

TITLE

[Summer 1964]

↳ About the situation as we approach the end of the summer in the south-western part of Madison County, including Flora, Madison, Gluckstadt and the land around these communities:

At the start of the summer the area had not been worked except for two churches which had been opened up, both of them in rural communities.

Throughout the summer we have had one car and an average of three or four people working on the project. Three freedom schools are currently running. I'll not say much about them as I assume they will be turning in reports. They have attendances of between 20 and 50 students. At two of them we have been able to find housing in the area. At Gluckstadt we have no housing so the teachers live in Canton and commute each day.

We have canvassed along most of the roads in the area but perhaps our most valuable work has been trying to open up churches and just making contacts in the area. We have worked with about 20 churches. Eight of them are now more or less open to us. Seven of them have refused to work with the movement. We are still working on the others.

We have met a lot of people in the area willing to work with us. About seven of these have been made deputy registrars and are helping us get FDP forms filled out.

We have made a card file of churches and of people in the area and this should be quite valuable for whomever works in the area after us. We strongly advise that the Canton office keep track of this file after we leave and that they give it to whomever next works in the area.

About the area itself: Maybe half of it is plantation land. It will be very difficult to do too much with this part. It's hard to get to the people--we've been kicked off four or five plantations by white owners--and after you reach the people they are very afraid of losing their homes if they cooperate with us.

However, in the southern part of the county around Ridley Hill Church and Cedar Grove Church ~~many~~ many of the Negroes own their own farms and some of these are willing to work quite closely with the ~~SM~~ movement.

That is the situation. We're not sure what work should be done here this winter. To a large extent this must depend on how many cars and people are available. If you are going to do much work at all, you will need at least one car assigned to the area a good deal of the time because there is a lot of land and the people live pretty far apart.

It seems to us that because it's a rural area and because many of the people live on plantations or are very ~~afz~~ afraid for other reasons, it will probably be extremely difficult to organize a strong local movement in the area. This might be done however in a couple of the stronger churches. This would probably take a worker with a car who had quite a lot of time to spend on the area.

One area merits special attention: We would like very much to organize Flora. So far we have been unable to open up a church there or get any ~~zo~~ other place open for a meeting. We're working on the situation however and will try again to open the church Sunday and are also talking to a man about renting a place for an office. We'll know more about this situation in another week or so.

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