

Levi Pennington

People

4-1946

Levi Pennington to Earl Barker April 1946

Levi T. Pennington

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/levi_pennington

Recommended Citation

Pennington, Levi T., "Levi Pennington to Earl Barker April 1946" (1946). *Levi Pennington*. 40.
https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/levi_pennington/40

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the People at Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Levi Pennington by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolfe@georgefox.edu.

April 16, 1946.

Rev. B. Earl Barker,
President Ministerial Association,
Methodist Church,
McMinnville, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Barker:--

The Executive Committee of the Newberg United Campaign for European Relief, of which I was made chairman, have asked that I write to you with a suggestion of the possibility of a similar campaign in McMinnville if such a campaign has not already been undertaken there. I hope that it will not seem presumptuous to make such a suggestion, and perhaps you have already done an adequate thing, or perhaps you are working on a better plan than the one we carried out here.

Our campaign here started with a meeting of the Service Committee of the Friends Church, of which my wife is chairman, to consider what we as a church ought to do for the relief of the suffering peoples in Europe. There the suggestion was made that we seek the cooperation of the Brethren Church, which organization we knew was doing some fine things for relief, in an effort to start a community-wide campaign. A joint committee of Friends and Brethren decided to call a general meeting to which all churches and civic organizations were asked to send representatives. This more general meeting was held, and as a result an executive committee was appointed to carry out the details of the campaign, the goal that was set being \$4,000.00, approximately a dollar each for every man, woman and child in the town and immediate environs.

This executive committee we tried to make broadly representative. It included Hubert S. Armstrong, superintendent of schools who belongs to the Friends Church, the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. Gra Huston, member of the Brethren church and wife of the man who is head of the Service section of their church for a number of states, I am not sure just how many; Mrs. John Prideaux, a leader in a number of civic enterprises; Rev. R. A. Feenstra, pastor of the Methodist church, whose church has already sent some \$500.00 for relief in Holland, from which country Mr. Feenstra came, I believe; Rev. J. Frank Cunningham, pastor of the Christian Church, president of the Newberg Ministerial Association, member of the Rotary Club, and a leader in the city; Martin Redding, insurance man (who came from McMinnville some years ago), member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club and the Catholic Church; and myself.

We planned our campaign not as a house-to-house solicitation, but as a campaign which we asked each church and other organization to carry out in its own way and at its own time, but with emphasis on the fact that the need is tremendous, so that gifts should be liberal, and pressing, so that the campaign should be carried out as quickly as possible.

Letters were sent to the pastors of all churches, and to the heads of the Chamber of Commerce, the Junior Chamber of

Commerce, the Rotary Club, the Civic Improvement Club, the two neighboring granges, the Farmers Union, etc., setting out the purpose of the campaign, the goal that had been set, announcing the choice of Mr. Rue, manager of the First National Bank as general treasurer for the campaign, etc., with the offer of the Friends and Brethren to handle the gifts and get the relief to the sufferers in Europe if that was desired, but with full liberty for any church or other organization to send through its own denominational channels or in any other way desired.

The local Friends Church was the first to put on its definite campaign, for a number of the other churches had special meetings on or other arrangements that made it necessary to postpone the campaign. The Friends Church has already sent its first (and main) check to the American Friends Service Committee, a check for \$1,141.00, all that was received from Friends up to that time. Other churches have since put on their campaigns, and still others are doing it in the future.

Because we knew that the appeal through the churches would not reach all who ought to contribute to this relief fund, we sent out letters to considerably more than 500 of the leading folks in the town and community, knowing that this letter would go to some who had already contributed. So we made the letter a "thank you" for them, and an appeal to those who had not already contributed to the limit.

Today I got off to the various organizations what we suppose is the last thing that the committee will do in the campaign. It is now up to the churches and other organizations and the individuals to whom our appeal was sent. What the total result will be we do not know.

I should have mentioned our drive for clothing as well as money for food and medicine. We were permitted again to put a great box in the front window of the offices of the Portland General Electric Co. where clothing can be placed by anyone able to contribute any of the garments so sorely needed in Europe. This is about the seventh clothing drive in Newberg in the last two years or so, but folks are responding generously. One shipment of clothing has been made by the Brethren Church, and the box is almost full again, and this time the Friends Service Committee will handle the shipment. Both these churches handle all overhead, so that everything given by others gets in toto to the persons who need it.

Please do not think me presumptuous in writing you as I have done. The need over there is so terrible that we should be eager, as it seems to me, to do everything we can to help the suffering peoples. I am enclosing some of the letters that were written, with the thought that they might possibly be useful.

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.