

**T**he engagement of millions of Americans in the struggle to end the brutal war in Indochina has led, not to peace, but to a devastation beyond anything we had thought possible. For those Vietnamese, Cambodians and Laotians who have survived the worst bombing in the history of the world, life is precarious and terrifying.

Many of us who feel a burden of responsibility for the pain and grief that American bombs have caused have mixed feelings as the holidays approach. How can we celebrate? Somewhere during the busy weeks of the Advent-Hanukkah period of December 1972 a moment is needed for the Indochinese people, a time to remember those who still live and struggle for life in that tortured part of the world,

a time to give something for life and healing.

To answer this need, CALC and FOR have initiated the FOR THE VICTIMS program. We propose that our members and all those who feel concern for the victims of this war will join in a project to raise money for direct and immediate help to the thousands of homeless and wounded war victims in Vietnam. The funds will go to three groups whose work ministering directly to the physical needs of the wounded and homeless is well known and whose need for financial support is urgent: Quang Ngai Rehabilitation Center (Quaker), the Medical Aid for Indochina Committee and the School of Youth for Social Service (Buddhist). Descriptions of the work of these groups appear later in the brochure.

## COMMUNITIES OF REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION

These gatherings might be held ecumenically or within one or more congregations. Because we believe there are many who would like the opportunity to participate in such a remembrance/celebration, a church or temple would be appropriate, although it is also conceivable that some would like to plan such an occasion in the more intimate surroundings of their own home. Some may wish to hold a vigil and/or procession in a more public place, either prior to or following the gift-giving service. Still others will wish to plan a simple meal of rice and tea and yet others a complete fast for a set period.

Whatever setting is chosen for the religious service, there may be need for it to go beyond conven-

tional rites to bring in resources which come from Southeast Asia itself. Various types of materials for worship and reflection relating to the war and its effects are available from CALC and FOR.

This national FOR THE VICTIMS program will be officially announced December 4 in Dallas, Texas. The General Assembly of the National Council of Churches will be meeting in Dallas at this time and, in addition to holding a press conference on the afternoon of the fourth, CALC and FOR will sponsor a remembrance/celebration service both for participants in the assembly and members of the wider Dallas community.

## PUBLICITY

In our view, it is especially important to call public attention to the FOR THE VICTIMS program because it provides a specific way amid all the suffering in Indochina and the tendency to complacency in the United States for people to give of their resources for life and rehabilitation in Southeast Asia. And it is particularly significant that, during this season of the year when there is special concern for one's neighbor, people in church and synagogue

become involved.

We have learned that people who comprise the religious press, in particular, are delighted to have events such as this to cover during this religious season of the year. A unique event of this kind, symbolizing as it does the heart of Advent and Hanukkah has many picture and feature story aspects.

## THE IMMEDIATE TASK

What is called for now is organizing in local communities. December is always a busy month and plans should be made early for the kind of occasion you want for your community. We would suggest that the remembrance/celebration gift-giving occasions fall between the second and third weeks of

December. This avoids being too early to catch the mood of the people or, on the other hand, the rush of the final few days before the 25th.

If you need any more help or clarification from either CALC or FOR, please don't hesitate to write or call.

## THE CHANNELING ORGANIZATIONS:

Medical Aid for Indochina sends medical supplies and equipment to areas of Indochina controlled by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government, the Pathet Lao and their allies. For over a year they have been forwarding medical materials at the request of the Red Cross societies to the areas of Indochina bombed by the U.S. government.

Quaker Rehabilitation Center, in Quang Ngai

## ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS

All monies collected and sent us for FOR THE VICTIMS will be split into equal portions and sent to the three projects described. A full financial

in South Vietnam, specializes in the making and fitting of artificial arms and legs for Vietnamese civilians, children and adults. Operated by the American Friends Service Committee.

School of Youth for Social Service, operated by the Unified Buddhist church, which is noncooperative with the Thieu regime, maintains refugee centers in the major cities of South Vietnam where emergency aid on a large scale and some relocation is effected.

report will be available after January 15 upon request. Gifts to the program are *not* tax deductible.

Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, N.Y. 10960

Ph: (212) LO8-8200  
(914) EL8-4601

Clergy and Laity Concerned, 235 East 49th St., New York, N.Y. 10017

Ph: (212) 371-7188



photo by Philip Jones Griffiths from Vietnam Inc.

"Is this not what I require of you as a fast:  
to loose the fetters of injustice, to untie the  
knots of the yoke, to snap every yoke and set  
free those who have been crushed."

Isaiah 58:6

# FOR THE VICTIMS

A Joint Program of  
Clergy and Laity Concerned  
and the Fellowship of Reconciliation