

# KOINONIA PARTNERS

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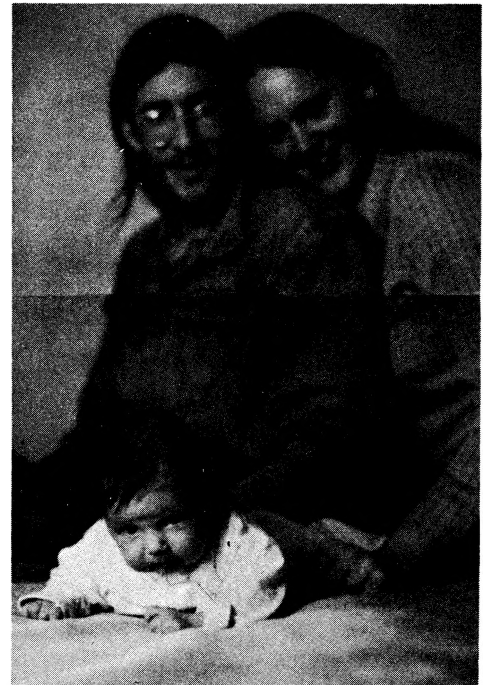
Americus, Georgia 31709

KOINONIA WINTER NEWSLETTER #1 - January 1972

*NOTICE: In previous newsletters we have mentioned that Dallas Lee, author of THE COTTON PATCH EVIDENCE, has been hard at work compiling and organizing a collection of Clarence Jordan's talks and sermons. We have just received word from Association Press that the new book, THE SUBSTANCE OF FAITH, will be published in May. Copies will be available from Koinonia in April at the pre-publication price of \$3.95 each. After publication the price will be \$4.95 each. You may place your orders now for delivery in April. (More about this exciting book will appear in the next newsletter.)*

Last September, we asked you to "Help us **get** the nuts out of Georgia!" And help you did .... mail order sales of pecans, fruit cake and candy were up 25% over last year. By mid-December we had shipped out 150,000 pounds of pecans alone, and we had so many orders the shipping room had to work a double shift. With the increase in sales, we were able to provide employment for nine more people this year than last, and for this we are thankful. As in the past, all profits from this and all other Koinonia industries go into the Fund for Humanity, where they will be used to continue the various ministries of Koinonia.

Christmas found the fellowship here in full spirits, and mindful of all that we had to be thankful for. Just seven weeks after the birth of Georgia Ailene Fuller, a girl was born to Mike and Suzie Felton, and Suzie shares her experience of the miracle of creation.... "The experience of delivering a child is certainly consuming, probably the hardest work I'll ever do. But, I enjoyed it immensely, had no drugs and was wonderfully aware of everything. Also, I was very encouraged by the attitudes of the people in the hospital toward me (even though I was from Koinonia) and toward each other across racial-barriers....



MIKE, SUZIE & TAMARA

"No one could have convinced me beforehand how time and energy-consuming child-rearing is. Now that Tamara is two months old, it seems that we just get settled into one schedule and she needs to change it. But to have a husband like Mike who isn't adverse to bathing the baby or rocking her, or whatever, has really lightened the burden. After all, it was a joint act of love that began this life, and I believe that child-rearing should be as much a matter of teamwork between the mother and father as possible, right from the beginning.

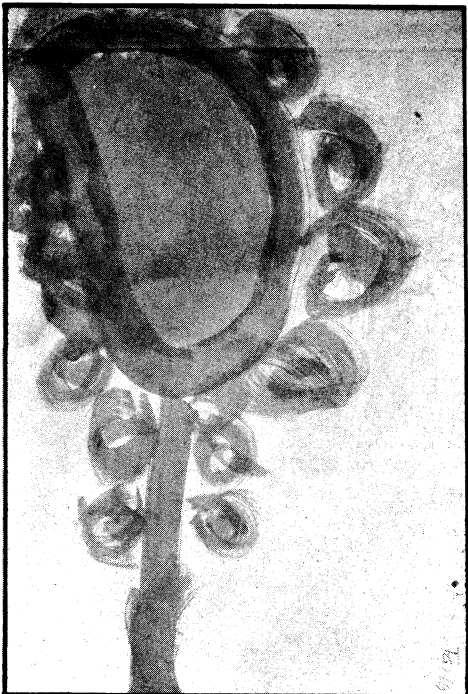
"Sometimes, in the quiet moments, I catch myself being very philosophical ... what answers will she come up with to the alienation of man from man and man from

God? Will she accept the ways in which we are trying to change our hearts and lives? I can't protect her from seeing the inhumanity of man and I wouldn't if I could. God alone can lead us to the answers .... we must face the challenges and deal with them forcefully.

"Of course, I am eternally grateful for the comfort, encouragement and concern of the fellowship here .... and thankful to know the cushion of God's love through my brothers and sisters, and to know that Tamara will know it too."

