

SUMMER 1963

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO OPEN IN PERU IN SEPTEMBER

IN SEPTEMBER of this year the AFSC will begin a five-year community development program to help meet some of the problems in the "barriadas" on the outskirts of Lima, Peru.

A *barriada* is a whole village that has migrated as a unit. These units have illegally established themselves on land surrounding the city, forming a fringe population of 500,000 without employment or adequate dwellings. *Barriada* dwellers are largely Indians from the interior areas of Peru. Others are city inhabitants who—seeking to improve their lot but owning no land—move onto the government-owned land where they erect shacks of tin, wood, or cardboard. Living in appalling poverty, they lack sanitation, health services, recreational facilities, child-care centers, and schools.

Cooperation Needed

AFSC workers will cooperate with Peruvians who are concerned for the welfare of these people, and will seek to develop a program which will encourage the *barriada* dwellers

themselves to take increased responsibility for their own future.

AFSC efforts, in one or several of the *barriadas*, might include counseling the inhabitants on effective ways to acquire the facilities they need. Classes in literacy, cooking, and nutrition could be established. Tradesmen and artisans might be helped to obtain supervised credit and to develop credit unions.

As the program expands, it is hoped that other interested Peruvians—social workers, young professional people, and university students—will become involved in it.

To lay the groundwork for these plans, Alan and Margery Walker have been appointed to go to Lima in September for two years. Alan Walker holds degrees in psychology from Stanford University and Michigan University, and has taught at Earlham College in Indiana. Most recently he has directed a community development program at Goddard College in Vermont. Margery Walker is a graduate of Stanford University. Both are members of the Religious Society of Friends.

