

## KOINONIA PARTNERS

*"We seek a new spirit..."*

912 • 924-7253

### KOINONIA SUMMER NEWSLETTER

1972

This year is kind of special at Koinonia because it was exactly thirty years ago - in 1942 - that it all got started. Clarence and Florence Jordan and Martin and Mabel England had a vision of a Christian Community where men and women could come to share life and experiment with some new forms of Discipleship to Jesus Christ. They landed in Sumter County, Georgia on a 400-acre run-down farm and went to work. The Englands left after a couple of years but Clarence and Florence stayed. Others came. The farm grew and prospered. Then came persecution, frustration --- and near collapse. But, God had other plans for Koinonia and, by His Grace, it is today growing and ministering as never before.

Florence Jordan, the only Koinonia resident who has lived and worked at the farm since 1942, reminisces about that humble beginning thirty years ago and talks of life at Koinonia today:

"When I was asked to look back for a moment to the beginnings of Koinonia, thirty years ago, I saw the old house, once a fine farm home, then a gray, run-down, tenant place sitting in a tangle of grass and weeds. Shaded by two cedars, a venerable post oak and a large seedling pecan, it had the look of a worn and forgotten old woman. Nearby stood a stark, new building, combination shop and apartment, holding promise of a new life. A large mule barn, harness shed and cow barn, all dilapidated, completed the picture.



FLORENCE JORDAN

Today the old shop-apartment still stands as graceless as ever, but in the midst of a lawn dotted with pecans, mimosas, magnolias and other shrubs and flowers. Gone are the old house and mule barn. The cow barn has taken on new life as a flourishing handcraft shop. Both stand surrounded by seven newer dwelling places. On the northern edge of the yard is the busy machinery shop, keeping tractors, trucks and cars rolling. Then comes the sewing industry, pecan plant, bakery, candy kitchen and office. Up the road a piece is the new community center called Sunny Acres, added only four years ago. All of this is surrounded by 1,400 acres of fields, woods and streams. Into this setting put busy men and women, playing children, happy babies and you have Koinonia today.

The promises made in that bare, new building, in a nearly deserted yard, are being fulfilled, at least in part. Pleasant homes have taken the place of many tenant shacks, Black and white are learning to work together in a spirit of partnership. We are trying to share the gifts of spirit, mind and body as taught by Jesus---we want to make the Incarnation real

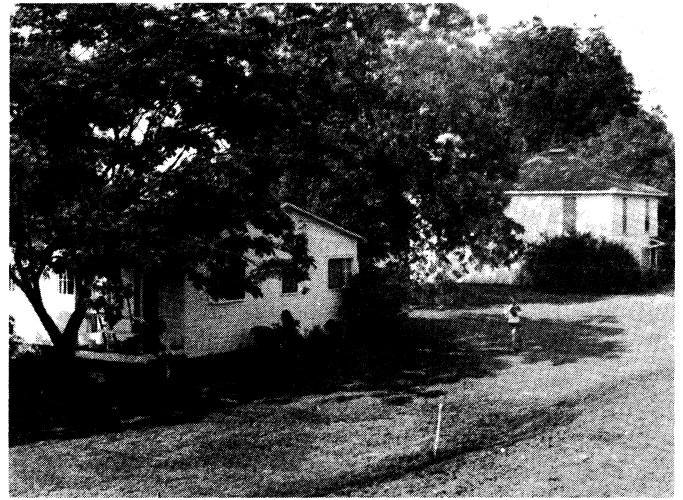
*... a spirit of partnership with God and our fellow man."*

*in our lives. Have we arrived? Heavens, no! If 'a thousand years are as a day in the sight of God', how very short are thirty years."*

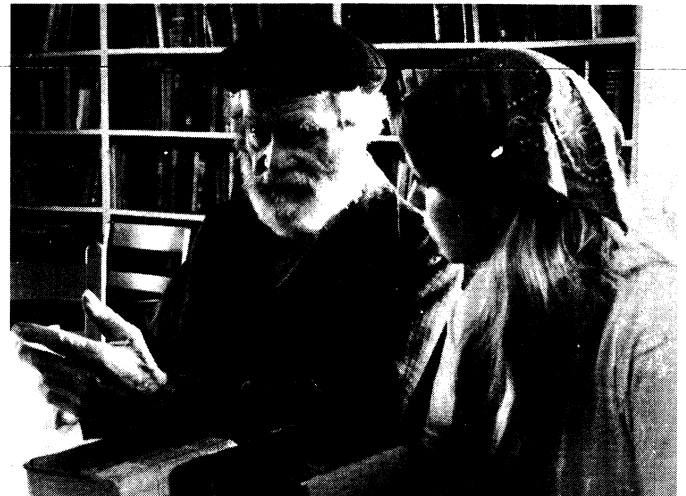
Koinonia had its lowest period in the mid - 1960's. The resident population dwindled - from ten to nine to seven to six --- and, in 1967, down to only four adults.

