



KOINONIA

NEWSLETTER

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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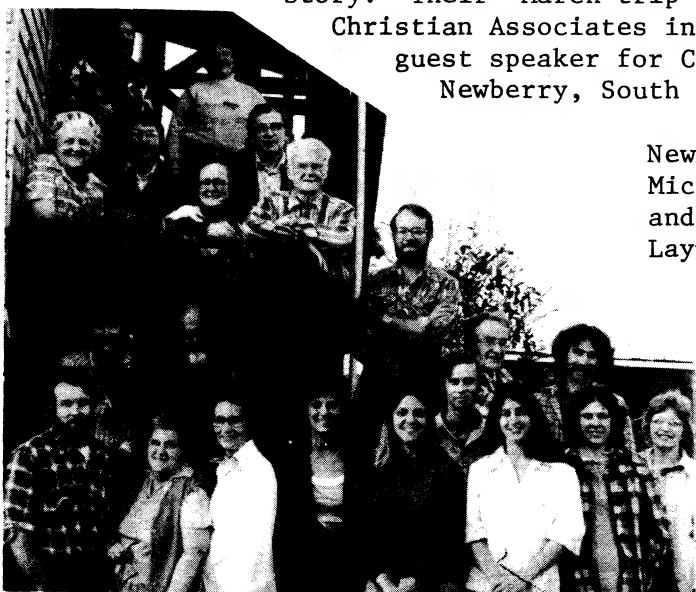
Dear Friends,

The wisteria is hanging in rich purple clusters as I write this, but the results of the January ice storm are still with us. Broken trees and fallen limbs not yet covered with new growth remind us of the heavy, glittering crystals that encapsulated our fields and forests just three weeks ago. Parts of our villages were without electric power for two to five days. However, the March storm that brought six inches of snow to Atlanta left us with only rain. It was a mild, wet winter and the lake is full to over-flowing. We gathered with grateful hearts on its shores to celebrate again the wonder of Easter morn, and reflect with joy on the mystery of Christ's presence with us.

In January we had a four-day visit from Joan Bissett and Jack Jonkman of Menomine River Community in upper Michigan. It was a time to share experiences and re-examine our calling to community as we continue to explore a relationship with the Community of Communities.

February was a month of special blessing as we shared some extended times together in Bible study and community fellowship, again re-thinking our purposes in being here in southwest Georgia and the future of our ministry here. The capstone of the month was a weekend seminar led by Dr. Haviland Houston, the General Secretary of the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, and Rodney Shaw. Under the heading "The Stewardship of Power", we dealt with such issues as the federal budget and Christian priorities, nuclear and conventional disarmament, and cultural identity and racism.

George Theuer and Ray and Lois Rockwell were sent in response to an invitation from the United Church of Christ, Vermilion, Ohio, Louis Bertoni, pastor, to tell the Koinonia story. Their March trip also included meetings sponsored by the Christian Associates in Sharon, Pennsylvania. Steve Clemens was a guest speaker for Christian emphasis week at Newberry College, Newberry, South Carolina.



News of the family must include the arrival of Micah Will on January 29th to Partners Christine and Steve Clemens. On May 28th Partner Judith Layman and extended Volunteer David Bruining will join their lives in marriage with the wedding at Koinonia. On July 2nd, Betty Jean Jackson, our Koinonia bookkeeper, and Kenneth Jones will be married. Extended Volunteer, Becky Moore and Joseph White, a former Volunteer, have planned a September wedding in Atlanta.

At Koinonia, our love of children calls us to many things: we regularly have tutoring, the summer recreation program, volunteering in schools, the Child Development Center and nursery and now, our current initiative for a year-round youth program which we feel is important to the young people in this area.

Plans are well under way for our Summer Youth Program. The year-round schedule of activities which will include Bible studies, tutoring, sports, crafts, and other enrichment programs is being developed as an out-growth of the summer program. The newly renovated space in the building formerly used for the old sewing industry, sparkling with fresh paint and paneling, was dedicated for

this expanded youth ministry during the time of our recent Koinonia Board of Directors meeting on April 26. The Fund for Humanity is the financing agent for this and all other Koinonia ministries, the largest of which is housing. We'd like to take this opportunity to encourage you to make a regular contribution of \$10 or more each month to ensure the support of this program and ministry for the 75 children and youth of school age who live in Koinonia Village and Forest Park.



