

## OPPORTUNITY NEWS

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This newspaper is a publication of  
the VALLEY MIGRANT LEAGUE  
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with the activities of the VALLEY  
MIGRANT LEAGUE.

If you do not qualify for free  
copies, please send \$2.00 for a 1  
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Editor, Opportunity News:

I've just finished reading an ar-  
ticle written by Mr. Bustos. I am  
in complete agreement with his  
statements. I am like a good deal  
of people in the area. We would  
like to help but just don't know  
how to go about it. Perhaps you  
might have some suggestions as to  
how I might participate. I am re-  
tired and have quite a good deal  
of time.

The main thing that Mr. Bustos'  
article did was to arouse my tem-  
per because some of our best  
friends are Mexican. We have just  
returned from Mexico where we  
lived for most of the time with a  
Mexican family and my wife and I  
intend to return to live there some  
day. The fact that anyone would  
treat them as inferiors up here riles  
me. I am sure that no one who has  
seen their ancient civilizations, had  
contact with their culture and had  
the privilege of being accepted as a  
friend, would take this attitude.

I hope that there might be some-  
thing that you might suggest for  
helping in some small way.

Sincerely,  
Ray Fletcher  
5047 S.E. Lafayette St.  
Portland, Oregon 97206

Dear Mr. Wilcox:

I have long meant to write and  
express my admiration for the good  
job you are doing on **Opportunity  
News**. I have kept a file of your  
issues and have, from time to time,  
given copies to educators who were  
particularly interested in migrants.

We will be having an article  
about migrant problems sometime  
before summer and hope to borrow  
information and pictures from you  
again. . . .

At present, I just wanted to ex-  
press my appreciation for your work  
and to send our check for a sub-  
scription. . . .

Sincerely yours,  
Mrs. Caroline Blakely  
Editor, NEWS FOR YOU  
Box 131  
Syracuse, N. Y. 13210

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Many of our  
readers would enjoy reading NEWS  
FOR YOU, which Mrs. Caroline  
Blakely edits. It is very clearly writ-  
ten, and it gives lots of news. It is  
easy to read, and that is the reason  
that it goes to many parts of the  
world. There is a Spanish language  
edition.

When VML planned to start a  
newspaper, it arranged to borrow  
one of Mrs. Blakely's assistants,  
Katie Bartels, to help with the edit-  
ing. In this way, **Opportunity News**  
gained some of the know-how from  
this unusual newspaper. You can  
subscribe to NEWS FOR YOU for 15  
weeks for \$1.25. Write to Mrs.  
Blakely.)

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Mrs. Jarvill:

I want to thank you for the **Op-  
portunity News**.

When it comes to understanding  
the problem of finding housing on  
a meager budget, I know all about  
that from A to Z. It's shameful in  
these United States, which is said  
to be the wealthiest nation . . . and  
we call ourselves a Christian nation.  
The many conditions which I've  
seen, and which I've experienced  
myself, are far from being "Chris-  
tian" in my opinion.

Our government has started  
doing something about the housing  
situation but it goes awfully slow.  
Some of that money spent on going  
to the moon could be better spent  
right here on this planet, Earth, for  
the many human beings in need  
of it.

I have had experience picking  
hops in the Willamette Valley and  
sleeping in a tent with straw on the  
ground for a mattress. As a girl, I  
picked berries in the hot sun to  
earn money for school clothes, and  
walked long distances to the field.  
And I've also picked cranberries  
and picked prunes from the  
ground. And I've climbed trees to  
pick cherries.

I'm still hoping to get some  
clothing and miscellaneous items  
together for the Valley Migrant  
League.

A Happy New Year to you and  
your co-workers of the **Opportunity  
News**.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Marie M. Gerty  
115 West 4th Street  
Albany, Oregon.

Sra. Jarvill:

Quisiera darle gracias por el  
**Opportunity News**.

Cuando tiene que entender el  
problema de hallar viviendas con  
poco dinero todo la sé. Es una lásti-  
tima en estos Estados Unidos, que  
se dice es la nación más rica del  
mundo . . . y la llamamos una na-  
ción cristiana. Las muchas situa-  
ciones que he visto y en que he  
vivido, me parece lejos de ser  
"cristianas."

Nuestro gobierno ha empezado  
un plan para mejorar la situación  
pero el progreso no es rápido. Se  
podría usar mejor el dinero gozado  
para llegar a la luna, aquí, en la  
tierra, para las muchas personas  
que lo necesita.

Yo trabajaba en la valle Willa-  
mette y dormía en el suelo con un  
colchon de paja. Cuando niña, tra-  
abajé en la cosecha de fresas para  
ganar dinero y comprar ropa de  
escuela, y andaba distancias largas  
al campo. Y también he pisado  
arándanos y ciruelas del suelo y  
subía árboles para pisar cerezas.

Todavía tengo esperanza de ob-  
tener ropa y cosas diversas por el  
Valley Migrant League.

Un feliz año nuevo a usted y a  
todos del **Opportunity News**.

Sinceramente,  
Sra. Marie M. Gerty  
115 West 4th Street  
Albany, Oregon

## MIGRANT MINISTRY BOARD ASKS CHURCH SERVICES IN SPANISH

The Migrant Ministry made an  
official statement last month about  
the work of churches with seasonal  
farm workers. Here are some of the  
recommendations:

Local churches should be con-  
cerned with the problems of sea-  
sonal farm workers.

Special services should be given  
in Spanish.

Churches of the Migrant Ministry  
should look for new ways to co-  
operate with other churches and  
agencies in working with seasonal  
farm laborers.

Churches recognize the right of  
farm workers to belong to unions.

Churches should be concerned  
for the protection of both laborers  
and growers against violence, and  
should work for state and national  
laws for the protection of both  
groups.

The Migrant Ministry looks to the  
state government to work out a  
farm labor relations plan for Ore-  
gon.

El Migrant Ministry hizo una  
declaración oficial el mes pasado  
sobre la obra de las iglesias con los  
migrantes. Aquí tiene algunas de  
las recomendaciones:

Iglesias locales deben interesarse  
con el problema de los migrantes.

Se deben presentar servicios espe-  
ciales en español.

Iglesias del Migrant Ministry de-  
ben buscar maneras nuevas de co-  
operar con otras iglesias y agencias  
que trabajan con los migrantes.

Iglesias se dan cuenta del dere-  
cho de los migrantes a pertenecer  
a uniones.

Iglesias deben interesarse con la  
protección de ambos trabajadores  
y cultivadores contra la violencia y  
deben trabajar para leyes locales  
y nacionales para proteger ambos  
grupos.

El Migrant Ministry mira al go-  
bierno del estado para establecer  
un plan de relaciones agrícolas en  
Oregon.