Then Clarence Jordan met with Millard Fuller in Atlanta in mid-1968 to discuss new directions for their lives and new directions for Koinonia. Out of that meeting grew a burst of new life at the farm called Koinonia Partners. New people began to come who would give flesh to the dream about "----a new spirit of partnership with God and with our fellow man." Millard and Linda and their family moved to the farm along with Al and Ann Zook and their four children, to join the Jordan family and the Wittkamper family in this new ministry. Within the next few months Carol Brink, Lorraine DeGilio, Lena Hofer, Ladon Sheats, Ed Young, George Maendel, and Jim Barnard joined the fellowship. Bo Johnson became a farming partner with Al Zook. Volunteers began to arrive --- at first a couple, then half a dozen, and soon by the hundreds. Some decided to stay --- Ted Swisher, Robert True, Laurie Fuchs, Debby Boggs, Chris Bugbee, and others. Bill and Peggy Londeree came with their two girls to join Koinonia. Then, Jim and Kit Gauss and family, followed by the Ron Savage family. And, families were created, too. Volunteers, Mike Felton and Suzie Worrell, met and were married at Koinonia. David Waldner and Jan Carlson also met at Koinonia and decided to form their own "family partnership." Don and Carolyn Mosley and their son, Tony, first came to Koinonia as volunteers but decided to join the Koinonia family. David Laster became a resident partner, and so did Jo Ann Abel. Bessie Thomas first was a farming partner with Jan Carlson (last summer) but now is a partner along with husband, William, Jim Gauss, and Robert True in the Organic Farming Partnership. Harry and Corrie Doherty came to Koinonia and built an experimental dome. Ashton and Marie Jones built a house in the Village and have been a significant part of the Koinonia ministry.

Within the past few months, Janis Pozzi has returned to Koinonia to continue her work in the larger community around Koinonia. Chris Haas arrived to begin experimenting with bread-baking and Rachael Groff came back to activate the Koinonia Pottery. Melanie Morrison arrived. And, just since June, Ray Bodie has joined us and so has Elaine Bourne and her



KOINONIA TODAY - TWO RESIDENCES AT THE CENTER OF THE COMMUNITY



*"When the time is ripe," says God, "I will share my spirit with all mankind, and your sons and your daughters will speak the truth. Your young people will catch visions. And your old people will dream dreams. Yes indeed, when the time is ripe I'll share my spirit with my boys and girls and they will speak the truth..."* HERE, WILL WITTKAMPER, THE OLDEST KOINONIAN (He has lived at the farm with his family for 19 years) SHARES WITH JANIS POZZI AT AN EARLY MORNING BIBLE STUDY SESSION.



JOSEPH "BO" JOHNSON LOOKS OVER THE CORN CROP. He was with Koinonia in the 1940's and came back four years ago. Now, he is a partner with Ed Young, raising corn, peanuts and cattle.



ORGANIC FARMING PARTNERS, ROBERT TRUE, JIM GAUSS & WILLIAM THOMAS, LOADING CABBAGES

three children. Arthur Laster has come to work with the Worm Partnership and the grape vineyards.

Since 1942, Koinonia has sought to give visibility to the Kingdom, by living out the Gospel in our daily lives. Over the years the farm has changed, but never the underlying purpose. The new thrust of Koinonia Partners was to have three phases: 1) To communicate the radical ideas of the Gospel at Koinonia and across the land by way of speakers, books, records, tapes, and so forth; 2) To instruct people in the ideas of Jesus at Discipleship Schools at Koinonia and elsewhere and; 3) To apply these ideas at Koinonia (as a sort of demonstration plot) in a three-fold program of partnership farming, partnership industry, and partnership housing.

The people named above, and many others, have given flesh and blood to the dream. A flourishing sewing industry is now in operation along with a pecan shelling plant, fruit-cake bakery and candy kitchen. Other partnership industries are growing up, too, and more are planned. The farming partnerships now include vegetables, cattle, grapes, corn, peanuts, and worms. There are no executive salaries in any of these operations. Each person or family takes what is needed for a reasonable living allowance and any excess goes into the Fund for Humanity to help carry out the over-all ministry of Koinonia Partners.

