

## BULLETIN

*Thirty-one years of service*  *under the Red V Black Star*

# AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE



*Dickey and Tony Chapelle*

European schoolboy, with a ragged book satchel under his arm, walks down a cold street to his school. Friendships are being formed between American children and students in many countries through School Affiliation.

**SCHOOL ADVENTURE** *by* LOUISE WOOD

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# Christmas 1948

AT THIS Christmas season, it is encouraging to know there is a moderate degree of recovery in a good many European and Asiatic countries. Our relief work has not been in vain. For this we should be grateful, as are the recipients.

But we cannot pause at that point. Employment, production, food—all of these are very important, but broken social institutions, collapsed political structures, inadequate educational facilities and, above all, the hopelessness, despair and cynicism that come from seeing nothing in the future are factors of deeper importance than the shortage of food.

Christmas two thousand years ago was not a time when people shared gifts with each other. It was a time when "peace on earth—good will toward men" came to a distraught world. It was a spiritual contribution that caused Christmas to be observed. It was because spirits were touched, kindled and refreshed.

The greatest gift that can be bestowed by one man to another is a hand of fellowship, given with tenderness, a sense of caring and love, a reassurance that every man is important for himself alone, and his life worth while.

It is this hand of fellowship which the Service Committee attempts to lend to people in many countries in many situations—people who may be cold or hungry, lonesome, friendless or confused. They may suffer from racial or religious prejudice or from economic injustice. They may be among those in mental hospitals, correctional institutions or prisons. Whoever it was who said that Europe's real disease is lonesomeness spoke a great truth, not only for Europe, but for the whole world.

Each one of us can offer friendship, help and hope to people whom we meet every day. But there are people whose normal problems of life have been so intensified by war and destruction, by internal strife, by poverty and disease that special efforts must be made to bring the healing touch of human sympathy to them.

In this BULLETIN, you will read of some of our fellowship projects. There is a story on School Affiliation, another that tells of reconstruction work in Mexico, as well as a description of the work in the no-man's land of China. Perhaps you have read in these pages of neighborhood centers or work camps. All of these are attempts to rebuild the broken fabric of social structures and to provide a device for the revival of spirit and hope and courage.

We must not think of gifts as items that can be bought from a store. The gift of fellowship is the one that men long for this Christmas.

Money to help provide a rest home for tired school teachers and social workers in Berlin will go a long way toward expressing the true Christmas spirit; or enabling a teacher to visit schools in Europe and tell the teachers and children there of the desire of American children and teachers to become acquainted with them may be a rich Christmas gift. These are only samples of the kind of participation in fellowship available to almost anyone in this country.

The great volume of Government aid that is going to many countries sometimes tends to overwhelm people, not by its abundance, but because it comes from one rich western country. They are afraid that we may dominate them. But there is no fear of domination from the quiet, gentle spirit who goes to serve in a humble capacity in one of these opportunities that is open both here and abroad. This service removes barriers and restores fellowship and helps those in other countries to think of America not as just a rich, powerful and perhaps a dangerous neighbor, but as America with a heart and a spirit and a concern for the inner as well as the outer life of men and women and children.

Let us continue to make possible the rich and abundant flow of this life and spirit. No Christmas gift can be richer than this.

CLARENCE E. PICKETT,  
*Executive Secretary.*

## New Literature

"Japan Looks to Us," new edition (6 pp.), describing the need and the program in Japan.

"Quaker Relief in Japan" (6 pp.), new edition in Japanese.

"Beliefs Into Action" (4 pp.), revised reprint of BULLETIN article on summer service projects.

"Trends Toward Peace" (6 pp.), describing the Committee's peace program in this country and Mexico.

The Committee on Educational Materials for Children of the AFSC has developed a school pack, containing paper, pencils and other school supplies, which American school children may send, through the AFSC, to school children in Europe and Asia. Many children are sending the packs as Christmas gifts.

