

AFSC Workers Help Save Ancient Crafts in India

—story on pages 6-7



American Friends Service Committee

BULLETIN

March • April 1955



Philadelphia Daily News

The picture is one of 12 bought for the AFSC with funds contributed by the German people in gratitude for our work there since World War II. An accompanying letter from President Theodor Heuss said: "During the years of our bitterest need, acts of brotherly love saved the lives of many Germans and helped the despairing to gather fresh courage." The people are Lewis Hoskins, AFSC executive secretary, and Julia Branson, head of AFSC Foreign Service Section since 1950. She will "retire" this spring to become head of our work in Germany.

The BULLETIN

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Just Among Friends

Philadelphia

March 1955

Dear Friends:

As men grow spiritually, they increase in compassion, in understanding and in respect for others. For years Americans have shown an unusual ability to feel with others, responding generously to the suffering of people whose nations have been devastated by war or visited by catastrophe. Of no nation has this been more true than of China; perhaps more Americans have invested their lives in that great country than in any other country of the world.

And yet in recent years our two nations have grown so far apart that many Americans do not yet know that last summer overflowing waters of the Yangtse put millions of persons to flight, causing a death toll and havoc that can only be guessed at.

Compassion, moreover, is the easier part; how many of us can understand another people? America, before it came to a position of almost overwhelming power, was prepared to give. Now, when the needs of the rest of the world are moving from the physical and material realm to that of the mind and the spirit, are we prepared to share? And do we have the capacity for understanding that this requires?

Can we, for example, put ourselves in the position of the people of China and understand what it must be like to see ships of the world's most powerful navy furrowing the waters off the coast? Much of the world feels that we in America cannot. During nine days in England recently I found profound disquiet regarding the Far East policy of the United States. Another AFSC member reports that on his trip around the world he found the United States stands practically alone in its policy.

If this is true, then we Americans, both as individuals and a nation, are in very real danger—danger that I can understand the better for having experienced it personally while serving in the Friends Ambulance Unit during the civil war in China. Many of you have heard me tell the story. After hours of cautiously working our way through no man's land, our medical team reached Communist territory. Relieved, we rushed forward impetuously—to face a loaded rifle in the hands of a frightened 14-year-old sentry. For a moment we had forgotten what we would look like to a man who had been trained to regard us as "the enemy." I paid for that momentary lapse in understanding by spending the next 20 minutes under the muzzle of his rifle, his nervous finger on its trigger, making conversation in halting Chinese, asking questions about his family, showing him pictures of my young daughter, seeking to restore understanding.

Commentators tell us that the United States was on the very brink of war no less than three times during 1954. If we are not to plunge over in 1955, we must restore the means of friendly intercourse between peoples. We must fully do unto others as we, in their place, would be done by.

Sincerely your friend,

Lewis M. Hoskins Executive Secretary

KOREA HOMES

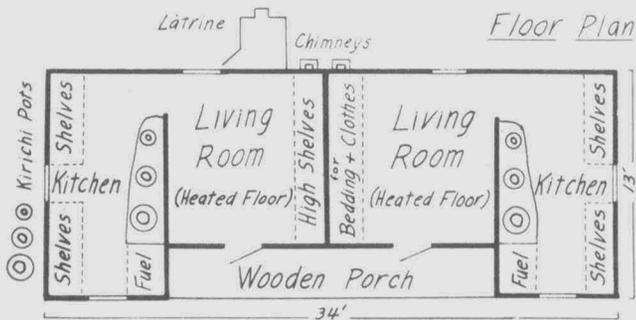
Let's Put a Roof Over the Heads of Widows and Orphans in Korea

War has made Korea a land of widows and orphans—like Widow Chong, 72, who lives in a warehouse with her 10-year-old grandson, the sole survivor of her family of six children and innumerable grandchildren.

No one knows how many widows there are in Korea. When British and American Quakers arrived in the port of Kunsan, the official registry showed 700; a survey since has raised the number to 4,000. Some live in huts of cardboard, mud and thatch. Two hundred were found living in a warehouse with a roof like a sieve, and three stoves to heat it in winter. Families lived in squares averaging five by six feet in the "privacy" provided by heaping up their belongings between themselves and the next unit. Refugees squatted in schools and, before our medical team could begin work, new homes had to be found for the refugees encamped in the Kunsan hospital.

