



Established in 1942

# *Koinonia Partners, Inc.*

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1324 GA Highway 49 South • Americus, Georgia 31719  
Phone 229-924-0391

June 7, 2004

Dear Koinonia Extended Family,

This time last year, my students and I had just learned of Koinonia by chance, and I was reading every book I could find by and about Clarence Jordan and Koinonia Farm. We had never heard of Koinonia—we couldn't even pronounce it—but "Grandma Jackie" at Habitat for Humanity International gave us a quick pronunciation lesson and persuaded us to follow her there. We visited for less than an hour, but there was something special and sacred about the place, and we needed to know more. (You probably know the feeling.)

As I found myself returning again and again, the spiritual presence at Koinonia reawakened my lifelong belief that we are called to wholeness, rather than to a compartmentalized existence. I longed to integrate my "compartments" (spirituality, artistic and literary endeavors, and administration) into one work of service, as Clarence Jordan did, and as the people I met at Koinonia were doing. Now, less than a year later, I find myself chosen to serve Koinonia as executive director. What a privilege and a challenge. I want to let you know how humbled I am, how much I am enjoying this adventure, and how I appreciate your continuing love for this holy ground. I also bring you an update on some of our activities:

What a busy place this is. The summer program at the **Koinonia Community Outreach Center (KCOC)** has begun, and not only does "Miss Kathleen" guide us in this **service to youth** in Sumter County, she also keeps us busy with the **senior citizens' program**.

We have a **bumper crop in the blueberry patch**. Our chaplain, Norris Harris, had all of us out picking berries as he conducted **chapel service** this morning. Joel Snider wrote of Clarence Jordan, "...Jordan tried to make the ideas of the Bible come alive in the minds of his listeners... the events of the Bible were 'news' in the age in which they occurred, but, through the passage of time, that news had become history. Jordan intended to make the events and ideas of the Bible news once again." Norris carries on that tradition and spirit, making the Bible come alive for us.

Bud, Jake and others put our new tractor to good use **harvesting the wheat and planting soybeans**. Beverly and Jake Jacobson contacted a few of our friends and raised the funds needed to buy the tractor in an amazingly short time. Thanks to Beverly and Jake and all those who contributed.

We are restructuring our **Heart to Heart Ministry**. We want to better organize groups to join us on a regular basis to help keep Koinonia neighborhood homes in good repair, and

to **share basic maintenance skills** with people in the community. We'll send you more information soon.

There's always plenty of maintenance to do (we **painted** the main office, **rebuilt** the guesthouse's porch and stairs, and spruced up Sunny Acres and the common area in Jubilee), but not all of our work is physical. Through study, we stretch our minds and fill our hearts. Sanders Thornburgh offered a **series of classes** on the teachings of



*Geneva Brown picking blueberries*



*Village children enjoy the pool at KCOC*

Mahatma Gandhi, and Ann Coble, author of *Cotton Patch for the Kingdom*, gave a series of talks entitled "The Theology of Clarence Jordan." We are now in week six of an eight-week course studying Clarence's interpretation of Jesus' parables.

Our **efforts for peace** continue, as two of our long-term volunteers attended an alternative G8 Summit in Brunswick, Georgia. They write: "There may be other groups protesting the G8, and nobody can predict what they may or may not do, but the G8 Carnival, The Other Economic Summit, and the Fair World Fair are peaceful actions. Nashua Chantal will give



*The marketing team reviewing proofs for the brochure*



*Ann Karp picking blueberries*

its **hospitality ministry**. This week we had the joy of dining with Millard and Linda Fuller, their daughters Faith and Georgia, son-in-law Manfred, and grandchildren Sophie, Jasmine and Destin. John and Dee Cole Vodicka were here, too. John spoke of **the many ministries born at Koinonia**: the Fullers and Habitat for Humanity, his Prison and Jail Project, Jubilee Partners and others. It's always wonderful sharing meals with old and new friends.

Last weekend our **board of directors** gathered for their bi-annual meeting, which was full of planning and strategizing. They passed a budget for the upcoming fiscal year



*Michael Grainge with a 52 lb. watermelon*

children's workshops on Global Peace Knows Day and Solutions for Peace. Ann Karp will present several sessions on affecting peaceful change through the political process, with an emphasis on what folks can do even if they can't yet vote... Rather than engaging tanks and police with our bodies, the G8 Carnival aims to engage children, teens and each other with our minds..."

As always, Queen E. feeds us and our guests, helping Koinonia continue



*Jessica and Tesha ringing the bell for lunch*

and set the fall board meeting for "**Come Home to Koinonia**" Weekend, October 29–31. We hope that many of you will attend the homecoming celebration with us. The festivities will include the presentation of 2004's **Clarence Jordan Humanitarian Award**. We have already received several nominations for the 2005 award. If you would like to make a nomination, please do.