The approximate cost of the pack is \$1.30, including a shipping charge of 25 cents. Write CEMC, 20 S. 12th St., Philadelphia 7, Pa., for the exact list of contents allowed in each pack, and for packing and mailing directions.

The next meetings of the American Friends Service Committee will be held January 7 and 8, in Philadelphia.

# School Adventure

by LOUISE WOOD

*School Affiliation Service, conducted for the past two years by the Overseas Schools Committee and the AFSC, is now entirely under direction of the Service Committee. At present, 117 schools in France, 63 in Germany, 15 in Holland, eight in Italy, two in Poland and one in Japan are affiliated with 192 American schools. Louise Wood is visiting schools in Europe as a representative of the School Affiliation.*

ON MY desk lies an album divided into two sections. The first is labeled, "Interior of Amiens Cathedral"; the second, "The Story of Joseph as Told in the Choir Stalls of Amiens Cathedral." The story, illustrated with photographs, is carefully written in ink. It is dedicated "to our American friends."

This album was prepared by boys of a secondary school in Amiens. It represents hours of painstaking effort, and is one example of School Affiliation Service at work.

## Material Help

In Europe the schools carry on under varying conditions—housed in wooden barracks; doubled up with some other school; or conducted in the shell of a damaged building, where plaster falls from ceilings and walls, and where windows are bricked up to keep out the cold. In every school, damaged or still intact, there is a dearth of books and other teaching equipment.

My visits to European schools took me to one in Holland, where the director showed me the carpentry shop. Empty tool cases stood against the walls, and the shop was not in use. After affiliation was made with an American school, shop work resumed with the use of the tools sent from the affiliated school.

On my first visit to the classrooms of another affiliated school, the boys sat solemnly at their desks with folded arms. But as I asked them about their letters from their school in Pasadena, they crowded around, asking questions.

"What is 'trek'?"

"Tell us how you play baseball."

"What is 'avocado'?"

A school in Le Havre received several CARE packages from its affiliated school. Raisins, flour and coffee were measured into little packages, while each child received a piece of chocolate to eat at once. Each took home two bags, and the mid-Lenten season was made festive with the unexpected treat—coffee for papa, an omelette, a tart. "What can we do for our American friends?" was the next question.

Through school affiliation, badly needed constructive help has come to the European schools from America. And in return, the boys and girls overseas have sent a stream of gifts they could ill afford. But the relationship does not stop there, nor is it dependent upon material exchange. Where an American principal has shared the personal and professional problems of the principal of his affiliated school; where boys and girls have showered each other's classrooms with letters and postal cards—here friendships have been built and understanding has been fostered.

## Celestial Exchange

A number of affiliated schools abroad have shared their gifts from America with other, needier schools. The little village school of Flavacourt, France, for example, has in turn adopted a bombed-out French school. There is also a little convent school in France, where one of the sisters told us at tea of her concern. She said, "We French, mademoiselle, have become egotistical. We have had to think of feeding our own families and of nothing else during these last years;

we have forgotten our neighbors. I do not want my girls to grow up this way. Out of the food that our American school has sent us, I have held some back, and my girls have been giving it to old people in the village who need help. This has been a revelation to my girls. I hope our American friends will approve." Then she added, "We pray for them, you know, though they are not a Catholic school. We ask that our guardian angels may go over there to protect them and that their guardian angels may come over here to protect us—for why should there not be an exchange in the celestial regions also?"

## Affiliation an Adventure

Schools abroad want to know what goes on in our classrooms; what we mean by education through extra-curricular activities. They want to see our art work and to show us theirs. They want to sing our songs. They want to know what America is really like. They have much to give American boys and girls to help them understand other civilizations. On such understanding peace may be built. For each school, whether in our country or in Europe or Asia, an affiliation can be an adventure for the whole school.