In 1955, the Friends Service Unit plans to build 25 two-family houses, at a cost of \$200 per family. The houses will be built out of blocks of rammed earth, made by a machine provided by the Korean government. Widows will take turns at the unskilled labor, working under the direction of two AFSC appointees, who flew to Korea in March.

Two Family Korean House



In 1955, Quakers hope to provide homes like these for at least 50 of Korea's refugee families.



Many a Korean refugee counts himself lucky to live in a hut of cardboard, mud and thatch.



Some are crammed into old warehouses, a few square feet to the family.

Photos on this page by Ted Conant

Old and young side by side amid noise and confusion.





An Invitation to Quaker Service

Work and study projects of the AFSC offer many opportunities to the summer volunteer. Participants in interne and institutional projects pay costs out of earnings; scholarships are available to others. Except in the case of overseas work camps, costs noted below do not include transportation to and from project sites.



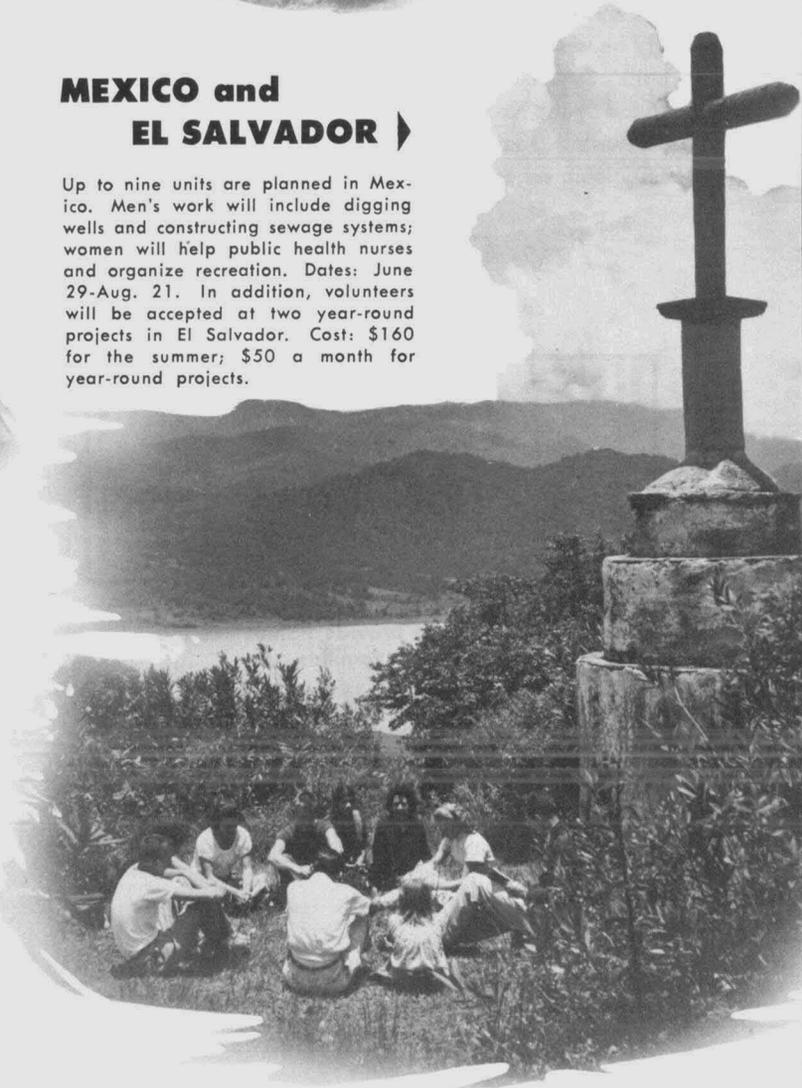
WORK CAMPS OVERSEAS

About 75 volunteers will attend work camps in Algeria, Israel and 13 countries of Europe, and a few may join a work camp and seminar in Japan from June to September. Volunteers should be at least 20 and able to speak a foreign language, and must apply by April 1. Costs for Japan: \$800; elsewhere, \$470. A work camp in Haiti also is possible. Persons who are willing to spend 18 months overseas may apply for projects in India and Pakistan.