Many of you "non-resident partners" have contributed to this Fund, too, (or have made non-interest loans) enabling the work of Koinonia Partners to expand much more rapidly than otherwise would have been possible. For this spirit of concern and sharing, we are most deeply grateful.

Partnership Housing has been a consuming interest since the inception of Koinonia Partners. And, the impact on poverty housing, though still small, is becoming more significant. So far, twenty-five houses have been completed and five more are under construction. We expect a total of sixty houses to be completed within two years. The pictures on these pages will give you a glimpse into the much bigger picture about the great need for better housing in our area.

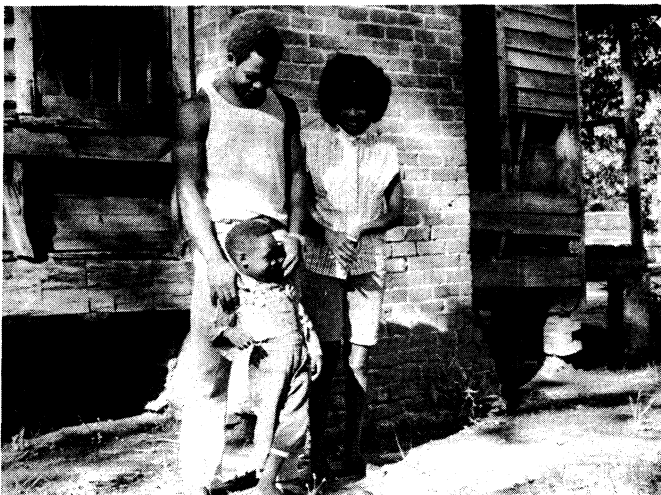


VOLUNTEERS PAINTING.....

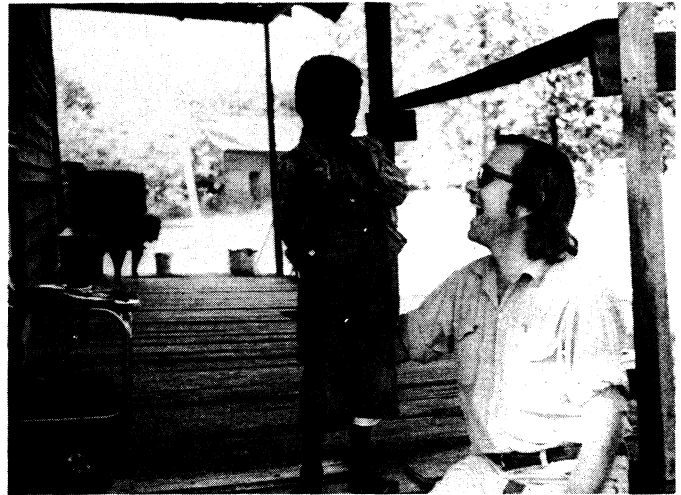


.....AND SCRAPING

THIS NEW HOUSE WILL SOON BE READY FOR OCCUPANCY IN THE NEW SOUTH VILLAGE



CLYDE & ROSE ANGRY & SON, TONY - THEY WILL MOVE TO THE NEW SOUTH VILLAGE SOON



TONY ANGRY & FRIEND, LADON SHEATS, THEY WILL BE NEARER NEIGHBORS WITHIN A FEW WEEKS



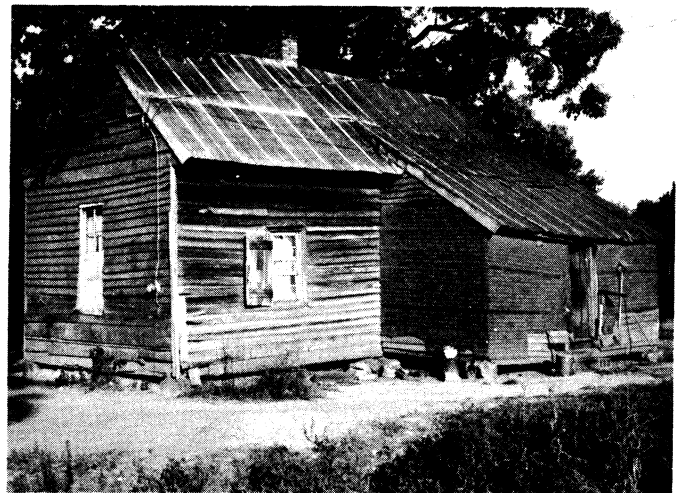
VOLUNTEER, SAM LUTZ  
PRUNING NEW GRAPEVINES

As we reported in the last two newsletters, a new South Village has now been started and already two houses are completed and three more are under construction. A total of thirty houses will be built there.

