

EVALUATION

1. Name: Merle Longwood
2. Church: American Lutheran Church (Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.)
3. Denomination: The American Lutheran Church
4. Address: 2375 Como Avenue West, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
5. Area Canvassed: Palmer's Crossing. Amount of time spent 6 days (Dec. 30-Jan. 5)
& area around Project
6. Number of people visited: Approximately 100 homes
7. General Response: Although most of the local Negroes families seemed quite friendly, I sensed a deep feeling of fear beneath it all. Some would come right out and say that they were afraid to register to vote because of fear of loss of a job, etc., while many would say, yes, they would try to get down to the court house sometime.
8. Did you have any contact with white community? Explain. Yes. My classmate friend, Ted Okland and I visited the local Lutheran pastor and his wife in his home. They were friendly, but a little defensive about the race question. He seems to be really troubled by it all, but he has not yet come to the point where he sees the church operative in society in more than an "individual soul" salvation way.
9. Did you have any contact with police? Explain. No. Some watched us, but none even followed our car.
10. Give your impressions of community, evaluation of your work, what you think can be done.

I think the community is definitely laden with fear. It seems that many people are afraid of the big "they." But when questioned about who "they" are, nobody seems to know. It seems that enough things have happened to provide some concrete basis for the feelings that a person puts his life in danger by participating in the civil rights movement wholeheartedly.

The work which I did was pretty small. I mostly listened. I listened as actively as I could in the home visits, during the meetings, and in conversations with some of the local student and adult civil rights leaders. As an outsider, being there at most for a few days, I think this is the most valuable contribution one can make. It is a silent witness, but a supportive one. In a way it is probably like non-directive counseling. You can't really push the person any further than he is ready to go, and we must not feel that we can come in with answers and tell the local Negroes, or the whites either for that matter, exactly how the

