

Levi Pennington

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Pennington to Robert Dann April 1946

Levi T. Pennington

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April 3, 1946.

Prof. Robert H. Dann,
728 West 29th. St.,
Corvallis, Oregon.

Dear Friend:--

Last evening I had a conversation with Hubert E. Armstrong who suggested that I write to you, as I think and hope he intends to do, in regard to the united drive which is being made in Newberg, under the leadership of the Friends and Brethren, for relief in Europe.

This campaign had its origin in a meeting of the local Friends Service Committee called by its chairman, Rebecca Remington, to determine what we ought to do in view of the terrible distress in other lands, and especially in Europe, though we realize that the need is quite as great in other parts of the world. The suggestion was made at this service committee meeting that we seek the cooperation of the Brethren church here to see if it might not be possible to have a united campaign of churches and other bodies such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Civic Club, the Rotary Club, the granges, etc. A joint committee of the Friends and Brethren service committees launched the campaign by calling for a more general meeting in which it was asked that all churches and other interested organizations be represented. This general meeting was held, the goal was set at \$4,000.00 in addition to the clothing drive, and an executive committee was appointed to carry the plan into execution.

No house-to-house solicitation was planned, but each church and other organization was urged to make its own solicitation in its own way and at its own time, with insistence, however, that the great need called for generous giving and the pressing nature of that need called for speed.

The Friends church here, as was most fitting, was the first one to put the campaign across in anything like an adequate way. I was asked to make the appeal a week ago Sunday, and as a result more than \$800.00 was raised in that service, which has now approached \$1,000.00, which sum we expect to exceed before this week is over. Other churches have been neither so prompt nor so generous, but it is hoped that the joint effort may move with increasing speed during the next week.

Money raised by Friends is to go through the American Friends Service Committee; money contributed by the Brethren is to be administered by the national Brethren service committee; all other money and all clothing, unless otherwise designated, is to be divided equally between these two organizations.

Hubert Armstrong, who is a member of the executive committee of this united campaign for Newberg, said he thought seriously of mentioning this effort for relief to the group which met last Sunday, but did not do it. He was of the opinion that it might be possible that your group might be eager

and able to make some substantial contribution to this work for the relief of these sufferers in Europe, the way in which your help is handled being of little consequence compared with the importance of getting this relief on its way. It occurred to me that you might be able to get letters off to the members of your group soliciting their generous contributions, to be handled as you see fit. If you have a treasurer or wish to be the treasurer yourself for this fund, you could designate this method of collecting the fund, and then could either send it to The American Friends Service Committee or forward it to the treasurer of our local meeting here, Marian E. Jones, 1101 E. Fulton Street, Newberg, Oregon, who would handle it along with the gifts of the local Friends here.

You may have seen the last issue of the Northwest Friend urging contributions to this relief of the sufferers from the war and asking that these contributions be sent through the National Association of Evangelicals. This campaign in Newberg was started before we knew that the Northwest Friends Service Committee was doing anything in the matter; and in any case it would seem to us more fitting that our contributions go through the American Friends Service Committee.

If there is anything that you can do in this matter, I hope you will do it. This awful need has really "got under my skin" and I've done little for the past two weeks and more except seek to promote this life saving effort. You are of course familiar, perhaps more than I, with the terrible situation in the European countries; 140,000,000 undernourished; 100,000,000 living on an average daily diet of less than 1,500 calories per day, little more than half the amount required for health, and much less than half the average for the United States; tuberculosis and other diseases attendant on malnutrition rampant everywhere; areas in which there is not a living child under five years of age, and much larger areas where there is not a child living that was born in 1945; and other things of the sort. Money that is given will actually save lives, and I do not need to tell you that as administered by the American Friends Service Committee it is handled as it ought to be, and got to the places where most needed in the shortest possible time and the most efficient manner.

With the hope that you may be able and willing to do something for this worthy and needy cause, I am, with kindest personal regards,

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.