

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 RAYMOND STREET, N.W.
ATLANTA 14, GEORGIA

CHURCHES BURNED OR BOMBED IN MISSISSIPPI
From Start of Summer Project to July 11, 1964

HATTIESBURG: The recreation hall of the Rosary Catholic Mission, 902 Dabbs Street (formerly the church itself) was burned about June 15. The interior was destroyed. Clergyman: The Rev. John C. Kerston.

PHILADELPHIA: The Mount Zion Methodist Church, on a dirt road way out in the county, was burned completely to the ground on June 16. The pastor used to be the Rev. G.L. Russell, Box 201, Philadelphia. It is unclear whether he may have left. In his absence contact may be made with Mr. Frank Kirkland or Mr. Curtis Cole, members of the Board.

BRANDON (Rankin County): The Sweet Rest Church of Christ Holiness was damaged by a molotov cocktail on June 21. Damage was not extensive. The church is located on Old Whitfield Road.

RULEVILLE: The Williams Chapel was firebombed June 25. Damage was confined to the front of the building. Pastor: the Rev. Joe Storey, 802 Beamon Avenue, Cleveland, Miss.

CLINTON (Hinds County): The Holy Ghost Church, outside Clinton city limits, was set on fire with kerosene June 26. Half of the floor and the ceiling were charred. In this case the church was probably burned from the mistaken belief that a white minister, Rev. Yonkers, who conducted vacation Bible school classes there June 25, had something to do with the Mississippi Summer Project. The pastor of the church is the Rev. James Washington.

JACKSON: The McCraven Hill Missionary Baptist Church was the object of attempted arson July 6. Damage was not extensive.

BROWNING (Leflore County): The Pleasant Plan Missionary Baptist Church was burned to the ground July 11. The church burned for at least three hours in the early morning, however no action was taken by local officials. A fire truck was reported to have been on the scene 1,000 feet from the church but was not utilized.

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MOSS POINT: The Knights of Pythias Hall was firebombed June 23. Damage was slight. The hall has been used repeatedly for voter registration meetings, and was shot into July 6, injuring a 17-year-old girl.

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The racial overtone of all of the above burnings or firebombings is clear. The connection to civil rights activity is more obvious in some than in others.