We are increasing our efforts in **marketing our products**. Enclosed is a brochure—please share it with others. Income from products, crops and donations enables us to carry out

our ministries. We are grateful for your assistance in any of those areas.

Individuals cannot do this holy work of Koinonia alone—it takes **teamwork**. Recently, the staff and long-term volunteers organized into teams so we may work better and more efficiently. But we can always use your help. If you can't make homecoming weekend but would like to visit another time, we can



*Bicycle race at KCOC Summer Camp*



*Bren writing at Clarence's Shack*

surely keep you busy. (Take a look at the attached list of upcoming projects.) You're always welcome to join us in **work, study and prayer**—any or all of them.

God has kept Koinonia Farm alive for 62 years and seems to have a plan for us. We are discerning this plan and **praying for the people and financial resources** to accomplish it. Beginning June 14 and onward, we will ring the Koinonia bell at

10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. each day. Everyone will pause in the workday to pray, to be open in an intentional way to receive the necessary resources and wisdom to do God's will. We'd be glad if you would join us. If you observe a moment of silence at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. in your time zone, the prayer will be unceasing, as we have Koinonia extended family around the world. Please **pray with us** and hold Koinonia in your heart.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bren Dubay".

Bren Dubay  
Executive Director

P.S. You likely know of our custom of sharing **joys and concerns** at lunchtime. I have enclosed a sheet for you. Please share your joys and concerns about Koinonia with me. I am here to learn, to serve, and to do the best I can. Thanks for helping me to be a worthy servant.

The card also allows you to make a contribution of time, talent or treasure. We'll contact you with specifics later in the year, but if you sign up to help now, we appreciate it.

# *Come Volunteer at Koinonia!*

During our product season “Crunch Time”  
From the day after Thanksgiving through December 15

## **Workers Needed:**

### **Order Takers (4):**

These cheerful folks take product orders over the phone and answer questions about our products and then enter orders into the computer system.

### **Shippers (6):**

Shippers accurately and carefully pack items into boxes, then seal and label them.

### **Invoice/Gift Order Preparers (2):**

After invoices and gift orders are printed, these detail-oriented workers prioritize them, cut out address labels, and group and paper clip orders with matching gift cards.

### **Pecan Sorters (6):**

Are the sharp-eyed folks who hand-sort shelled pecan halves & pieces. Pecan sorters work with a loud vibrating table and pick out pecans that do not meet Koinonia standards.

### **Bakery Workers (6):**

These lucky people lovingly bake and package goodies in the Koinonia Bakery.

## *Koinonia Wish List*

Following is a list of items that are needed at Koinonia. For the larger items we would be willing to pay shipping for them or if it is not too far, to come get them.

For Capital Improvements: Funds for capital improvements such as air conditioning the dining hall, renovating the chapel, building a shed for yard equipment, finishing out the woodshop etc.

For the Bakery:

- Commercial Popcorn Popper
- Commercial Dehydrater
- Commercial Mixer
- Large Stove (not commercial)
- Commercial Blender

For Housekeeping—Any household items including:

- Twin and Full Sheets
- Mattresses and Bedspreads
- Silverware
- Cookware

For the Shop:

- 12 inch or larger DeWalt Radial Arm Saw
- Spindle Shaper
- 8 inch wide or larger Jointer
- Panel Saw

For the Dining Hall:

- Dishwasher/Sanitizer—Commercial
- Food Processor—Commercial
- Large Stainless Steel Serving Bowls
- Good quality Chef and Paring Knives
- Heavy Plastic Glasses
- Table Cloths (plastic—14), Dish Cloths, Dish Towels, Hot Pads
- Plates—heavy plastic (light green is best)
- Large Folding Tables (2)

For KCOC:

- Large Television
- Art & Craft supplies
- Digital Camera
- Educational Software
- Educational Videos , Video Games and Assorted Board Games
- Mixing Bowls, Cooking Utensils, Serving Pans and Bowls, Dishes
- Table Cloths
- Assorted Towels
- Food Processor
- Floor Scale

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My gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help the work is enclosed. I would like the gift to be directed as follows:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> KCOC              | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance & Repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Reserve Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heart to Heart    | <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment Fund       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wherever need most   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Operating | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____         |   |

I am interested in volunteering. Please (check one)  Write me  Email me

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am happy to share my Koinonia joys and concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



*On the Peace Trail*



*Little Bear*

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*Established in 1942*



*Pecan orchard on a winter afternoon*



*Azalea in spring*