

KOINONIA FARM

ROUTE 2

Americus, Georgia 31709

KOINONIA FALL NEWSLETTER #2

OCTOBER 1970

THIS MONTH MARKS THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF CLARENCE JORDAN. HIS LIFE AND GREAT SPIRIT HAD A PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON THIS PLACE CALLED KOINONIA, BUT HE TOUCHED LIVES ALL ACROSS THE LAND THROUGH HIS LECTURES AND BOOKS. HIS SPIRIT IS STILL ALIVE HERE AT THE FARM AND CONTINUES TO INFLUENCE AND INSPIRE US ALL. IT IS ALIVE BECAUSE IT IS THAT SAME SPIRIT WHICH DWELT IN CHRIST. THAT SPIRIT NEVER DIES. WE DEDICATE THIS NEWSLETTER TO CLARENCE JORDAN--CO-FOUNDER OF KOINONIA, LECTURER, AUTHOR, HUSBAND AND FATHER, OUR FRIEND AND BROTHER IN CHRIST.

Our September newsletter told you about the harassment we have been experiencing lately. Happily, we can report that we have had no more "incidents" since Ladon Sheats was hit in the face with a bottle in early September. We are also pleased to inform you that Ladon has made a remarkable recovery from this attack, and has only minor scars on his face. Many, many thanks to those of you who kept us in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

In the meantime, we continue to see our task as that of communicating and applying the radical ideas of the God Movement as best we know how, South and North. Millard Fuller and Ladon Sheats, especially, are spreading the word. This fall, Millard has spoken in Alabama, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, and Canada. Other engagements this fall will take him to Indiana for a statewide United Church of Christ Youth Conference, to Illinois for a Discipleship School, to Florida twice for statewide inter-denominational Youth Conferences, and to Alabama and Florida for programs with local churches.

Ladon has spoken this fall in New York and North Carolina. He has also conducted a discipleship school in Iowa and visited at Reba Place Fellowship in Evanston, Illinois. On his agenda for the remainder of the fall are a RAP Conference with college-age young people in North Carolina, another Discipleship School in Ohio, and a speaking engagement at Trinity Church in Florence, Alabama.

Our communications, or preaching, work continues here at the Farm, too. A steady stream of visitors comes to see us, and this affords a wonderful opportunity to receive them in Christian love and hospitality and to share with them God's Word and Way of love, peace, sharing, and brotherhood. You are welcome to visit Koinonia, too. Come to see us and share with us the good things of God!

We communicate through books, records, and pamphlets as well as by the spoken word. The enclosed catalog lists these items. Two of the books just off the press are SERMON ON THE MOUNT and THE COTTON PATCH VERSION OF MATTHEW AND JOHN, both by Clarence Jordan. These books sparkle with life from the heart of the Gospel. Consider the



following passages from Matthew 19:16-26:

One day a fellow came to Jesus and said, "Doctor, what is the good that I should follow in order to get spiritual life?"

"Why are you inquiring about 'the good'?" Jesus asked.

"The good' is one. But if you want to come into the life, abide by the rules."

The fellow said, "Which ones?"

Jesus answered, "Why, the ones that say, 'Don't murder, don't sleep with someone you're not married to, don't steal, don't lie, take care of your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"I've kept them all," cried the young man. "Why am I still flunking?"

"If you want to be a mature man," Jesus said, "go, sell your stuff, give it to the poor--you will be spiritually rich--and then come share my life." When the young fellow heard that bit, he walked away crying, because he had quite a pile. Jesus said to his students, "I'm telling you a fact; a rich man finds it extremely difficult to come into the God Movement. I say it again, a pig can go through a knothole easier than a rich man can get into the God Movement."

Upon hearing this, the students were completely flabbergasted. "Who can make the grade?" they asked.

Jesus looked straight at them and said, "Humanly speaking this is impossible, but with God anything can happen."



Bessie Thomas, Jan Carlson,
Sally Johnson--Work Day at
Koinonia Village.

In addition to the publications listed in the products catalog, several new records are coming out within a few weeks. You may place your order now for delivery as soon as they are available. Here's a list of what is coming:

JESUS, THE REBEL - Reproduced from a tape by Clarence Jordan -- \$3.98
(Side 2 - Jesus and Possessions)

METAMORPHOSIS - Reproduced from a tape by Clarence Jordan -- 3.98
(Side 2 - Love Your Enemies)

FRIENDS - A musical record by some of the young people at Koinonia -- 4.98
(With Ed Young, Barb Watt, Pete Clark and others--
Vocal with guitar, banjo, and flute)



Sims family in their old home

AIN'T THAT GOOD NEWS - A Negro Spiritual Record
on the life of Christ
(With Bennye Terrell Milton and accompanist)-4.98

On the application side of the Koinonia coin, we are still hard at work building houses for displaced rural families. The Sammy Rufus Sims family was the fifth one to move into the growing Koinonia Village. They left behind a three-room shack at the crossing of two dusty red dirt roads. Now in a modern five-room house with bath, new furniture, curtains, and a spacious yard, they have a new outlook on life. Mr Sims, Sammy Rufus's father, who also lives in this house, excitedly exclaimed after moving into the new home, "I sure hope it rains soon. I want to see what it's like

to be in a house that doesn't leak!"

