

Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington Writing to the Student Body of Pacific College, January 16, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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January 16, 1947.

To the Student Body of Pacific College:

Will it seem impertinent if I ask you a question?

Why don't you put on a big entertainment for the benefit of the suffering peoples across the seas?

There are hundreds of millions of them, starving, freezing, homeless, hopeless. We are warm, well fed, the worst of us housed in what would seem palatial to many millions of folks as worthy of the good things of life as we are.

Life across the seas is particularly hard for children. In some areas, only one child out of five that are born lives to be a year old.

One of the most satisfactory ways of relieving the distress over there and saving the lives of children is through the Heifers-for-Relief project, started by the Church of the Brethren but now outgrowing that small denomination and becoming an inter-faith project.

The total cost of getting a bred and tested heifer into a place across the sea where there is feed for cattle but no cattle is \$160.00, and the average milk production of these animals is enough to provide ten children with their most vital food. The calf that is born soon after the animal reaches its destination goes to another needy family, and so the work goes on and on.

You have musical and other entertainment talents there that ought to draw a great crowd, especially if you gave an entertainment all the proceeds of which were to go for this Heifers-for-Relief project. (There are other forms of relief that could be chosen, of course, but this one seems these days to have the greatest public appeal, and the campaign is on in this state right now, as a pattern for the other states of the Union.) You could make the admission to the entertainment low-priced, so as to get a big crowd, or perhaps for the benefit of the cause it would be better to make the price \$1.00, and make a vigorous canvass for the sale of tickets.

Don't you think it over? You'll pardon me if I seem pretty insistent, but I can hear the hungry and cold children cry, and it hurts me -- as I am sure it hurts you, too.

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.