

KOINONIA PARTNERS

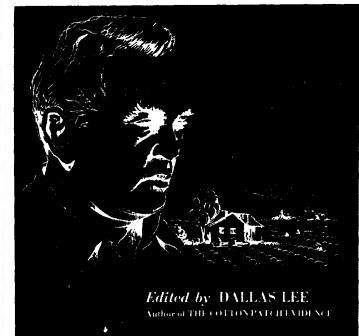
ROUTE 2

Americus, Georgia 31709

KOINONIA WINTER NEWSLETTER #2 - March 1972

Clarence Jordan lived the last 28 years of his life at Koinonia Farm. A man of tremendous practical abilities and a deep, abiding faith, Clarence was equally at home plowing fields or translating Scripture. His life was a unique combination of the spiritual and the practical, and his days on the farm were busy and full. Yet for all of his many responsibilities, Clarence still found the time to travel extensively, speaking wherever invited, sharing his keen insights into Scripture and his warm sense of humor with college students, church groups and congregations, criss-crossing the country to talk with all who would listen. Many of our friends and partners may remember meeting or hearing Clarence on one of these occasions. By the time of his death in November, 1969, we had amassed an extensive collection of tape recordings of many of his sermons, talks, readings and study-sessions from the past two decades which we have continued to rely on heavily in our continuing efforts to find further understanding of God's word. For a long time now we have sought for a way to enable more people to share in this spiritual legacy of Clarence Jordan. . . over the last year, Dallas Lee, author of *THE COTTON PATCH EVIDENCE*, has been hard at work reading through thousands of pages of typed transcripts, selecting and editing the material to produce a collection of Clarence's sermons and talks, and our publishers, Association Press, have just announced that the new book, *THE SUBSTANCE OF FAITH*, "a collection of talks and sermons by Clarence Jordan", will be published in April at \$4.95. We are really excited as the publication date approaches, and can hardly wait to share with you the insights of Clarence Jordan. Books will not be shipped until April, but you may place your orders for *THE SUBSTANCE OF FAITH* now at the special pre-publication price of \$3.95. We have enclosed an order card for your convenience. After April 1, the price will rise to \$4.95.

**The Substance of
Faith and other Cotton
Patch Sermons By
Clarence Jordan**



Clarence's death in the Fall of 1969 left the Koinonia fellowship without a resident Bible scholar, and as a Christian fellowship, we have been very aware of the depth of our needs in this area. At several times over the past year, in addition to the on-going daily and weekly Bible studies, we have set aside one week to devote exclusively to group study of Scripture. For each of these sessions we have invited Bible scholars to come down and guide us in our search. During the last week in December, after our last newsletter went to print, we had a four-day session with Dr. Robert Bratcher, head of the Translation Department of the American Bible Society, and chief translator of the American Bible Society's *GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN* (The Bible in today's English version). Bob Bratcher guided us in a study of "The Person of Christ in the Four Gospels," and his thorough command of Scripture and his very powerful faith were invaluable to us in our effort to study God's word together. . . the study sessions were exciting and provocative. . . and Bob was almost as good on the volleyball court. We were grateful for the presence of Robert and June Bratcher in our fellowship during that week, and thankful that God chose to speak so clearly to us through him. This particular effort at group-study really united us as a fellowship and was a real high point of our spiritual life together.

And, by the time you receive this, we will have had another study session. Dr. John Swomley, Professor of Christian Ethics at St. Paul School of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri, and author of THE AMERICAN EMPIRE, among others, will be arriving on March 3 to lead us in a three-day seminar on "The Believer and the Political State." This has become a deeply personal question for many of us at Koinonia and at other Christian fellowships around the country. . . Christ's command that believers become peacemakers has led several of us to become involved in acts of war resistance, such as tax refusal, and draft resistance, and we are all seeking guidance on this very complicated question. We expect over 100 brothers and sisters from fellowships in Colorado, Illinois, Alabama, North Carolina, Georgia and Virginia to be with us for the weekend, and we are really excited at yet another chance to jointly seek God's truth in fellowship with one another.

An expanded Child Development Center with a capacity for 60 children, made possible by an anonymous gift of \$30,000. . . a new family in the fellowship. . . and a new housing village deep in the pine forest. . . exciting things have been taking place since our last newsletter, and two members of our fellowship share their excitement with you. . .