MEXICO and EL SALVADOR

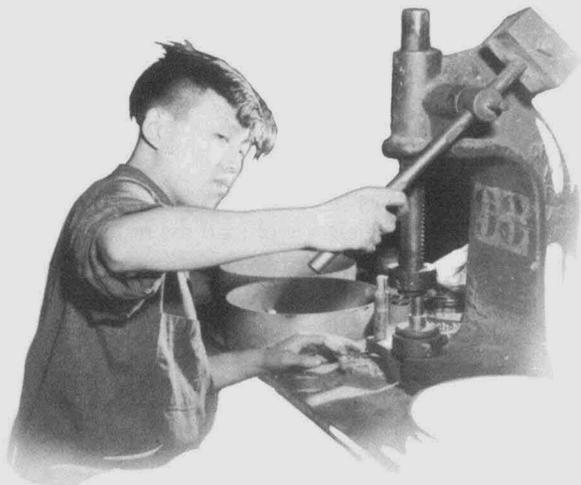
Up to nine units are planned in Mexico. Men's work will include digging wells and constructing sewage systems; women will help public health nurses and organize recreation. Dates: June 29-Aug. 21. In addition, volunteers will be accepted at two year-round projects in El Salvador. Cost: \$160 for the summer; \$50 a month for year-round projects.



WORK CAMPS U.S.A.

Six work camps are planned. Three will work with Indians—at Nett Lake, Minn., on the Chippewa reservation, 200 miles north of the Twin Cities; at Crownpoint, N. M., with 15 Navajo communities; and at Bellingham, Wash., with the Lummi tribe. Another will be with migrant workers in Pennsylvania and a fifth at a settlement house in a blighted area of Richmond, Va. A work camp will provide the first interracial experience for an Alabama community, where a college has voted to accept both Negro and white students. Dates: June 24-Aug. 19. Cost: \$135.

High school pupils may volunteer for work camp at St. Helena, North Carolina.



INTERNES: In Industry

Students will learn about industry at first hand by hunting for jobs and working on assembly lines in six cities: Atlanta, Ga.; Chicago, Ill.; Louisville, Ky.; Lynn, Mass.; and Philadelphia, Pa. Dates: June 10-Aug. 26. Cost: Those who earn less than \$35 a week will pay \$15 for expenses; others will pay \$16 or \$17.



INSTITUTIONS

Volunteers will be assigned to mental hospitals in Waterbury, Vt.; Chicago, Ill.; Las Vegas, N. M., and Phoenix, Ariz.—and possibly to hospitals in Indiana or Missouri. They will work at reformatories in St. Charles, Ill. (boys), and Clinton, N. J. (women), and at a school for mental defectives in Pownal, Maine. (Volunteers must be at least 21 for reformatory work.) Dates: June 10 or 17 to Aug. 27. Cost: Volunteers pay about 10% of their earnings (which run to \$100-150 a month plus maintenance) to meet project costs.

INTERNES: In Community Service

Summer volunteers will be accepted at year-round projects in Chicago, Ill., and Oakland, Calif. Participants will live together and will be assigned individually to social agencies working on housing, broken homes, juvenile delinquency and the problem of fitting newly-arrived Mexicans, Negroes, Puerto Ricans or Indians into the community. Dates: June 17-Aug. 26. Cost: Volunteers will get board, room, health and accident insurance and a small allowance in return for their services.



SEMINARS

A half-dozen American students, age 21 to 35, will be accepted at each of four seminars, which enroll about 30 foreign students from over a dozen countries. Three seminars—one beginning in New England June 25, one in the Southeast June 18, and a third on Orcas Island, Wash., Aug. 13. One more, at Oberlin, Ohio, Aug. 27, will last two weeks. Cost: \$80 for two weeks; \$130 for four weeks. (Similar seminars will be held abroad for persons already overseas.)



INSTITUTES

Thirty-five students will be accepted for a seminar on government in Washington June 11-18 and about 60 for one on world affairs at Spencer, N. Y., June 9-18. Cost: \$35 to \$40. Two four-student teams will attend the Spencer institute, then spend a week in each of four communities, working on peace education. Cost: \$125.