One of the greatest satisfactions for us as we visit the classrooms is to find that letters are passing regularly between pupils, teachers, and heads of each affiliated school. This exchange means continuity of friendship; it means confidence for the future; it means America in terms of "my friend in the United States," and for American boys and girls, "my friend in Holland, in Germany, in France, Poland or in Italy."

# Unique Testimony in China

by SPENCER COXE

*Spencer Coxe spent approximately two and a half years in China, in Honan Province and later as chairman of the Unit in Shanghai. Aside from the work described in this article, the Unit is engaged in transporting medical supplies to remote hospitals in West China and in assisting other welfare agencies. A medical team has just helped ward off a threatened outbreak of malignant malaria in Yunnan Province. The FSU is composed of about 50 American, Chinese, British and New Zealand members.*

THE Friends Service Unit in China is the only private welfare agency in that country working in the great plain of the Yellow River, across which the opposing armies of the civil war move. There, in the devastated village of Chungmou in Honan Province and in the surrounding area, some score of Friends' workers are carrying on a medical program, managing village industries, and providing other community services—an almost unique testimony to the fact that someone cares about the fate of the millions of farmers caught in the no-man's land of civil war. The Unit has received written permission from government authorities on both sides to work in this area. Such permission constitutes an exception to the grim blockade and an admission that war sometimes gives away to humanity. The Unit program is significant simply by virtue of providing the governmental leaders a chance to make such an exception and such an admission. Those of us who have worked in civil war areas are grateful to these men for opening the door to Quaker service.

It seems important that some group, however small, should demonstrate to the people of China that Americans and other westerners can and do come to China to help and not to do traffic in arms.

The Unit, in its concern to bring a spirit of reconciliation into the civil conflict, is concentrating its forces in the Honan area, and is trying to expand its program of medical aid as the most useful and immediately acceptable service. The center of Unit

medical activity is the "Kung I I Yuan" (Friends' Hospital) at Chungmou, built by the Unit at the very time that other hospitals were shutting down under the threat of civil war. UNRRA, and its Chinese counterpart, CNRRA, generously contributed funds and supplies to the erection of the 25-bed hospital, and a local landlord interested in the Unit's program contributed the land. A Chinese Unit member with training in architecture designed the two-story brick and quonset-hut structure, and the Unit kilns nearby provided all the bricks. Even before the hospital was complete, it met its first major crisis, a serious railroad accident at Chungmou station. During the night, patients arrived at the hospital, carried on doors taken off their hinges to serve as stretchers. The clock around, the Unit's one doctor at Chungmou stayed up operating, while the injured lay on improvised cots in the corridors. The hospital was better able to cope with a second crisis last June, the battle of Kaifeng, some 20 miles away. During and after the

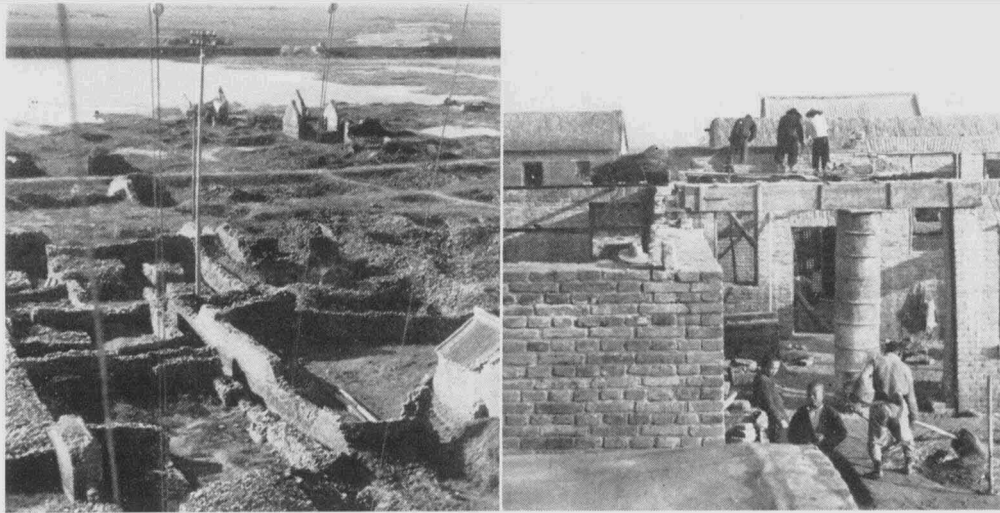
engagement, thousands of civilians and soldiers, many of them wounded, fled westward from Kaifeng. Their route took them through Chungmou, and once again the hospital's facilities were taxed. Civilians and Nationalist and Communist soldiers received treatment side by side. In more normal times, the hospital has a handful of in-patients, and from 60 to 300 out-patients a day. Patients pay what they are able, and it is not unusual for the hospital business manager to receive a few pounds of wheat, a dozen eggs, or a live chicken from some grateful farmer.

