

Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington Writing to Henry Leiper, October 29, 1946

Levi T. Pennington

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October 29, 1946.

Henry Smith Leiper, D.D.,
World Council of Churches,
297 Fourth Avenue, Room 80,
New York 10, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Leiper:--

Your letter of the 21st is before me, and if I did not reply to your letter last spring, it was not because of lack of interest nor lack of realization that this is the time for the Christian world to show its Christianity in a united way.

I am not, however, in position to make a contribution to this organization. In the first place, my income is very limited. In the second place, my contributions, though none of them can be large except as related to my income, are widely distributed, and constitute a very large share of the total. And in the third place, the needs of the suffering peoples in Europe and Asia has so gripped me that I have devoted most of my energy and all the money I can spare and some that I can't well spare to this relief of immediate and critical suffering, though I know that all that I can do is like a drop in the ocean.

At first my effort was only through my own local church for the relief of famine sufferers in India, and we raised what we thought was a fairly generous sum from our congregation, and much more than was expected by those who thought they knew our ability and generosity. Then I became head of the community-wide movement that grew out of a meeting of our local Friends service committee, of which my wife is chairman, for the raising of funds for food and medicine and clothing for the sufferers in Europe. We do not know how much money was raised through this effort, as some churches sent their money through their own denominational channels. Between \$2,500.00 and \$3,000.00 went through the general treasury of the campaign, and something like a ton of clothing was contributed. And just now I am head of the committee appointed by the local ministerial association for the raising of funds for relief through the churches. Our own church, the Friends, started the campaign with gifts aggregating about \$1,200.00 in addition to the \$1,500.00 given four months ago; the Methodists followed with \$500.00, and the Christian Church took its offering a week and more ago, but I have not heard the result, for my wife and I are trying to get a bit of rest and recreation which we have tried to get all summer without success.

I am interested in your letter; but under the circumstances I do not feel that I can make even a tiny contribution to your organization, at least until I get paid the pledge I made in this last campaign, which is still in progress.

Sincerely yours,

Levi T. Pennington.