High school pupils: 14 to 18 may attend seven one-week institutes at a cost of \$25 to \$35. Approximate opening dates are: June 18 (San Francisco and Des Moines), June 25 (Philadelphia), June 28 and Aug. 19 (Cambridge) and Aug. 21 (Philadelphia). Pasadena plans a two-week work camp and seminar June 19.

Adults may attend six one-week institutes: June 2 (Kansas), June 6 (Texas), June 9 (North Carolina), June 12 (Avon, Conn.), June 28 (Pasadena) and July 9 (Cornell, N. Y.); and five family camps: Aug. 13 (Westtown, Pa.), Aug. 14 and Aug. 22 (Tyler, Minn.), Aug. 20 (New England) and an unscheduled camp in Columbus, Ohio.



AFSC Workers Help Save Ancient

HUNDREDS of thousands of pilgrims journey each year to the ancient Hindu temples at Puri, but few among them wander into the narrow lanes and blind alleys where live

the descendants of the temple builders. One who did was Halina Zealey, Polish-born wife of the head of our Delhi office. Behind the bazaars of Puri she found 35 families of sculptors and 82 families of painters. For 700 years it had been their task to repair the temples, whenever a painting faded or a carving chipped away, by carefully copying designs from ancient palm leaf manuscripts. For seven centuries fathers had taught their sons how to make a painter's canvas by applying chalk and paste of the tamarind seed to cloth, how to fashion hairs of the rat into a fine brush, and (carefully-guarded secrets) where grow the herbs and wild flowers whose juices fill the artist's coconut-shell paint pots. But bad times had come to the artists of democratic India. British officials no longer visited the Puri bazaars and Indian rulers had lost their wealth along with their power.

Only three out of 82 artists' families still tried to earn a living by selling copies of temple paintings. Sculptors had to work rapidly in stone that easily crumbled and broke, if they were to make enough to keep their families alive. Sons no longer were interested in learning their fathers' skills. A tradition which had been unbroken since the time of the Magna Charta appeared doomed. But Halina Zealey was not

ready to see this happen—especially after an anthropologist and two wandering Fulbright scholars explained the historic value of the sculptures and told her what the paintings were worth on the current market. She persuaded a sculptor to spend 10 days chipping away at hard stone to make a carving that would stand shipment to a distant market—time in which he could have made a dozen cheaper carvings. And she induced three painters to let her send their work off to Calcutta, Delhi and Bombay. The paintings were sold and the 30 rupees (\$6) which the sculptor got for his 10-day experiment was well above local prices. Today, artists of Puri are making 222 rupees a day, or enough to support 74 families. An AFSC revolving fund of \$630 has been repaid and India's government has hired a man full time to carry on Halina Zealey's work of providing artists with raw materials and marketing their finished products. Other government officials are looking for new markets for the talents she uncovered. Venturesome artists are breaking away from the copying of temple paintings to make toys, tea trays, book-ends and pottery.

Perhaps the best proof that the Quaker experiment has worked came last year at an exhibition of artists' work. Everyone pitched in to paint posters and turn packing boxes into display cases. Tanks of tea and a slew of speeches were served up as everyone from Brahmins to street sweepers thronged in to marvel that Puri could produce such beauty. And a government clerk—in a country where a clerk by tradition barricades himself behind a desk—worked from early morning until late at night, forgetting meals and doing everything from greeting government ministers to serving tea and carrying bricks.

Weavers Were Idle For Six Months of Year—Until They Found Market Outside Villages

Next to agriculture, weaving is the leading industry of India. But for six months of the year the looms of Orissa stand idle, for farmers have money to buy the weavers' cloth only in the few months after the harvest when their pockets have money in them.

Fertilizer, new techniques and better seed are increasing the size of farmers' crops and weavers' incomes—but the increase is slow. From June to November the looms are idle, while weavers seek work building roads, often earning more for carrying mud like a mule than for all the artistry of their fingers. And in years of famine weavers are glad if they, like the peasants, can feed on the grass of the fields. If weavers are to have a better life, they must find a market outside the villages. This is not easy. A customer knows that the cloth he buys from a mill in May will be as good as the cloth he



To insure high standards, weavers pooled their funds and dyed their yarn together.

Crafts in India

bought in March and that the 100th yard will be as good as the first. But it is hopeless to expect uniform designs, colors and quality from the village weavers, even government officials in India say.