The in-coming families for all of these houses are told in much detail about the Fund for Humanity and the over-all ministry of Koinonia. They are required to repay the cost of the house over a twenty-year period at no interest (average monthly cost of \$25.00 - \$35.00), but they are encouraged to share with the Fund above this amount if they are able financially to do so in order to help someone else get out of a shack. We feel this opportunity for sharing is quite important even for the poorest family because surely Jesus was right when he said, "It is more blessed to give than to get". We don't want to deny this blessing, but, of course, neither do we want to "force" giving. It must be strictly voluntary in order to be a gift.



VOLUNTEERS DIGGING A DITCH  
*Their work will open up twelve more acres for the farming partnerships.*



KOINONIA PARTNERSHIP HOUSING SEEKS TO  
REPLACE SHACKS LIKE THIS ONE, WITH DECENT  
HOMES.

We seek to convey this same spirit of love and concern for others to the children of the Koinonia Fellowship, and Village and surrounding area, too. Janis Pozzi is heading a six-week program this summer involving more than sixty children. She shares these thoughts about it:

*"Ann Faust, Marilyn Houser and I are spending a large portion of our time this summer with children between the ages of 6 - 14, all of whom either live in Americus, in the surrounding area, at the farm, or in the village. In the past, such a gathering of young people has been referred to as Summer Bible School. We shy away from this label, for none of us thinks of ourselves as teachers, but rather as people who desire to share the love of Christ with our young friends and to be continually open to all that they are teaching us."*



Because of the flow of love expressed and enrichment shared, we are all teachers and students, all of us being children walking hand-in-hand down the same road.

The primary hope in our time spent together is to deepen our understanding of God's love for his children as revealed through His creation and the magnificence of nature, through the servanthood of Jesus Christ, and through the love which can dwell in each of us as brothers and sisters. We are exploring what Jesus' love for us should mean in our own lives and asking such questions as....how do we show love and concern for our neighbors, including those we fear and don't like?.... how do we love those who intentionally hurt us?....how do we express concern for our brothers in East Harlem, or Vietnam, or Bangla Desh who are hurting and hungry? We are approaching these questions and Christ's idea of love through the means of the creative arts, taking advantage of the richness of musical and artistic expression, of the messages proclaimed in books such as Winnie the Pooh and The Little Prince, of the joy expressed in poetry, and ultimately relying on the witness of Jesus' life as revealed in the New Testament.

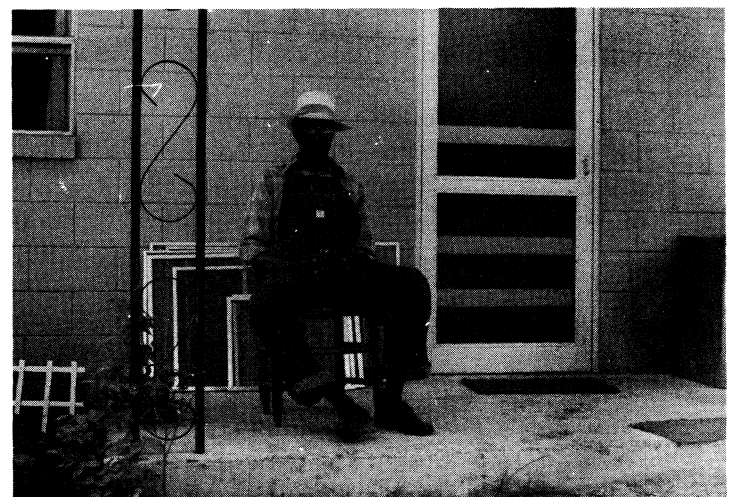


KATIE WILLIAMS AND CHILDREN, BLANCHE, DAVID & BUBBA. - This family, with husband & father, LeRoy, moved from this house into their new home in Koinonia Village in mid - June.

Because we believe that lives are enriched by a growing awareness of the struggles of our brothers and sisters in all parts of the world and by giving what we can to serve these friends, we are telling the children about the hardships of people in other areas, and are opening up possibilities for them to give to different causes. This increased consciousness enables us to serve and to love on a fuller level. Hopefully, from our time of sharing with one another this summer, we will learn a little bit better what it means to love."