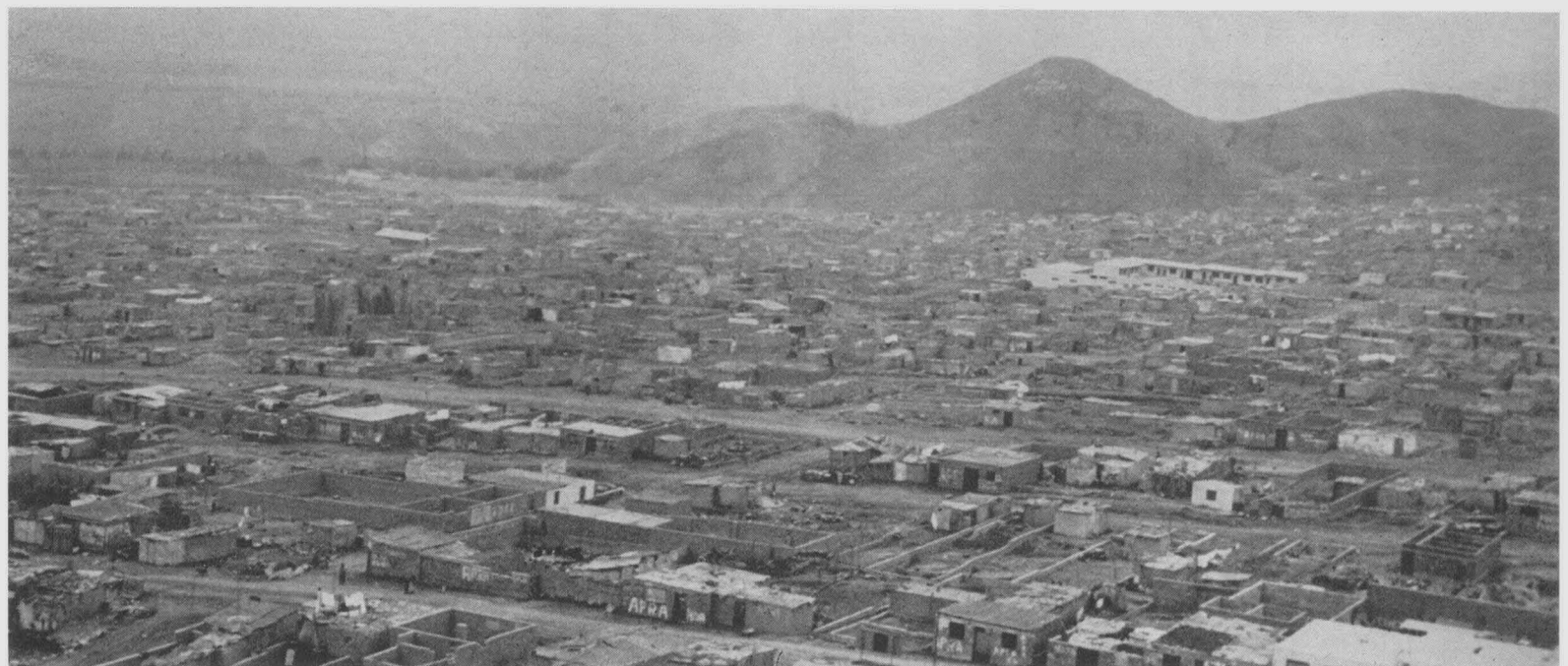
The new program in Peru repre-

sents an expansion of the Committee's work in Latin America which now includes activities in Mexico and Guatemala. The AFSC has also had program experience in El Salvador. This experience, the encouragement of Peruvians who have worked with AFSC in Mexico, and the needs which exist in Peru have together convinced the Committee that the work should be undertaken.

Urban Population Growing

The *barriada* problem toward which efforts will be directed is the result of several factors in the life of Peru today. The nation has a rapidly growing urban population. Difficult living conditions on the High Andean plateau are causing thousands of rural people to emigrate toward the cities in search of work and in hope of a better life. But a lack of industrialization in Peru limits the jobs available. Lima, the capital, is particularly hard hit by this rural influx.

The *barriadas* surrounding Lima form a fringe population of 500,000 unemployed people living in makeshift dwellings.



• • • to assume new tasks • • •

Philadelphia, Pa.
May 1963

Dear Friends,

This issue brings you word of several new developments in AFSC work—in Washington, in Peru, in Ghana, in Russia, in the Far East.

Our efforts to help enrich the lives and the spirits of our fellowmen—and our own in the process—find us closely engaged in the dynamics of a changing world. Even as we continue our commitment to ongoing programs, we are steadily gratified to devolve some projects into the able hands of local groups—and freshly challenged to assume new tasks.

There are now almost 3 billion people in the world. There are resources in all these minds and hearts which are an untold wealth. It is the business of our lives to find ways to unlock at least some of these resources—by helping others to “spend themselves” creatively and in those purposes which enrich us all and leave no man a victim.

The characteristics of an AFSC program have been shaped through the interweaving of belief and practice during 45 years of experience. All AFSC programs are based on the belief that love can be the most potent force in the ordering of a good society. The significant point is that we believe this, *and* we have found it to be true whenever men trust love.

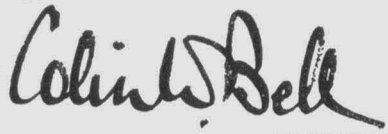
AFSC programs try to be experiences and experiments shared with others rather than acts done for them. It is our belief that free men solve their problems from the inside out, rather than by the superimposition of an answer, by however kind an administrator.

AFSC programs seek to influence individual lives in depth, rather than masses on a more superficial level. Here, again, our convictions and our experience coincide. We are concerned for the whole worth of each individual. At the same time, we see that other agencies, both private and public, are able to tackle quantitatively larger tasks with bigger resources.

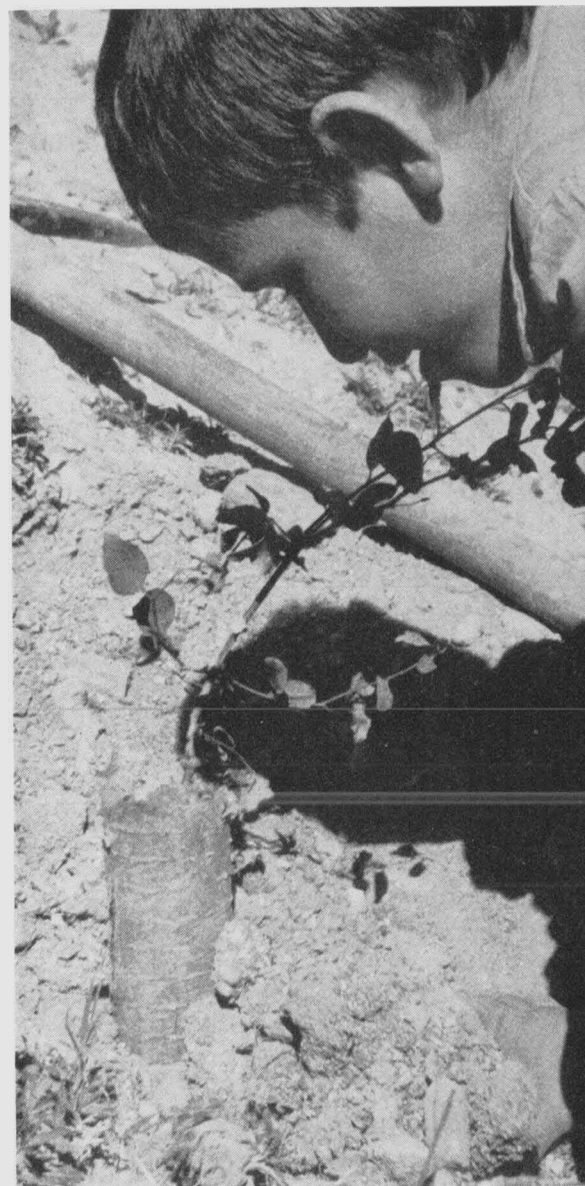
Thus we try to serve those needs which are not being met by others, to avoid duplication of existing efforts, to break new ground and find new techniques to reach closer into the causes of the problem, and to develop our projects as the local people feel their own needs widen.

