

E) REFUGEE SETTLEMENT ORGANISED



The Lot Box

Sorting disagreements is very tricky but Zinzendorf had a plan.

Does your school have a school council who work together with the teachers?

Zinzendorf had a similar idea to solve the unhappy and unpleasant situation. Twelve elders were chosen to form a town council, whose task was to manage the buildings, care for the poor and sick and build a school to educate the children.

The refugees were organised into bands called choirs. Men were called, "brother" and women, "sister". All the brothers and sisters joined a choir according to whether they were married or not, or according to their age. The various choirs were the married choir, the single sisters' choir, the single brethren's choir, the widow and widowers' choirs, and the young peoples' choir. Each choir was supervised by an experienced and respected leader who provided help and support when needed.

Prayer and Bible study was an important part of each day as were the industries of spinning wool, linen weaving, carpentry, pottery, farming and food preparation. Dorothea, Zinzendorf's wife, shared her husband's hopes and she held an important position in the Church and community as a guide and advisor to the women.



If a problem really could not be sorted out they consulted the Lot Box. Inside the bowl were three tubes, one said "no" another "yes" and another "later". Even marriages at times were decided by this method. It really did work as everyone accepted the decision provided by the tube chosen.

In this way the community became united and Zinzendorf's boyhood wishes grew stronger.