In the last newsletter we told you about the death of Rick May .... a young volunteer who had shared life with us through most of the past year. We also mentioned that Rick had become close friends with a family living near Koinonia and had dreamed of the day when Walt Wright might own his own pulpwood truck .... which would enable Walt to become free of the economic oppression which bears down so heavily on most woodcutters in the South. Rick hoped that the purchase of a truck would free Walt from economic slavery and enable him and his family to move out of miserable housing and into a decent home of their own in the Koinonia housing village.

Rick's dream has come true .... the truck and the necessary equipment have been purchased, through the generosity of many friends around the country, from California to Massachusetts. Both Rick's family in Illinois .... as well as his Koinonia family .... are without words to convey their deep appreciation. And Walt and Pearl Wright are filled with new hope, deep gratitude, and a strong commitment to pass on the love which they received through their dear brother, Rick.



CHILDREN'S ART - CDC

November and December brought us a stream of deeply interested visitors from all over the country and from many parts of the world. They bring us strength with their encouragement and cause us to continuously re-examine the priorities we have established for Koinonia Partners. We welcome you to visit us any time during the coming year .... for a few hours, or a day or two. It always helps us to know when friends are going to drop in, so a card or a phone call will always be appreciated. Should you be interested in sharing our way of life for several days or more, it will be necessary to arrange such a visit by mail with Ted Swisher, the partner responsible for our volunteer program. We will do our best to accommodate you at the time most suitable to you.

And, if you can't come to us, we just might be coming to you .... Partners in the Communications ministry of Koinonia make frequent speaking trips throughout the land .... Ladon Sheats was away from the farm on speaking engagements through most of the Fall and early Winter, so he has accepted a lighter schedule for the Winter and Spring. Ladon will be speaking at two Discipleship Schools between now and March - one at Koinonia and the other in Boston (both sessions are full), and will be speaking at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia on January 7 and February 17. Millard Fuller, another Partner in Communications, has a very busy speaking schedule which will carry him to 15 states and four Canadian provinces during the next four months. His speaking engagements

for January and February are as follows, and we invite all interested friends of Koinonia to hear Millard if you can:

January 16 - University Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
January 21-23 - First Congregational Church, Old Greenwich, Conn.  
January 24 - Saugatuck Congregational Church, Westport, Conn.  
January 30 - Unitarian Fellowship, Aiken, South Carolina  
February 11-12 - Northern New Jersey Faith at Work Conference  
Central Presbyterian Church, Summit, New Jersey  
February 13-14 - West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, W. Va.  
February 19-20 - Crosier House of Studies, Fort Wayne, Indiana  
February 21- United Church of Christ, Berne, Indiana  
February 22-23 - United Church of Christ, - Evansville, Indiana  
February 27 - Marble Young Adults, Marble Collegiate Church  
New York City

Al Zook is the new Director of Koinonia, replacing Millard Fuller who stepped down from this position after three years. Millard is now devoting more time to study, speaking engagements, and mounting involvement in legal services in our area. Al brings a great deal of wisdom and dedication to this new assignment and everyone in the fellowship is grateful for his willingness to serve in this capacity.

Five hundred thousand earthworms joined our fellowship in September - they took up residence in soft and comfortable beds built by Jim Gauss and Willie Reynolds, co-workers in Koinonia's newest industry, the Ko-Part Worm Farm. Jim and Willie used old railroad ties and discarded roofing tin to build their ground level worm bed at minimum cost .... and they use free cow manure as bedding material and worm feed. To date, they have needed only a small loan from the Fund for Humanity to cover the cost of purchasing breeder-stock and shipping containers.

Our worm farmers feel confident that they will soon be shipping worms as fast as they can dig 'em up, to sportsmen and organic farmers alike. They will soon have to ship them somewhere - since their arrival in September, the worms have multiplied ten-fold, and the end is not yet in sight! Worm farming is one way to bring otherwise unusable land into production economically and efficiently, without a large capital investment. Jim and Willie hope that the Ko-Part Worm Farm will demonstrate the potential of worm farming as a small rural industry.

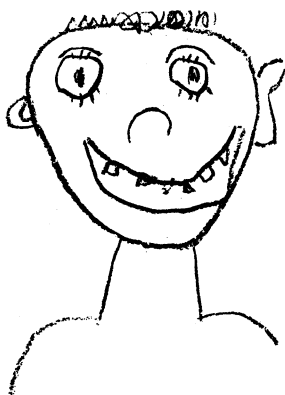
Where does the money come from to finance all of the ministries of Koinonia Partners? The Fund for Humanity is an internal fund of Koinonia Partners which finances the communication, instruction, and application ministries of Koinonia. The Fund for Humanity is one of the best illustrations of what we frequently refer to as the "spirit of partnership" .... where money flows into the Fund from non-interest bearing loans from deeply concerned individuals around the country, from tax deductible gifts of those who have an interest in sharing their abundance with those of greater needs, and from the shared profits of Koinonia's partnership industries and farming efforts. It is our practice to invest all contributions to the Fund immediately upon receipt .... in other words, we are not accruing funds ... we

are investing others' expression of concern immediately. Several friends of ours have expressed surprise that the Fund for Humanity is not "bulging at the seams" ... we want to make it crystal clear that that is never the case (at the present time we have borrowed the limit of our credit from a bank in Atlanta). The late Clarence Jordan, founder of Koinonia, believed that willingness to share lay at the heart of Christ's message to mankind .... he said, "Christ calls us to give, and give completely .... not just give 'til it hurts, but to give 'til its gone!"

