

KOINONIA PARTNERS

Route 2 • Americus, Georgia • 31709

"We seek a new spirit . . .

Telephone (912) 924-0391

December 1, 1979

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your important support of the work of Koinonia. As you know from our recent newsletter, this fall marks the end of a decade of life and work here without Clarence Jordan. Because you have been willing to risk with us something of yourselves in these 10 years since Clarence died, we have been able to draw a few steps closer to realizing the fulfillment of a dream. Through changes of people and programs at Koinonia, through times joyful and sad, it has been partners like you who have sustained the ongoing endeavors to be God's servants.

This past weekend we took a few hours to come together with a few old friends and to share reminiscences, to tell a few tales, to linger over old scrap books, and thus to remind ourselves of our past that we might better understand our present and future. We have been pleased to note that we are not alone in celebrating Clarence's life and his unique mark upon his time by the founding of Koinonia. "Sojourners", a magazine many of us consider to be one of the finest religious periodicals published today, is focusing its December issue on Clarence and his legacy. This issue, part of a "Sojourners" December tradition that in previous years has highlighted the lives of Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, and Karl Barth, promises to be an important contribution. We'll be sending you a complimentary copy for your study and enjoyment as soon as it comes off the press.

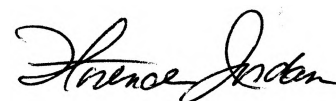
As winter draws closer, we are all more aware of those friends and neighbors in Sumter County who will seek warmth around crumbling fireplaces in drafty shacks and of the enormous task that still lies before us in our efforts to provide decent housing for them. It is a challenge that is no less great than the one that faced those partners who first carried on the vision after Clarence's death. But challenges and dreams are a part of the very fiber of God's call to us, and we celebrate the continued opportunity to be a part of this vital ministry. Your partnership with us over these last 10 years has meant that for over 500 people in this county the coming of winter is not quite so fearful; it has also meant that hundreds of children have had a better educational beginning.

Just as 10 years ago Clarence's death challenged us with the task of carrying on without him so this has been a year of special challenge for us at Koinonia. We have stepped out on faith and started a new community based ministry, Jubilee Partners, in Comer, Georgia. This has stretched both our personnel and financial resources. In addition, we had two weeks of rain during peanut harvest that turned a potential bumper crop into a slight financial loss. Good crops of corn and soybeans may result in a small profit from farming going into the Fund for Humanity, but much less than anticipated.

We know, as you do, that money gets tighter with each racing minute. We know, as you do, that tight money means cutting back on some desired items. But the poor know what tight money means most intensely, for them it means doing without, giving up. In times like these, the call to faithfulness may seem more demanding, more challenging, but it is certainly no less clear. We need your continued support to sustain the 12 house-per-year pace that we have been setting, and to continue our nursery and child development centers. Some of you have not contributed recently to the Fund for Humanity; others perhaps may choose to share with Koinonia again. Please send whatever you can and support us with prayers as well as gifts. We are enclosing an envelope to simplify your tax deductible giving. Thanks so much.



Ted Swisher



Florence Jordan

. . . a spirit of partnership with God and people everywhere."