Debby Boggs, director of the existing Child Development Center, writes of a dream now on its way to reality, as a result of an unexpected gift. "Since September, when we first opened the existing Child Development Center in its temporary structure, a three-bedroom house in the Koinonia Village, we have been aware that there were many more children of pre-school age than we could possibly accept in a center with a capacity for only twenty children. For months now we have been dreaming about building an expanded Child Development Center with a capacity for an enrollment of 60 children, infants to six years old, in a building specifically designed for the purpose, and we shared this dream with you in the last newsletter. Since that time, an anonymous friend has given \$30,000.00 to the Fund for Humanity, specifically designated for this purpose, and we have taken the first exciting steps to make this dream a reality. I spent two weeks in February visiting schools, architects and individuals all over the East Coast, seeking counsel and advise on the design and operation of the Center. Two architects from North Carolina State University's School of Design have agreed to donate their skills and time and will design the plans and then supervise the construction of the new Center. We hope to have final plans finished in time to begin construction in June with the completion date set for January 1973. The building will be designed as a multi-purpose structure. . . with facilities for the Child Development Center. . . and our new program of Adult Education, which we started just this month. (We'll tell you more about this in the next newsletter).

"With the greater capacity of the new building, we hope to be able to accept all of the pre-school aged children of Koinonia employees, as well as children of the families in the fellowship and the village. The gift of \$30,000.00 has enabled us to make a good beginning - but we expect the total cost of the building, including construction, furnishings and equipment, to be in excess of \$60,000.00 - requiring \$30,000.00 we do not have at the moment. But it is hard to watch young children short-changed by circumstance because their mothers must work, and they live in a state which refuses to provide a public kindergarten program. So we are proceeding on faith, trusting in God that concerned people will join with us in partnership. Our needs in this particular ministry are great (operating costs alone for the existing center are \$600 per month) and in this, as in the other ministries, we need your support as partners to make this dream a reality to give families an opportunity for fuller lives together."

Just before Christmas, the Mosley family moved to Koinonia and joined our fellowship. Caroline and Don Mosley, and their three-year old son, Tony, came to Georgia from Texas, where Don had spent the last two years studying at the University of Texas at Austin. Caroline plans to work half days helping to prepare the noon meal in the community kitchen and the remainder of her time working in our new program of Adult Education. (more about that later.) And Don has assumed the position of general coordinator of all phases of



DON, CAROLINE & TONY

our partnership housing program for displaced rural families. His job keeps him very busy coordinating all of the maintenance and repair projects, volunteer work crews, and all of the actual house construction as well. (And with three contracting teams working full time, there is plenty to coordinate.) With twenty houses completed and occupied, and four presently under construction, we have decided to begin building in another location, and for the last month, Don has been spending much of his time drawing up plans for the construction of a second Koinonia Village. He has come up with some really great ideas, and explains some of them to you.

"In March we will begin construction on the first houses in Koinonia's new village. A few hundred yards down the road, toward the Muckaloochee Creek from the first village site, the new location is a forty-acre forest of hardwoods and pines. It has been exciting to discuss and plan how to build

a village that will make the most of the natural beauty of the area and provide the best possible setting for the life of the community.

"The most unusual feature of the new village will be the orientation of all houses toward park strips rather than toward roads. The individual lots will be separated from the parks only by the paved side walks leading through the village. Children will have access to swings and other playground equipment and most of their neighboring friends, without having to ever enter a street. And while the children play in the park area, the adults may visit and watch from their front porches.

"An old gravel quarry will be converted into a public roadside park. One of the long park strips will lead from it and converge with the other park strips on a central recreational and utility area. Here will be such things as basketball courts, the pump for the village water system, and perhaps a day care center someday.

"All roads will run behind the houses, and automobiles will be kept in the back yards with the clothes lines and utility buildings. Where possible, driveways will serve two households instead of one.

"As in the past, our goal will be to provide families with the best possible homes and environment for the least possible cost. The practical experience we have gained from the construction of the first "Koinonia village" has carried us a long way toward that goal. But we are anxious to receive as many new ideas and suggestions as possible from all of you who share our enthusiasm for this work."

Our communications ministry continues to move along at a vigorous pace, as our partners, Ted Swisher, Ladon Sheats, and Millard Fuller carry the Good News across the length and width of the land. Millard has an especially busy schedule set for the next three months....his speaking engagements for March, April and May are as follows, and we invite all interested friends of Koinonia to come and hear Millard if you can:

March 18-19 - Arlington Congregational Church, Jacksonville, Florida

March 21 - Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio - mid-morning Student Convocation

March 21 - Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Toledo, Ohio
evening meeting in cooperation with Toledo Baptist Association

