing. He was a true and loyal disciple of the Master. He did not worship Jesus but took him seriously."*

*"My first reaction to Clarence's death was shock and dismay. What a tragic loss to us when we need all the truly BIG Christians we can get. Yet, second thoughts bring deep gratitude and joy for his life which is an intense and full witness to God and to Christ and to the Holy Spirit. Love incarnate describes him, a faithful brother of Christ."*

We also want to share with you a portion of the scripture which was read at Clarence's burial. It is from his Cotton Patch Version of I John and I Peter. This, we think, captures much of the great spirit which was Clarence Jordan.

*"Loved ones, I'm not introducing a new instruction to you, but an old one which you've had all along. The old instruction is the message you listened to. And yet, it*

is a new instruction that I'm writing about, and it's true both in his experience and yours that the darkness is lifting and the true light is already dawning. Now a man who claims to be in the light but still hates his brother is in the darkness right on. The man who loves his brother lives in the light and has no trick up his sleeve. But he who hates his brother is in the dark, lives in the dark and has no idea what direction he's going, because the darkness has blind-folded him.

"Don't love the old order or the things which keep it going. If anyone loves the old order it is not the Father's love that's in him. For everything that's in the old order - the hankering for physical comforts, the hankering for material things, the emphasis on status - is not from the Father but from the old order itself. And the old order, with its hankerings, is collapsing, but he who lives by the will of God moves into the New Age.

"So don't be surprised, brothers, if the old order hates your guts. We ourselves are convinced that we have switched from death to life because we love the brothers. The man with no love still lives in death country. The brother hater is a man-killer, and you know that no man-killer has spiritual life residing in him.

"Loved ones, let's love each other, because love springs from God, and every lover has been fathered by God and is sensitive to God. The non-lover is not sensitive to God because God is love. And God's love took shape in our midst when he sent his one and only son into the world so we might start living. And that's real love--not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his son to answer for our wrongs. Loved ones, if God loved us that much, then we ought to love one another. Nobody has ever once caught a glimpse of God. Yet if we love everybody, God is present among us and his love is brought to maturity in us."

Many people have written asking whether a memorial fund would be established at Koinonia for Clarence Jordan. Florence and the others of us here who knew Clarence feel he would not want this. He never sought anything for himself but to be God's humble servant. If you would like to recognize Clarence's life and work with a gift, you may do so by making it to the FUND FOR HUMANITY. This is the fund Clarence established during the last year of his life. It is used to carry forward the work of Koinonia Partners, especially (during the coming months) to complete the forty houses for displaced rural families in our area. Your gift, or non-interest loan, if made in memory of Clarence, will be so entered in our record book for the Fund.

On December 4, Millard Fuller made a talk to the Atlanta Christian Council entitled, THE INCARNATION, AS REVEALED IN THE LIFE OF CLARENCE JORDAN. This talk was taped and is available at no cost on a regular 5" reel. In his one hour speech, Millard describes the reaction of county

officials to Clarence's death, outlines the speech Clarence was working on at the time of his death, and tells numerous incidents throughout Clarence's life, indicative of the Incarnation.

AND SPEAKING OF TAPES - - -

DO YOU HAVE ANY TAPES OF TALKS GIVEN BY CLARENCE JORDAN? Since January 1, Dallas Lee has been at the farm working on a book about Koinonia. We are most anxious to receive word about tapes, transcripts or any other material you may know about that would be helpful to Dallas. Please write directly to Dallas Lee here at Koinonia if you have anything of interest--no matter how small. We want to tell the Koinonia story completely and accurately. Only with the full help and cooperation of our friends around the world who have been a vital part of this story will this be possible.

The time is right, we feel, for the dramatic story of Koinonia to be told. With Clarence's death, one long chapter is ended, but we are standing on the threshold of an even more exciting future. A book about Koinonia will give us all a clear perspective of the accomplishments, failures, frustrations, and joys of the past, and should help to guide us into an even more productive and faithful future. We expect to have the book available for distribution by Spring, 1971.

