

SPRING NEWSLETTER

1970

The biggest news at Koinonia these days is a new record, entitled TURNING POINT. (Flip open the enclosed folder and see a description and picture.)

Lucine Michaels Joseph sings warmly about peace and sharing and brotherhood. The record jacket was designed by Lucine's husband, Jim Joseph, who also wrote many of the lyrics.

Until recently, Jim was a member of a successful advertising firm in Chicago. He resigned to work in the ghetto as an artist, sensitizing people to conditions there. He and Lucine present slide-art-singing programs to numerous groups in the Chicago area and elsewhere.

Many of Lucine's songs are taken directly from their experiences in the ghetto. Other songs were inspired by the Josephs' recent trip through the deep south, where they saw the terrible conditions which continue to drive hordes of people into the big cities and to the degrading life of the slums. They met Clarence Jordan on that trip and talked with him just the day before his death. Many of the things Clarence had to say were a source of inspiration for the album. One of the songs, "A SATISFIED MIND," is dedicated to Clarence. It is the last song he listened to.

We know you will want to share this young couple's expression of love, compassion, and Christian concern. As on our other records and publications, all profits go into the work of Koinonia.

TURNING POINT and the other materials listed in the folder are ready for immediate shipment. Order for yourself and send a record to a friend.



Our most urgent project continues to be home-building for displaced rural families. (See photo which shows four of the houses.) Three families have already moved in and three more will be moving in soon. Five more sites have been cleared so we hope construction can begin on all of them within a few weeks. The controlling factor is money. This housing work is done by the Fund For Humanity which receives its money from contributions, non-interest loans and the voluntarily shared profits from Koinonia ventures, such as the records and books, pecan business, and farming.

A Decent House is GOOD NEWS!!

Joseph Johnson and George Maendel, Koinonia farming partners, have all the corn and peanuts in the ground despite a delay due to rainy weather. Over three hundred acres of green shoots are appearing in long, straight rows. Very soon we'll all be getting up at 6 A.M. to weed the peanut fields.

Thomas Woods and Greg Parizek are partners sharing responsibility for a 15-acre truck garden. Their okra, sweet corn, lima beans, watermelon, peas, snap beans, and cantalope will require lots of weeding, too. Throughout the summer they will take their produce to sell at the Farmers' Market in Columbus, Georgia.

There will be no more shipping of pecan products until September due to the hot weather. We will send you a new pecan price list in July so you can place advance orders for the Fall. At the same time you will receive our summer newsletter which will give you a more complete report on current happenings here.

Some of you may know that we changed our Sunday services to 5 P.M. to allow us to attend Sunday school and church in town. In this way we may be able to restore our contact with the white community which was ruptured fourteen years ago with the blasting of Koinonia's farm stand and the resulting boycott. Although progress is slow, some of us have entered into discussions and have answered questions in these classes. We are still struggling to find ways to communicate our love for the people of Americus. We have had several families and students from Georgia Southwestern College in Americus visit us on a regular basis. We are grateful for their fellowship.

Thomas Woods and Cookie Johnson, both Koinonia black young people, along with several of their classmates from Americus, have been holding silent vigils in front of the white First Baptist Church in Americus each Sunday morning for the past several weeks. Their purpose is to confront the church with the inconsistency of a racially exclusive policy which ignores teachings of the New Testament, such as these:

FOR ALL OF YOU ARE SONS OF GOD BY VIRTUE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. YOU WHO WERE INITIATED INTO THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP ARE CHRISTIAN ALLIES. NO MORE IS ONE A WHITE MAN AND ANOTHER A NEGRO: NO MORE IS ONE A SLAVE AND THE OTHER A FREE MAN: NO LONGER IS ONE A MALE AND ONE A FEMALE. FOR YOU ALL ARE ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.

Galatians 3:28 (Cotton Patch Version)

"I AM CONVINCED BEYOND ANY DOUBT," ROCK BEGAN, "THAT GOD PAYS NO ATTENTION TO A MAN'S SKIN. REGARDLESS OF HIS RACE, THE MAN WHO RESPECTS GOD AND PRACTICES JUSTICE IS WELCOME BY HIM."

Acts 10:34 (Cotton Patch Version)

What these young people are doing is not without danger and we solicit your prayers as they put their lives on the line for Christian love and brotherhood.

We regret to report that Al's father, Albert Zook, died in March of a heart attack. We rejoice in his shared life here with us during the fall and winter. He said himself he spent some of the happiest days of his life here. His help in the shipping room proved that a man need not retire and have a useless life. Our love goes to Mrs. Zook as she learns to live without her partner of 45 years.

We've made so many new friends and gotten reacquainted with old ones over the Easter holiday! We hope many more of you will be able to stop by this summer. It's great that our friends can see first-hand what's going on here at the Farm and take part in the work program for a few days or a week or so. Please do stop by to see us when you can.