Another medical team is operating north of Chungmou, and additional teams are being planned for in other parts of the disputed area. At the same time, the Unit has undertaken various non-medical programs at Chungmou. When the first Unit team arrived in the town two and a half years ago, only 20 of the original 2,000 houses were still standing. The others had succumbed to years of war-time bombardment, or had been swept

Chinese mother watches FSU doctor examine her child for kala-azar symptoms. This disease has an extremely high mortality rate when untreated, but treatment is simple.







Lindsay Crozier

(Left) This is Chungmou at the end of the war. For six years the city marked the dividing line between Japanese and Chinese armies. (Right) Machine shop, garage and foundry, built by unit members and Chungmou residents, go up. Other new buildings include school and hospital; local government is building houses for its workers.

away in the disastrous Yellow River floods. The river was brought under control early in 1947, and the town has gradually revived, despite the civil war. The revival has been achieved by the hard work of the returning residents, with some help from the Unit.

### Revival of Chungmou

A textile industry, two brick kilns, a foundry, a machine shop, all established and managed by the Unit, have furnished employment and have provided needed goods. About 200 boys and girls are receiving primary education in a Unit school, the only one in this poor community. With mechanized equipment, the Unit has dug wells for the townspeople. A vegetable oil press has been installed. In the course of its activities at Chungmou, Chinese members of the Unit have taken more and more responsibility. They are better able than westerners to understand and meet the needs of the community.

At the last official count, Chungmou has been twice occupied by Communist troops, and twice reoccupied by the Nationalists. The town has not suffered materially from these events, and the Unit program there has continued about as usual. As both sides have come to know the nature of the project, they have been glad to let it continue. But this recognition was not automatically forthcoming, for non-

partisanism is rare in China today, especially on the part of westerners. Recognition is based on a series of negotiating trips into Communist territory, and calls on the Nationalist authorities as well as on the visible testimony of the project. The first time the Communists came to Chungmou, they had not known of the Unit's presence, and the soldiers were taken aback and suspicious on finding westerners, trucks, generators, grain-storage bins and other evidences of a welfare program. They were even more suspicious of the Unit's Chinese members. Was it credible that these fellow-countrymen, connected with a foreign organization, should stay around merely because they wanted to work at an important job without pay? Perhaps they were spies. The Chinese staff was thus subjected to a thorough but polite grilling (repeated by the Nationalist authorities on their return), while the Unit project leader, in the dead of night, was seeking an interview with the Communist general, some miles away. The purpose of the Unit was established, and in subsequent changes of hands, no trouble has been experienced.

### Isolation of Millions

It is hard to imagine the complete isolation of the hundred million or more people cut off by the civil war. The iron curtain in China is doubly

thick; it is of Nationalist and Communist making. The people on the Communist side are subject to a constant barrage of anti-American and anti-foreign propaganda. And nothing is present to give the lie to what they are told. They see American-made planes overhead dropping bombs on their villages, and they find American weapons in the hands of their Nationalist countrymen. From our observation, most of the weapons the Communists in the Honan area use are also American-made, having been captured from the Nationalists, but none of this makes the Communists feel any more friendly towards America. I well remember being lectured by a Communist official about American policy in China the minute I had been introduced to him. "But," he added, "we welcome Americans here who come to help us." Judging from my own observations, the same attitude is shared by most of the articulate people in Nationalist China. The vast majority of Chinese on both sides want the war to end more than anything else, but resent foreign interference. They are pathetically eager to find evidence of friendship from overseas, and small as the Quaker effort is in China, I believe its message of good will is not lost.

