

On August 10, 1964 the Freedom School located at Gluckstadt in rural Madison Co. , Mississippi was burned to the ground. The following are the reports of the Students.

On Monday night August 10 between 9:30 or 10:00 someone burned down Mount Pleasant Hall because they hate so badly to see a negro learning anything. I think whoever burned it down must have been sick in the mind. The only person I believe did it is a highway patrolman. And the only thing standing is the bricks.

Female, age 12

On Monday evening August 10, 1964 Mt. Pleasant society hall were burned down by some White Nigger. Burning our churches and society hall down are not going to stop us from having Freedom School. Because we are going to get our Freedom someday. Because they burned down our society hall don't say we are going to stop teaching Freedom School.

Female, age 14

On Monday, August 10, 1964 the Mt. Pleasant willing worker society hall was burned by some lowdown man (woman) who waited until it started raining, so that the people could lay it on God's lightning. It wasn't anything left but the tin and the pillars which the building stood on.

Male, age 17

On Monday evening August 10, 1964 the Mt. Pleasant society huall was burned down by some dirty hearted Cracker. Just because some White Peck burn down our society huall that is not going to stop us from having our freedom school because we want our freedom. Burning down churches and society hall is not going to stop us from having our freedom.

Female, age 16

On Monday, the 10th of August, when I returned from the play, White America, they told me that our school had been burned. It was completely burned down, nothing left but the burned tin. As usual the question is who burned the church. The purpose of our burned school was to stop us from coming but nothing is going to keep us away from freedom school, but a complete Freedom education.

Male, age 17

I think it was a great disaster to come and find that on August 10, our Freedom School had been burned down by some white people who didn't want the negro to get an education or to ever be free.

I think it's a shame how all thue good books get burned, how the pencils and tables got burned, how the church piano and all the good church benches were burned to ashes.

Male, age 13

On Monday evening August 10, 1964 the Mt. Pleasant, willing workers Society was burned. It was set fire between 10 and 11 o'clock after a lightning storm in the vicinity, by who, I do not know, but, there is one who knows (God).

I hope the one who started the fire is real happy about his dirty work, he did succeed in burning our society hall to the ground, but our hearts and minds are still on the Prize and we are going to hold on. If burning down the Negro churches would stop them then there would not be a church standing.

In my last remarks, as I have fore said, I hope the one started the fire is happy here because when he come to be tried before the bars of Justice (of God) he can't say he is innocent because God knows that he is GUILTY, then God will say depart from me, I made you but I know you not.

Male, age 18

In my opinion concerning the burning of Mt. Pleasant's Society Hall on August 10, 1964 was the most incredible thing I have ever seen. I think it just told one what kind of people some caucasions are in the South and around this area. They are always telling the Negroes they are communist in their ways and action, but in my opinion when a person deliberately burned down a symbol of God must be a person who doesn't believe in God. This burning made the fourteenth church that's been burned because of racial violence. The building was completely demolish and a total loss to everyone in this community and the Freedom School.

Male, 17 years old

On Monday Aug. 10 thue site of our Freedom School since July 20th was burned to the ground. This was probably done in order to stop Freedom School. To me, more people are now interested in Freedom School than before. I am convinced that the fire was started by someone. This hall has been there for as longv as I can remember I hope all the people who had a hand in this are caught.

We had been up later than usual that night. My father had just went outside and he saw the smoke and flames. We that it could be the hall but were not sure. It was about 10:30 when we saw the fire and came to see if it was the hall which had already burned to the ground. We did not see anyone and left and did not get out the car. We did not stay to see it burned.

Male, age 15

On Monday evening August 10, 1964, the Mt. Pleasant society hall was burned by some heartless segregationist didn't have any respect for the house of God.

It was approximatly two weeks ago when a white segregationist drove by the freedom school and stop as if she saw a stop sign. She didn't get out and say a word. She just pulled off. She drove by continuously for about four times. After all thue students had gone home, the next morning when we returned the teacher told us about that the white segregationist stop by to talk this time. She said they was told to go back where thuey come from and was called Communist people. They said that the teachers was teaching the "niggers" against the white (but if thuis was true, in thuat case they would also be teaching the negroes against themselves too because they are white). The white segregationist also said that she would pray thuat nothing would happen to them or the building because she loved her "niggers"!

My own opinion is she sent up prayers saying don't let anyone burn it until I get a chance. But the prayers seem to have been in vain.

Female, age 15

On Monday evening August 10, 1964 which was about one and one half week after some white people ask our white teachers to leave our school. It was burned down by some poor ungodly segregationist.

And to thue one that burned down that building you are not hurting us, you are building fire on your own back. Because don't you know God, was looking at you.

God is going to have your trial one day, and your aunts and uncles are not going to be on that juryseat to declare you are inocent. It don't make any difference with God what color your face is. Brother you will get whuat's coming to you.

Burning down these churches are not going to stop what you all call a mess. We will still have school, we are still going to worship God, out in the woods, in our home, or anywhere.

And to the one that's burning down theses churchu you may get by, but you won't get away. The white people are showing thuemselfes up by burning down thue corored peoples churches. You see there are no whuite people church getting burned at all.

Do you know God said upon this Rock I build my church. Then you will still be dirty hearted enough to burned down the church. We are still going to worship God and we are going to pray for you all.

What if God were by you just as you are by us? you would be in hell right now Bossing the Devil around.

You white people won't even say negro, you would rather say nigger. But it is white niggers. But it is white niggers as well as color niggers. Any person that low down and dirty hearted enough to burn down a church is nothing but a nigger, and do you think God want such as you in his kingdom?

I think it is offer in you people to burn down our churches. What do you all profit by burning down churches? I think it's foolish to go round burning down churches because you don't want us to marry in your race. We don't want you; not as much as you want us.

Female, age 24