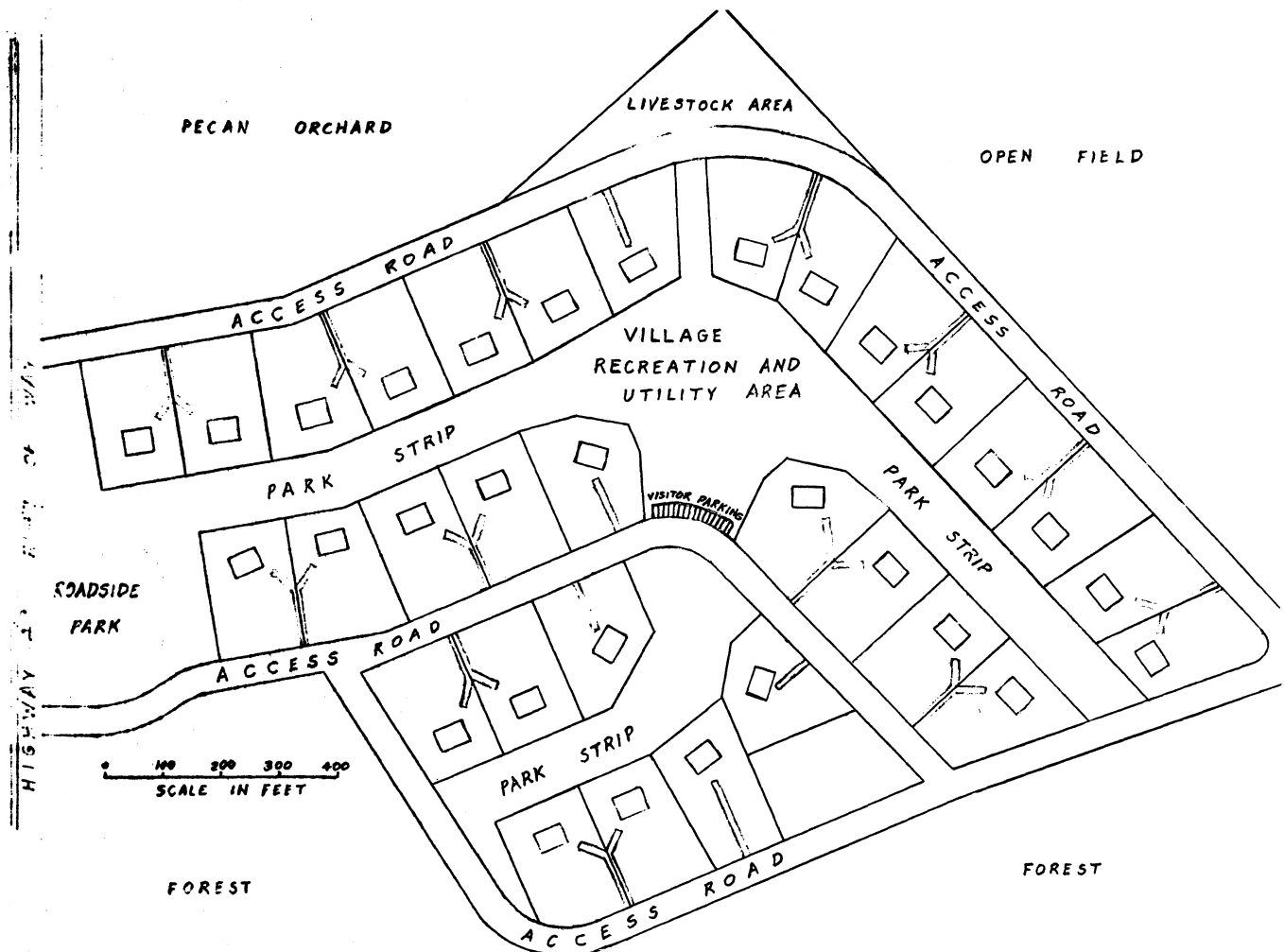
April 4-12 - Tour of Western Canadian Province, sponsored by Canadian Mennonite Publishing Association, Partial itinerary listed below:

- April 4 - evening meeting, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- April 5-7 - banquets in Southern Manitoba;
Rosthern; Saskatchewan; Swift Current,
Saskatchewan
- April 9 - public meeting at Mennonite Educational
Institute, Clearbrook, British Columbia
"Youth in Action", Abbotsford, British
Columbia
- April 10 - Columbia Bible Institute
Public lecture - University of British
Columbia
- April 11 - Simon Fraser University
Douglas College

For more information contact Larry Kehler, 440 Best Street,
Winnipeg or Jake Elias, 483 East 31st Avenue, Vancouver
10, British Columbia.

April 13-14 - Southern Oregon College, Ashland, Oregon

THE NEW HOUSING VILLAGE



- April 16 - Littleton, Colorado
Colorado Springs, Colorado
Ted Benson, contact person
- April 17-18 - Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana
Rev. Dave Kingrey, United Campus Ministry
- April 20 - Annual meeting, United Church of Christ State Laymen's
Fellowship, Pembroke, New Hampshire
- April 21-25 - Series of meetings in Plymouth, New Hampshire sponsored
by the Episcopal Church, United Methodist Church, United
Church of Christ and the Co-operative Campus Ministry of
Plymouth State College
- May 6-8 - Discipleship School, Suruban Partners, Durham, North Carolina
- May 12-14 - Calvary Longview Methodist Church, Memphis, Tennessee

Be sure to note the enclosed Koinonia products brochure. Due to the severity of the summer heat, we are forced to suspend shipment of all food products after May 15th, so order candy, nuts, and fruitcake today.

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Ted Benson, contact person

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