### Unit's "War Supplies"

An instance of the power of good will was provided by the Chungmou project, where the Unit maintains a supply of gasoline and a small fleet of vehicles. These are war supplies, and almost worth their weight in gold. In the period when Chungmou became the center of military operations and changed hands, both armies at different times asked to borrow the vehicles. The Unit refused politely but firmly. Either army could have taken these trucks, and anything else they wanted. They had guns and they meant business. But they did not take the trucks. In fact, although Chungmou has changed hands four times, the Unit still has its vehicles and its gasoline intact.

# One Sky

THE director of a Mexican school where Friends Service Unit girls had worked during the summer said to them in parting, "We hope you will take back with you the idea of one sky over both Americas."

Friends Service Unit "graduates" may express the idea in different words; the idea, after all, is the same. But the "one-sky" philosophy works both ways in Mexico. One Unit member said, "We not only corrected some of the misconceptions we had had about Mexicans; I think we also corrected some misconceptions Mexicans had about us."

For the past eight years, groups of young men and women, members of the Quaker units, have lived and worked in Mexican villages under the auspices of the Departments of Health and Education.

This winter there are three units in Mexico, with the possibility of a fourth.

In Yauatepec, Morelos, a co-educational unit will help rehabilitate a hospital, work in clinics, teach crafts, conduct English classes for both children and adults, and arrange athletic programs in the schools.

Four girls and their leader will remain at La Huerta, Mexico, following the summer unit there, and teach in a boarding school for girls.

Janet Barber, who was in the summer unit of girls who taught at the normal school for girls in Palmira, Morelos, was invited to remain during the winter term.

Janet Barber is teaching English to both students and teachers. Her letters reveal, however, that she teaches more than English, and that she is also occasionally the recipient of lessons. She has learned to make tortillas, she wrote, and to play Mexican football. She said, "You should see me butt the ball with my head."

Perhaps the oddest lesson of all was the new dance that she taught to some of her students for a fiesta. She taught them the sedate and stately Virginia reel.

Two teaching positions for girls are open in another normal school.

An International Conference is being held December 5 to 12 at the Palmira School for the second consecutive year, at which Mexicans and Americans meet together to discuss world affairs.



*J. Henry Dasenbrock*  
Two Mexican children are absorbed in art class taught by Quaker unit member. This one-room, dirt-floored school near Yauatepec, Morelos, contains 50 pupils.

The Committee has been invited to participate in another project, one of the four pilot UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) projects, which will be located in the State of Nayarit.

The Mexican Government's plans for the long-range, self-help project include extensive educational, health, and cultural programs. But the first job is to improve material conditions.

The area involved in the project includes 28 villages, with between 15,000-20,000 inhabitants. Nayarit is tropical, with an altitude of less than 100 feet. It is often beset by floods and malaria fever epidemics. Therefore, the entire village of La Trosada, which consists of about 200 families, will be moved to higher ground. Later, other villages will also be moved. Men will aid in the relocation of houses, and building new ones, while women will do health work in Santiago in association with the Rural Cultural Mission.

The Committee needs volunteer workers and funds in order to participate with the Mexican Government and UNESCO in this courageous and inspiring plan. Not many organizations or individuals ever have an opportunity to share in such a project, and we in the Committee hope that we may be among the lucky ones.

Two Unit members play a game of three dimensional tic-tac-toe with Mexican guests (center) during open house at the Yauatepec, Morelos, camp.

