

Levi Pennington

People

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Pennington to Gunther Zampfe, January 13, 1948

Levi T. Pennington

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January 13, 1948.

Gunther Zumpfe,
Franzenbaderstr. 22,
Selb, Bavaria, Germany.

Dear Mr. Zumpfe:--

Your letter of December 20 has just reached me, and I have read it with deep interest and I hope with proper sympathy. My heart goes out to the suffering peoples overseas, and I am trying to do my best for their relief; but I do not feel free to send help to those whom I do not know when others may be in greater need so far as I have any way of knowing.

I wish it were possible for us to reach and help all who will need help in this terrible winter. As it is, my contributions personally are going through agencies that are distributing relief on the basis of need entirely, without respect to race, nationality, religion or anything else but need. The representatives of these agencies are on the field and know the needs as I cannot. They find that there are those who have relatives or friends in America or who have secured the names of people to whom they can write who are faring much better than some who have no such recourse as this, and my help is going through these agencies that minister to those who are most in need. You will understand that I am not implying that your need may not be great, but I cannot know that your need is greater than that of some neighbor of yours who has no one to whom he can write.

This may seem like a cold-blooded and mechanical way to handle what I can give to overseas relief, but it seems to me the fairest. And I have tried to help all I could. I headed the campaign in this county for Heifers-for-Relief, and our county sent the first carload of these heifers to Europe that was sent from this state. I have headed two campaigns in this town for relief, and if the rest of the United States had done as well as Newberg has done, there would be far less suffering in Europe and Asia as there is today. My wife and I have collected and packed and shipped tons of clothing for overseas relief -- our Christmas greetings were delayed because we were getting off 1421 pounds in that one shipment, and we have made another since, and I have just finished packing another 400 or 500 pounds which I hope to get shipped tomorrow. And of late I have been working on the Christmas Ship which is supposed to sail this week with 10,000 tons of food and clothing for Europe. And I have pushed the campaign for gifts from our own church, which has given more liberally than any other organization in Newberg.

I tell you all this not boastingly but to show you that I am not insensible to the needs of our brothers across the seas, but that it seems best for me to give what I can through such agencies as The American Friends Service Committee, with which I have been associated ever since the first world war.

Sincerely yours,