

Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends

3107 N. CHARLES STREET

BALTIMORE, MD.

Dear Friend:

The enclosed letter, adopted by the Pastoral Committee of Baltimore Monthly meeting of Friends (Orthodox), has been entrusted to a sub-committee to be forwarded by them to Christians of other churches.

We are sending it to you because we are sure that you have a very real interest in the problems dealt with. It may be an encouragement to you to know that we also are thinking about them and praying that our Father may guide us all into paths which lead toward their solution.

It is not our purpose to give any general publicity to the letter, but you are, of course, at liberty to use it among your own group in any manner you may deem best, if you think it can be of service to any of your people in the cause of righteousness.

John Keany
Committee Chairman.

May 10th, 1924.

To our Brethren in Christ in Baltimore City:

We, Ministers, Elders and Overseers of the Friends who worship in the Homewood Meeting House, ask you to share with us a concern which we are feeling for ourselves and for the other members of our Church. We address you with some hesitation, for we have neither advice to give nor a plan to propose; but we greatly desire your fellowship in the consideration of conditions which we have felt as a burden not to be cast aside, and trust that the outcome may be some advancement of the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

From many and divers sources we have had the word that the social and international struggles which we all deplore can be settled only by the application of the principles set out in the teachings of Jesus. We are fearing that while assenting to this as a general proposition the followers of Christ have not always realized that they are the medium through which these principles are to be applied; and that these teachings have small chance of reaching the hearts and affecting the lives of vast numbers of men unless they are given weight and momentum through actual demonstration of their truth and value.

Social relationships present to us many and difficult problems. Great inequalities of opportunity and of the rewards of labor, the friction resulting from race prejudice, the moral evils which develop when men are crowded together in a large city,—these all press upon our hearts as a heavy burden, and we know that you share this burden with us. Here, again, we sometimes say that sin is at the root of a large part of these evils, but for ourselves we desire to face frankly the question: Whose sin? Have we discharged our duty toward our neighbors, or have we followed in the path of the Priest and the Levite in our Lord's parable? It is beyond doubt true that the application of the power of the gospel of Christ is needed for the cure of social ills, but to whom is the application to be made? There would seem to be but slight hope of success in presenting Jesus Christ as a Saviour from one type of sin while yielding in our lives to another sort. This is what troubles us.

The relations between the groups commonly classified as Capital and Labor should give concern to all Christians, for they are practically in a state of warfare in many cases, each side of the contest for material rewards using force in some form to increase its share or to hold what it has gained. We are feeling a strong desire to exert our influence in behalf of a more satisfactory attitude on both sides, and have a conviction that Christian employers have it in their power to modify greatly existing conditions through