*J. Henry Dasenbrock*



# Community at Work

**B**EHIND approximately 1,133 tons of clothing, shoes, and textiles collected and shipped by the Service Committee during the year ended September 30, 1948, is a story of communities at work.

In the metropolitan community of Chicago, for instance, school children, Girl Scouts, Friends, and representatives of other church groups, Finnish-Americans, Japanese-Americans, housewives, businessmen, dry cleaners, laundrymen and others joined in the clothing work. In 1948, Chicago's contribution to the AFSC's clothing shipments overseas was 128 tons, a record high for that office.

The Chicago office of the AFSC opened its clothing work in the fall of 1943 in a room large enough to accommodate only 15 people. All the work was done by volunteers in the beginning. The report for one month of the first year shows that 12 individuals and three organizations contributed 310 garments. Since then, the workroom has moved twice, each time to larger quarters. At its present location, 159 North Michigan Avenue, contributed clothing is processed, baled and

shipped. Shoes are packed. A sewing room provides for repairing garments and making new ones. Contributors to the Chicago warehouse range geographically from Ohio to the Rocky Mountains and from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Nine staff members and numerous volunteers are on hand to receive clothing. Sewing and baling machines hum five days and three evenings a week.

Although the Service Committee urges its contributors to send in clothing that is freshly washed or cleaned, a few unclean garments do come in. Chicago firms cleaned more than 15 tons of clothing during the past year as their contribution to the program, and one ton of clothing was laundered free by Chicago laundries. This was an impressive saving to the AFSC.

AFSC workers in Europe and Asia report that in some areas only 10 to 20 per cent of the neediest persons have received clothing. Among these are those who were bombed out, those whose possessions were looted, prisoners-of-war, displaced persons, the sick, and those in orphanages and other institutions.



*Dickey and Tony Chapelle*

School-age children are among those who especially need clothing to keep them well and warm as they walk, sometimes long distances, to their classes, and sit through the day in an unheated schoolroom.

Since Governmental aid provides no immediate relief for clothing needs, it is only through communities like Chicago that those who need clothing receive it.

Lore, an Offenburg, Germany, sixth grader, is trying on the first new garment she has ever owned at an AFSC distribution.

*Dickey and Tony Chapelle*

Chicago women fold garments which will go to Austria, Hungary, Germany, Japan, Poland or Palestine. Clothing is also being sent to Navaho Indians in this country.





THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, representing the Religious Society of Friends, attempts to relieve human suffering wherever it is found and to ease tensions between individuals, groups or nations. It operates on the belief that there is that of God in every man and that love, expressed through creative action, can overcome hatred, prejudice and fear.

Specific projects include relief and rehabilitation work in 13 countries in Europe and Asia; service units in Mexico; educational projects in race relations and economic relations; work and study projects for young people; cooperative self-help housing project; and seminars and institutes on international relations.

All parts of the work are open to anyone regardless of race, religion, nationality or political affiliation.

**AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE**  
 Number 11  
**BULLETIN**  
 20 S. 12th St., Philadelphia 7, Pa.



Dickey and Tony Chapelle

“BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, which shall be to all people.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

These lines were repeated, some in German and some in Polish, by a group of children in Mojtinny, Poland, last Christmas. The occasion was a nativity play sponsored by the Anglo-American Quaker Relief Mission there and performed by Polish and German children who live in the community. It was the first opportunity the children had had to participate in any activity together.

Gauze for the angel's wings and most of the other costumes came from the AFSC Clothing Warehouse. The improvised stage in a farmhouse was curtained with leftover blackout curtains. The gifts of “frankincense and myrrh” carried by the Wise Men were sewing boxes loaned by Quaker workers, and the baby in the manger was a battered doll, which had somehow survived the war.

But the recognizable costumes and imperfect props could not dim the beauty of the pageant of Jesus' birth. As two languages mingled in the spontaneous clear voices of the children, one could take new hope for “peace on earth—good will toward men.”