Throughout its history Koinonia has been a strong advocate for integrated schools and better schools for all children. Ron Foust and others have been working the last eight years to bring changes to the local school system. Their efforts have included campaigns in three school board elections, one bond referendum, three court suits in the Georgia state courts, a county-wide school boycott for a month to protest the use of condemned school buildings, and most recently, two actions in the U.S. District Court.

The first action through the intervention of the U.S. Justice Department has been to prevent illegal transfers of white students from the county schools to neighboring school districts. The second action is a lawsuit to eliminate at-large voting in the county school board elections to make possible the election of black candidates. The suit has been won in court and now the plans for seven single-member districts are being drawn locally and scrutinized by the Justice Department.

Enclosed is a map of Koinonia Farm which we hope you will find interesting. We hope that you will be encouraged to visit us as you have opportunity to travel in this area.

Look for updated news on our house construction in our newsletter this fall. In the meantime, we are happy to announce the dedication of six houses in Plains, GA., on March 5th.

We pray for your continued support of prayers, encouragement and finances as we try to follow God's will in using all resources in service to God and our fellow human beings. With your help we can do this with the people in this area. We are grateful to you who are our Partners with God.

For all of us at Koinonia,

Lois Rockwell

Lois Rockwell

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The 16mm film, "Enough to Share: A Portrait of Koinonia Farm" was released in February. Produced by Gayla Jameson through Lightfoot Films, Inc., the movie is distributed by Ideas and Images, Inc. Inquiries about the rental or purchase of this film should be addressed to Ideas and Images, Inc.

P.O. Box 5354

Atlanta, GA. 30307

We are very grateful for Gayla's talent and her sensitive interpretation of Koinonia.

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The musical, "Cotton Patch Gospel" continues its successful Dallas showing after six months in New York and six months in Atlanta. It was presented at the Baptist Leadership Conference in March at Louisville, KY, and is being prepared for nationwide presentations through Columbia Artists Theatricals Corp., 165 W. 57th St., New York, N.Y. 10019. The Album and script (see book order form) are available from Koinonia Partners. Requests for performance information and rights should be addressed to: Chapin Productions, Ltd., P.O. box 538, Huntington, N.Y. 11743.

Who
Are We?

Koinonia Partners

Habitat for Humanity

Jubilee Partners

We are often asked: "What is the relationship among these three groups?" These are three separately incorporated organizations, with similar dreams of serving God and with a common origin. Each has its own Board of Trustees, its own administration, its own program, and its own location. We work in collaboration and feel a part of one family, but we are officially independent of each other.

KOINONIA PARTNERS

Koinonia Partners was organized here in Sumter County, Georgia in 1942 by the Jordans and the Englands. It has grown to include a Christian community and its collateral activities of Education, Communication, Farming, House Building, Handcrafts, Food Products, Publications, etc. Further details of its activities made possible by God's grace and the partnership of you all, are available by writing: Koinonia Partners, Route 2, Americus, GA 31709.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity was organized by Millard Fuller in 1976 to develop a worldwide activity in housing for the poor. He had been a part of the beginning of the housing program at Koinonia from 1969 to 1973. He then went to Zaire and organized a similar program. This overseas success led to the organization of Habitat for Humanity to promote and support this effort. A growing number of groups in the United States involved in housing efforts along the same line have become affiliated with Habitat. The organization directly supports and operates overseas projects in Zaire and Guatemala. The address of Habitat is: Habitat for Humanity, 419 W. Church St., Americus, GA 31709.

JUBILEE PARTNERS

Jubilee Partners is another outgrowth of the work in Sumter County. Following years of prayerful planning, three families were sent out from Koinonia in the summer of 1979 with community blessing and support. They set down roots in Comer, Georgia two hundred miles north of us. Jubilee is a community rather similar in organization and purpose to Koinonia. They are assisting in the orientation of refugee immigrants to American life and language. You may find out more about them by writing: Jubilee Partners, Box 274, Comer, GA 30629.