She Spent Six Months in Bazaars

AFSC worker Haimanti Chakravarty, however, was not convinced. She knew that Indian villagers are suspicious of middlemen and with reason, for the middleman whom most of them know is the moneylender who charges 36% interest, saddling borrowers with a debt that is passed on from father to son. Danish-born, she was doubly suspect as a "middleman" and a westerner. Failure, she knew, could mean trouble for the entire Quaker project at Barpali, so for her first experiment she picked the village of Bheran, 11 miles distant. But Haimanti Chakravarty, wed to an Indian professor of philosophy, was prepared to move slowly. Dressed in a sari, she spent six months visiting bazaars, talking to weavers about their problems, collecting samples of their work and getting to know them as people.

Then one day she went to them with an order for 80 yards of blue cloth. It was a big order—one that would keep a single weaver busy eight weeks during which he and his family would have no income. It was a risky order of such unusual color and design that if the customer should refuse to accept it, the cloth could not be sold in the village. Too big and too risky for one man to venture, could the order be divided up among many weavers when each had his own standards of color and quality?

Ten Weavers Agreed to Pool Funds

Ten weavers agreed to pool their funds and buy and dye the yarn together. But what of the weaving itself? The next week each brought his work to Haimanti Chakravarty. Nine samples passed muster. But the tenth, all agreed, was inferior to the others. "What shall we do with it?" she asked. All the weavers said it should be sent to the market with the rest. The man who made it, they explained, couldn't afford to take back cloth that he couldn't sell. Slowly and carefully Haimanti Chakravarty explained that if the cloth went to the market, then the customer and his friends might never order cloth of Bheran again. Slowly and painfully the group decided that for the good of all this cloth must be held back. It was therefore cut up and made into bags so that the weaver would get some return for his labor, though not what the others were getting nor what he had expected. This crisis passed, but others came along. Each Monday the weavers got up before dawn to walk the 11 miles into Barpali. There



Once a week, weavers brought their work to Barpali to be inspected.

their work was inspected, designs planned, prices agreed upon and new orders handed out.

Success Brought Imitations

The trip meant a day's labor lost for men living on the edge of subsistence. The weavers therefore elected one of their number to make the weekly trip, paying him 8% of what they made. But then, for lack of the weekly conference, weavers grew slack, and their representative could not enforce standards. Work had to be rejected and its cost was deducted from his earnings. The group had to face the issue of whether each must continue his time-wasting trip to the market, or work out a system of self-discipline.

Other villages began to put out cheap imitations of the Bheran patterns, so that Haimanti Chakravarty had to buy a rubber stamp to mark the real thing. And constantly she had to woo weavers away from western patterns and back to their century-old traditions.

But word spread. Soon 140 looms in 18 villages were participating and weavers in still other villages had to raise their standards to compete with the weavers of Bheran. Single orders exceeded the whole AFSC revolving fund of \$1,000; the government of Orissa ordered 6,000 yards of material and bought another (Rs1000) \$200-worth for exhibition and used samples to improve designs in the textile mills. This is the outcome of a program that began in the faith of one woman.

Cover photo by Philip Zealey; Weaving photos by Prem Prakesh

REGIONS REPORT

CHICAGO:

Banks in Chicago have 35,000 employees—only a handful of them Negroes. AFSC workers are trying to improve the situation here. Some progress has been made in public utilities and suburban stores. Ten placements have been made in insurance companies and department stores recently.

A volunteer worker has begun visiting Wisconsin and Illinois college campuses, in an effort to carry out plans made last fall at a conference which discussed peace education, human relations and youth projects.

SAN FRANCISCO:

Members of the consular corps from 12 of the nations in which AFSC serves were invited to a tea Feb. 18. During the day talks were given by Betty Collins, director of the Neighborhood Center in Berlin financed in part by AFSC; and by Quaker Economist-Poet Kenneth Boulding.

Frank Quinn has urged the state to undertake or subsidize a five-point program expanding work he is doing for the AFSC with Indians. The five points: train Indians in home and farm management, develop Indian leadership, reduce high school drop-outs and encourage college entrance, train and place in jobs, and reconcile Indians and non-Indians.