This month the sixth and seventh families move into their new homes. Next month, two more families will move in. . . . Bessie and Ditter Thomas, their two children, and an elderly aunt, will occupy one of the houses. Bessie and Ditter used to live in a shack without toilet or cooking facilities where the roof leaked so bad there wasn't a dry place to put the bed. Ditter worked for a farmer who paid him \$25. a week. He didn't make enough money to keep his children from being hungry. When Koinonia learned of the plight of this family, they were moved to a small house on the Farm and Bessie started working in the



Annie Lou White's shack



Inside Annie's shack

pecan sorting room. Ditter got a better-paying job in town. The day the Thomas family moved here, Bessie's father, Mr. Reynolds, who helped them move, said, "This house sure is nice, Mr. Fuller. If these chillun don't appreciate this house, I know they won't appreciate heaven!" Bessie and Ditter are awaiting the move into an even better house--one step above heaven!

The aunt who will move into this bigger house with the Thomases is Mrs. Annie Lou White, an eighty-year-old woman who is nearly blind. She has been living with the Zook family at Koinonia since she was discovered several weeks ago living alone in a shack insulated with egg crates. It had gaping holes, no heat or stove. Mrs. White sat alone all day with a bed and radio as her only possessions. When she was visited by several Koinonia young people, she was nearly starving, deserted by her children, and having her social security check stolen by neighbors whose living conditions were almost as bad as hers.

All of these new houses are made available to families like the Sims and the Thomases on a twenty-year no-interest payment basis. Monthly payments range from \$25 to \$32. The type houses we are building would cost \$75 a month and more with conventional financing. Koinonia's Fund for Humanity takes the burden of interest off the backs of the people and enables them to live in a decent house. The Fund's money is from shared profits from Koinonia ventures and from tax-deductible gifts from friends around the country and from non-interest loans. We receive no government support or foundation grants and we seek none.

We believe God has called us to a ministry to pocketbooks--those with too much money and those with too little. We encourage people everywhere to enter into a warm, brotherly spirit of sharing and partnership with their less fortunate neighbors.

The newly formed Koinonia Sewing Industry is off to a good start. Many new items have been added since the last newsletter was issued. See the enclosed flyer for a full listing of available items. Everything is made here at the Farm. Your orders give work to people who desperately need income. Profits go into the Fund for Humanity.



Little porkers are always hungry

Farming partners Joseph Johnson, George Maendel, Chris Ficker, and Ed Young are still busy in the corn harvest. We only have one old combine which has broken down at least once a day since harvest began. Nevertheless, harvest should be completed by early November. The newest farming venture is the pig program. We now have 300 squealing pigs gracing our just-harvested peanut and corn fields. They are cleaning up the peanuts and corn missed by the combine. The junior pig partnerships of Zook-Fuller and Johnson-White are doing well. Their little pigs are now hogs, weighing about 150 pounds each.

Debby Schaper, recently arrived from Connecticut, is launching a new partnership industry: pottery-making. She is working diligently right now to convert an old garage into a pottery shop. She should be in production by Spring 1971.

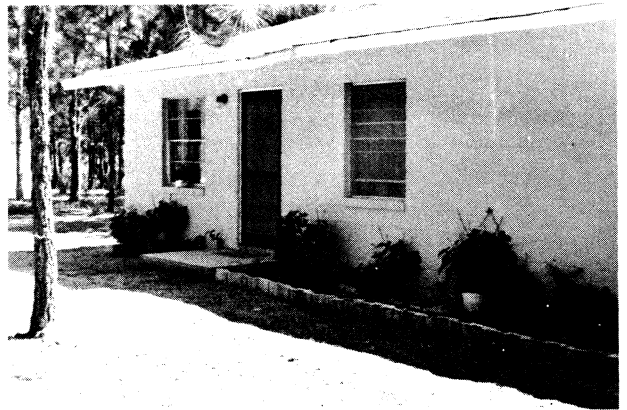
Thomas Woods was elected president of his school's FFA (Future Farmers of America) in a run-off against his white classmate. Integration of the schools has been without major incident so far this year. Maybe the parents will learn something from the young people.

Mike Felton has been apprenticed to Al Zook, the candy man and fruitcake baker. Al has help now meeting a back-breaking schedule that doesn't stop for holidays and weekends. Mike is handy with the spoon and chocolate pot.

The Board of Directors named a fifth member at its last meeting. Ted Swisher, a student at Princeton University, spent February to September at the Farm. He organized a tutoring-enrichment program for high school age blacks, helped with construction, and was work coordinator this summer. We feel he is a grand addition to the Koinonia team.

Don't forget to send in your order for pecans and candy and fruitcake and all the other good stuff described in the products catalog. And don't forget your friends either!

All of the partners at Koinonia send you warmest best wishes for the upcoming holiday season.



One step above heaven