LYNN & EFFIE MOORE  
AT THEIR NEW HOME IN KOINONIA VILLAGE



MR. PETE SIMS  
AT HIS NEW HOME IN KOINONIA VILLAGE



THE LASTER FAMILY  
AT THEIR NEW HOME IN KOINONIA VILLAGE



MARGARET WITTKAMPER, SAVANNAH JONES &  
DEBBY BOGGS WITH THE CHILDREN OF THE  
KOINONIA CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER.

The sharing of Jesus' ideas about peace, love, concern for others, and brotherhood goes beyond the confines of Sumter county, Georgia, Ladon Sheats and Millard Fuller continue to carry most of this responsibility for us. Here is their speaking schedule for the coming months. If you live in any of these areas, please go to hear them speak. They would be delighted to see you.

LADON SHEATS

July 14 - 16	Mennonite Youth Conference, Goshen College, Indiana
October 18 - 19	Lambuth College, Jackson, Tennessee
October 20	Calvary Longview Methodist Church, Memphis, Tennessee

MILLARD FULLER

October 8	United Church of Christ Association Youth Rally Louisville, Kentucky
October 12	Manchester College, North Manchester, Indiana
October 15	St. Lucas United Church of Christ, Evansville, Indiana
October 19 - 22	First Methodist Church, Coral Gables, Florida

We are pleased to announce the birth of Dana Louise Savage, on April 27th. Dana was born at home, and Mrs. Willa Mae Champion, Supervisor in the Sewing Industry was the midwife who "caught" the little Miss. (The word "caught" is the terminology used by midwives in this area for helping birth babies.) Mama and Daddy and the entire family are doing fine --- as the picture on the following page clearly indicates.



RON & ETTA RUTH SAVAGE  
TIMOTHY, DANA, DEBORAH & DIANE

The deep concern of our entire fellowship about the continuing scourge of war upon mankind has caused us to have our telephones removed. As most of you know, the 10 per cent telephone tax goes entirely to the present war effort and even though our tax-exempt status would allow us (technically) to avoid paying this tax, we felt that we wanted to make this symbolic witness. How long will the phones remain out? We've put no time limit on it. We just felt led at this time, to make this witness. If this inconveniences you, I hope you will try to understand our position. You will just have to write more letters --- which we love to receive!!

Lately, we've been having a flurry of very unusual excitement at Koinonia. We are being attacked by a big bobcat! So far, he's killed one hog, three pigs, and a dog! William Thomas, in the village,

shot at him once while he was fighting six dogs, but missed. The big cat dashed off into the woods before he could shoot again. He came back a couple of days later in broad daylight and got another pig. Oh well, we've been attacked by Kluxers and now the cats are after us. All things considered, we think we prefer the cat attacks --- although we would really prefer not being attacked at all!! (Hopefully, this little episode is over. As we go to press, the bobcat hasn't been seen for three weeks.)

This summer, food products are not being shipped due to the heat. We will start shipping again in mid-September. All non-food items, however, are shipped all year round. You may order now for immediate delivery on books, records, tapes, hand-crafted items, slacks, and so forth. If you would like to read the full story about Koinonia - history and present work - order a copy of The Cotton Patch Evidence, Harper and Row, 1971 (\$5.95) or get a copy from your local bookstore. Write for a full listing of other Koinonia Products.

We close this newsletter, commemorating our thirtieth year, with a quote from the first Koinonia newsletter in 1942. It is equally appropriate today, for these same thoughts, aspirations, and desires are ours at the present time.

*"The Community seems rather amused at two preachers trying to farm, and haven't yet quite figured us out. We willingly and unashamedly confess our ignorance, and ask for their instruction and advice. In return, we may in turn share with them our convictions about the brotherhood of all men, about the way of love as an alternative to hatred and violence, about man being more valuable than mammon, about Christian communal living, and about many other things which loom so large in the teachings of Jesus.*

*Thus, as we are blessed by our friends, far and near, we sincerely pray that in some small measure we may be a blessing to them. And for each of you we would wish the abiding presence of the Prince of Peace, and the joy and love which come from fellowship with the Holy Spirit. May you have the mind in you which was in Christ Jesus."*



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TAPES

All Clarence Jordan records are also available in tapes.

CASSETTE TAPES	\$4.50
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One record - complete - on each tape.

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(Send separate check to "Koinonia Handcrafts")

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