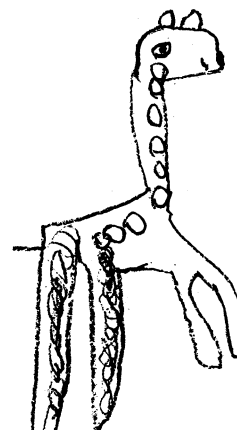
The Fund for Humanity has made possible the construction of eighteen modern homes for rural neighbors who were desperately in need of housing. These homes have been sold on a non-interest, twenty-year mortgage. The Fund for Humanity made loans to establish a new sewing industry and to expand present industries .... all of which resulted in dignified employment for seventy persons in the past few months. Because of the spirit of partnership of people around the country, there is a Child Development Center, manned by Koinonia Partners, in the housing village to meet the need for pre-school education in a state which has refused to provide any sort of kindergarten program. We have dreams of an expanded Child Development Center .... which would permit valuable learning experiences for thirty to forty more youngsters.

The participation with humanity is not confined to Sumter County, Georgia. The Fund for Humanity has made possible a vital ministry on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota, as well as the establishment of a corn and sorghum mill in Ghana, West Africa.

Let us be as clear as possible.... we are in touch with needs which far exceed the capital available in the Fund for Humanity. If we are to free up more land from private speculation and make it available to disinherited poor farm workers ... if we are to continue constructing homes for families living in miserable, collapsing shacks ... if we are to create more new industries which will provide respectable employment to the unemployed or the underemployed ... and if we are going to be able to respond to needs around the world ... then it will be necessary for hundreds and thousands of individuals to catch this "spirit of partnership". As Clarence Jordan shared his dreams for "freeing the oppressed", he made it clear that we would have to become monumental beggars ... asking those who have, "to share with those who have not. The funds which are so urgently needed are not for the living allowances of those of us at Koinonia ... for we are self-sufficient ...rather, the urgent need for capital is for houses, jobs, and land for the dispossessed .... and to spread the powerfully freeing ideas of His Kingdom through our communication ministries. We invite all of you to join us in this vital SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP!(Checks as gifts or non-interest loans for the Fund should be made out to Koinonia Partners, Inc. - The Fund For Humanity.)



A HAPPY FACE



GIRAFFE

DRAWINGS FROM THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

P. D. East, a longtime friend of Koinonia, died at the hospital in his hometown of Fairhope, Alabama on Friday morning, December 31, after a long siege of illness and suffering. P. D. had moved to Fairhope several years ago, after he was forced out of his home state of Mississippi because of the strong stand against racism which he took as editor of a small newspaper in Petal, Mississippi. P. D. identified with human suffering wherever he found it, and was particularly mindful of the shortcomings of the status quo - "You do not have a nation of 'Liberty and Justice for all' so long as any one person, group, or minority is forced to take left-overs". He refused to compromise his beliefs and felt bound by an obligation to all men to express them openly and honestly and, he might add, with conviction - "I repeat - I urge with all sincerity that men of good faith are going to be forced to let their views known. It would be far better to make the effort now, today, rather than wait until 100% assdom has taken the place of common sense and common decency."

His frankness didn't win him many friends in Petal. In fact, he lost every one of his local subscribers - but, by then, his Petal Paper was being read and supported by people all across the nation. When threats on his life became imminent, he simply moved to Alabama and kept publishing his paper.

For nearly two decades, P. D. was a close friend of Koinonia. He never professed a traditional Christianity, or, for that matter, a religious belief of any kind, but he felt a close kinship with Christians like Clarence Jordan, Will Campbell, and Will Wittkamper, and he practiced a gospel much nearer to that of Christ than most "believers". Clarence once described his friend as "a rare soul who praises God by laughing in the devil's face." And this was the way he was - a big man with a deep voice, gentle spirit, and a crackling sense of humor. P. D.'s death signals the end of an era. P. D. East was in the company of those men like Clarence Jordan, who stood up in a time when "it took guts to have guts". He and his Petal Paper (and his book, THE MAGNOLIA JUNGLE) served well the cause of freedom and justice. P. D.'s widow, Cammie, plans to publish the January issue of the paper, and then decide whether to keep the Petal Paper alive. She would appreciate your comments on this - you may write to her at Box AV, Fairhope, Alabama.