As time goes along we will be publishing other books and records as a part of the "communications phase" of Koinonia Partners. Within recent days we have added a most useful little book to our list entitled, The Christian Way. Our good friend and partner, John Miller, the guiding light of Reba Place Fellowship, Evanston, Illinois, wrote this book as a thorough exegesis of The Sermon on the Mount. New Christians and old alike will find much to chew on in this book. The price is \$1.50. You may order now for immediate delivery.

New people keep coming. In late January Ladon Sheats moved here from New York City. Ladon is a young bachelor, a native of Texas, who has spent the last ten years working for the IBM Corporation. His last assignment was to manage one of the divisions of IBM for the borough of Manhattan in New York City. He came to feel, after extensive exposure to Clarence in several Discipleship Schools, that he ought to devote his energies more directly toward working for the Kingdom, rather than making stockholders happy. He will do a lot of speaking for Koinonia, plus lead Discipleship Schools. Needless to say, Ladon will be a tremendous asset here and we do indeed thank God for him.

On February 1, we welcomed the Shorthouse family for a four month stay--Neil, Jeannie, and their two girls, Beth and Kristin. Neil has been a Young Life Area Director in Philadelphia. He and a crew of Young Life kids were here this summer to help install the playground equipment in the park for the new housing area. During his return stay, Neil will assist in coordinating the increasing flow of young people through Koinonia.

The Albert Zooks (Al junior's folks) from Smithville, Ohio, came to Koinonia in October to help with the Christmas rush. Mr. Zook was in charge of the shipping room--packaging up 100-1000 parcels a day. Mrs. Zook helped in the kitchen sealing boxes, spreading candy, and stuffing dates. They have some time to relax now before returning to the frozen north.

Greg Parizek, who hails from Woodland Hills, California, arrived in

November as a volunteer. He graduated from high school last June and is unsure whether college or the working world should claim his life for the next few years.

During January, three students from Defiance College in Ohio were here as a part of a field work assignment. They worked in the office and helped construct houses. Another young man, Robert True, is here from Beloit College for a four month work semester. He is a New Englander who is helping in the pecan shelling plant. These volunteers have fit well into the Koinonia family. They make for some good singing on Sunday mornings and ferocious volleyball games after dinner.

Before Christmas, Greg and David Wittkamper arrived home from a three-month motorcycle tour through Mexico and Panama. Koinonia wants to thank all of you who sent books so Greg could attend Friends' World College for four years. Greg, who has traveled all over the world, completed his college experience with this last trip. Both young men are presently working for Friends' World College in New York as their alternative service.

The housing program continues to move along. Two families are now living in their new houses. A third house is near completion, and a fourth is under construction. This year we expect a real burst of growth in this phase of our work because an increasing number of people are contributing. Six areas of Young Life have pledged to build one house each during the coming year. One of our partners in Canton, Ohio, is paying for one house, and another partner in California will be covering the cost of several more. Bob Childers of Houston, Texas donated a park shelter in memory of Clarence. It is now being erected in the playground area by our team of volunteers. Vic and Diane Scott of Salem, New Jersey donated 100 flowering crabapple trees in memory of Clarence. This will add much beauty to the whole area. The spirit of sharing has been beautiful and we thank God for each person who is helping with this exciting venture, whether his contribution is large or small.

Florence and her son, Lenny, are getting a new house. For several years the Jordan family lived in the apartment above the community kitchen and dining room. Even before Clarence's death they felt that smaller quarters should be built for them in order to free that apartment as a guest house. We urgently need the extra space to accommodate an increasing flow of visitors. The new house is being built between the trailer and the barn (for the information of those who have visited Koinonia.)

P.D. East, our friend in Fairhope, Alabama, who publishes the Petal Paper, is having a rough time keeping his paper alive. He has been an important voice over the years in the civil rights struggle. If you can help P.D. with a contribution or subscription, we know he'll deeply appreciate it. His address is: P.D. East, Box AV, Fairhope, Alabama.

Be sure to note the enclosed products brochure and order the pecan products you need for Spring. This is good stuff--guaranteed to please all our NUT PARTNERS. We sold more pecans, fruit cakes, and candy this Fall season than ever before. We employed more than thirty of our neighbors and, in fact, many of them are still on the job. We join them in thanking you for making these jobs possible.

All of your partners at Koinonia wish you a happy and faithful 1970.

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