As we move into the busy and demanding seasons ahead, we take this moment not only to comment on the purposes of our work, but also to thank you for your invaluable support.

Yours sincerely,



Executive Secretary



Behind the Quaker center in the Algerian village of Souk el Tleta is a steep hillside which is badly eroded. One of the first projects of the agricultural course, now offered to teen-age Algerian boys, was the planting of this slope in olive and eucalyptus trees to hold the life-giving soil. These activities are part of the long-range AFSC resettlement program in Algeria which now follows upon the conclusion of the interim relief work.

WASHINGTON HOUSING WORK BEGINS

IN RESPONSE to a growing need to ease the housing restrictions imposed upon American Negro citizens in the District of Columbia, the American Friends Service Committee has inaugurated the Washington Metropolitan Housing Program, projected as a five-year effort.

Because of its 12 years of practical experience in seeking open-occupancy housing, the AFSC was invited by a number of private Washington agencies to establish a program in the area. These agencies include Neighbors, Incorporated; the Capital Clearing House; and the Urban League.

Although the program has been in operation only six months, there have been several specific developments.

A local citizens group—Suburban Maryland Fair Housing, Incorporated—has been formed with a membership of 150 persons. The organization is patterned upon the Burlington County Fair Housing Council, which AFSC helped establish, and which has been responsible for assisting more than 50 non-white families to locate peacefully in Burlington County, New Jersey.

Twenty-eight Negro families, all seeking homes, have registered their desire to buy or rent in areas traditionally restricted to white owners in Maryland, Virginia, or the District of Columbia.

Fifteen white home owners have informed the Maryland group that they are willing to sell their homes on an open-market basis.

Unexpected interest and support for fair housing has developed in the northern Virginia suburbs of Alexandria, Arlington, and Falls Church. Several homes have been listed.

Personal Experience Cited

In December Helen Baker, AFSC consultant who opened the housing program, testified at the hearing held by the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia on a fair housing ordinance. She told of her own experience of being discriminated against when she sought housing in the District in November of 1962. Her testimony included an account of having been turned away from 31 apartment houses, each of which had listed available space, when she applied in person for occupancy.

In a final instance, after negotiations for an apartment had been concluded with the aid of friends, the option was withdrawn when the landlords discovered that Helen Baker was a Negro. Eventually appropriate housing was found in the District.

During the hearing, Helen Baker also told of the color paradox in the



Merlin Myers heads new program.

District of Columbia. Dark-skinned foreigners—either students or persons with diplomatic status—can get rental housing in areas where American citizens, also dark-skinned, are rigidly excluded. She and her son, a career diplomat, were both turned away from apartments housing foreign consular personnel.

The Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia have been thwarted by their Congressional overseers in seeking a fair housing ordinance. It may be that Helen Baker's

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AFSC CONFERENCE HELD IN GHANA

A FOUR DAY "consultative conference" was held at the University of Ghana in April as a step toward developing a seminars and conferences program in West Africa in the fall of 1963.

The group of 27 men and women included outstanding Africans from both French-speaking and English-speaking countries, as well as Quaker representatives and other friends of the program. Some had previously participated in AFSC seminars and conferences in the United States, Europe, or Asia. Others, representing government ministries, had become interested in the project as a result of exploratory staff work carried out in West African countries in 1962.