PASADENA:

Nearly 40 prison visitors make regular calls on men at Chino, Calif., "one of the world's most progressive prisons" (which is featured in the new movie UNCHAINED). Visitors also seek jobs for parolees, pointing out that it costs \$1,600 a year to keep a man in prison but only \$155 to keep him on parole. An employer who hires an ex-convict can get his complete work history including psychological and skill tests, material most employees cannot provide, they point out.

Eleven families numbering 53 persons participated in the region's first family camp of 1955, a week-end affair.

Latest Publications

Write your nearest AFSC office for copies of the following:

JAPAN, a six-page folder describing Quaker neighborhood centers, work camps, seminars and unofficial ambassadors in Japan, "window of Asia."

SPRINGTIME PACKET of educational materials for children (and families), project sheets punched for insert in a looseleaf notebook. Price: 25 cents.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS, a folder describing the three four-week and one two-week seminars planned for this summer. Most participants will be foreign students, but about half a dozen Americans will be admitted to each seminar.

AFSC Worker Wins Award

One of 10 awards made by *Mademoiselle Magazine* to "young women whose accomplishments in 1954 would seem to have special meaning for women everywhere," went to Irene Osborne, director of AFSC work on school integration in Washington. Said *Mademoiselle*: "Uniting parents and teachers of both races, her seminars have contributed facts, insight into the psychology of race relations and a sense of security."

What's Ahead in 1955?

Changing needs overseas will reduce the size of some programs. We shall send 675 tons of material aids overseas, a drop of 128 tons—but try to raise the quality of what is sent. Our budget for work with German refugees will be about half what we spent last year. And the international student seminars begun in India last year will be dropped for lack of funds.

But we expect to ship 5,000 tons of surplus food overseas, double the amount sent in 1954. And we have begun work with minorities—Indians on South Dakota's Pine Ridge reservation, Mexican-Americans in Texas and Negro job-seekers in Baton Rouge, La. We hope to work with migrants in California's San Joaquin valley, on school integration in North Carolina and on opening job opportunities for minorities in Georgia and Alabama.

The AFSC will make its first venture in Africa by financing three two-year volunteers who will help organize work camps and build homes for TB patients in Kenya.

Mitten Trees Set Record

By the end of January, mitten trees in 43 states had produced a record crop of 52,208 pairs of mittens for cold hands overseas. And returns from the Halloween project for children, Friendly Beggars, had brought in 10 tons of material aids from 157 communities, 10 denominations, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, PTA's, public, private and parochial schools and women's clubs.

Contacts with 88 Foreign Countries

Although the AFSC had programs in only 15 countries in 1954 and an overseas staff of only 56, citizens of 88 foreign countries, as well as residents of Hawaii and Puerto Rico, participated in our programs. Of these 88, the 25 which had only a single contact—such as a national entertained at Davis House or International Student House in Washington—are italicized in the following list:

EUROPE: Austria, Belgium, *Czechoslovakia*, Denmark, Finland, France, East Germany, West Germany, Greece, *Ireland*, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia.

NEAR EAST: *Arabia*, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey.

ASIA: Afghanistan, Australia, Burma, *Cambodia*, Ceylon, China, Formosa, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaya, *New Zealand*, Pakistan, Philippines, *Portuguese India*, *Ryukyus*, Thailand, Vietnam.

AMERICA: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, *British Guiana*, Canada, Chile, Colombia, *Costa Rica*, Cuba, *Ecuador*, El Salvador, *Guatemala*, Haiti, *Honduras*, *Jamaica*, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, *Surinam*, Trinidad, *Uruguay*.

AFRICA: *Algeria*, Cameroons, Ethiopia, *French Guiana*, Gold Coast, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, *Morocco*, Nigeria, *Nyasaland*, *Rhodesia*, *Senegal*, *Somaliland*, *Sudan*, *Togoland*, *Union of South Africa*.

American Friends Service Committee
20 S. 12th St., Phila. 7, Pa.

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, a Quaker organization, attempts to relieve human suffering and to ease tensions between individuals, groups, or nations. We believe that God lives in every person, and that love in action can overcome hatred, prejudice, and fear.

Our work is open to anyone regardless of race, religion, or nationality. We are dependent upon your contributions. Checks may be sent to the American Friends Service Committee at any of its offices.

3547 Requested