

Oxford, Ohio
6-26-64

Dear Christian Friends,

You've heard and read of the disappearance of the three youths in Mississippi. This is not unusual at all for Miss. and it is a shame that it took white Northerners to make people realize this, for if James Chaney alone had disappeared, no one outside of Miss. would have known, for he is a Negro. All Americans by their apathy and silent consent are as guilty of these crimes as the men who actually commit them. Christians are even more guilty for not serving their Lord and Saviour.

This morning Mrs. Fannie Lou Hammer, a woman the same age as my mother, who has been beaten, jailed, sterilized and fired from her job of 18 years for merely registering to vote, announced that her church had been burned. Last Sunday I sat in the comfortable sanctuary of the Stow First Christian Church and this Sunday I have no church, for I shall be in Ruleville, Mrs. Hammer's home town and mine for the next 2 months. She immediately followed this up by quoting from the Bible:

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

How many of us can attest to such a faith?

We northern college students have been called militants and agitators for attempting to go into Miss. to teach school and register people to vote. We go armed with one weapon, the same weapon used by Jesus, Ghandi and Lao Tzu, that of non-violent action found only through compassionate love even for one's enemy. We are fighting the fight fought by the early Christians and the Israelites. That for justice for a persecuted people.

You can help, in fact the church must help if it values it's life, as pointed out by Dr. Robert Spike, head of the National Council of Churches Comm. on Race and Religion. If the people of the church do not take a stand, the church in America is irrelevant and dead.

Understand, pray, send letters to your Congressmen and Attorney General Kennedy for our protection before the crime is committed, and money for food and clothing, new frame church buildings, schools and the fight for freedom to Mississippi Summer Project
1017 Lynch Street
Jackson, Miss.

In Christian Love,
Linda Seese