The group recommended the topic

"Africa Today—Common Tasks and Aspirations" as a theme around which a program might be developed. It further recommended that the program be undertaken as a "discussion for understanding."

The conference participants agreed that leaders of African thought and life would welcome opportunities to meet with each other for an exchange of information and views. It was noted that others who obviously will become part of this leadership in the near future would also benefit from such exchange. In expressing this opinion, the participants recognized that many conferences are now held in Africa with a view to action, yet, because of language or cultural or economic barriers, there

is little communication among these countries. Therefore, only a meagre basis of knowledge exists on which governments can develop cooperative action in meeting the needs and aspiration of the West African people. Educators, older students, young professional people, civil servants, those who carry diplomatic responsibilities, and any others who help their people learn to become responsible citizens—all were identified as key groupings from which participants should be drawn.

The International Conferences and Seminars programs, of which these plans are a part, is jointly sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee and the Friends Service Council of Great Britain.

YOUTH PROJECT LOCATED IN RUSSIA

THE 1963 Tripartite Work and Study Project to be held this summer in the northern Caucasus of the Soviet Union is the second stage of a three-year project sponsored jointly by the Friends Service Council of Great Britain, the Committee of Youth Organizations of the Soviet Union, and the AFSC. Each of the sponsors will send 10 participants between the ages of 20 and 30. The young people will help construct a new dormitory at a childrens' home.

In 1962 the project was held in Bristol, England, where participants helped build a community center. They worked mainly in the mornings, leaving the afternoons free for discussion. Discussion topics included disarmament, education, and the United Nations, each of which was introduced by a member of the group. Through a free exchange of views and opinions, participants felt they had increased their knowledge of each other's life and thought, and experienced a growth in mutual understanding. During the final week of the project the group toured in

other parts of England, sightseeing, visiting with local residents, and staying in private homes. Similar activities are planned for this summer's project.

All of the American participants selected for the current project have some proficiency in the Russian language. Their experience is wide and varied. One American participant worked for the World Bank. Another, a lawyer, is attached to a U.S. District Court in California. A third member of the group is a former member of the Russian language study tour of Indiana University to the USSR. Another, who has traveled widely in western Europe, is studying for a doctorate in political science.

British and American participants will assemble in London on July 27 and travel together to the Soviet Union in time for the project opening on July 29. The project, located at Natlchik, will conclude on August 28.

In 1964, a third project will be held in the United States, rounding out the original three-part plan.

Washington Work Begins

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testimony will help the commissioners to invoke an 1863 law which permits them to take unilateral action to provide for the safety and welfare of their citizens if Congress has neglected to do so.

The second phase in the development of the AFSC Washington housing program came in February when Merlin Myers, a sociologist from Oregon, became director of the project. Working with Helen Baker, who had accepted the position of consultant for six months, Merlin Myers began seeking prospective Negro home buyers as well as white home owners who would sell on the open market.

Meanwhile, Merlin Myers has been carrying forward Helen Baker's community commitments—working with the real estate industry, the fair housing groups, and with non-white buyers—interpreting both the housing needs and the opening opportunities under the new Executive Order.

In undertaking this housing program in Washington, the AFSC also believes it is in the national interest for a private agency to bring such inequities to the attention of the lawmaking and executive branches of the government with examples of discrimination gathered in its own neighborhood.

"QIAR" ACTIVITIES BASED IN TOKYO

NORMAN WILSON has been appointed Quaker International Affairs Representative in the Far East to begin in September. He will base his activities in Tokyo, Japan, but will be concerned with international relations in Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the Philippines as well.

In the course of his work in the Far East, Norman Wilson will meet members of the diplomatic community. He

will bring together people in government to discuss common problems and will share with them the concern of Friends for peaceful settlement of international problems.

A graduate of Antioch College, Norman Wilson holds a master's degree from the University of Chicago, and will receive his doctorate in education from Columbia University this summer. He was a Fulbright scholar

at Utrecht in the Netherlands, 1955-56, and has taught at Bronxville High School, Bronxville, New York, since 1956. He and his wife, Claire, are members of the Scarsdale Friends Meeting, Scarsdale, New York.

American Friends Service Committee, 160 N. 15th St., Phila. 2, Pa.

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