

# FREEDOM SCHOOL PLANS

PLEASANT GREEN

BOB GILMAN ; J. ANN DOIMAN

July 6, 1964

- 9:00 Freedom Singing
- 9:30 Brief statement to the kids about why we're here & what we hope to do; then divide the group into ~~3~~ 2 sections
- 10:00 In my section - pass out notebooks & pens & have everyone write his name & age, special interest if any, & a brief answer to the question "what makes a man free?" Begin discussion on that question by asking if anybody wants to read or talk about what he's written.
- At some point in the discussion I'll interject the idea that freedom begins inside a man. We'll attempt explanation of that idea by looking at pictures of Mrs. Hamer & Billy Noble & talking about the contrast in the expressions on their faces.
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- 8 students of 14 years and above appeared; 12 students ranging from 11-5 years came also. Sue Sanford worked with the younger group. Bob Gilman & I began a discussion along the lines mentioned above with the older group (6 boys, 2 girls). The Episcopal minister who is going to Carthage soon, sat in on much of the session & helped to keep the talk ~~moving~~ moving. We decided that a man could begin to be free only when he could "think free" & was not a prisoner of hatred and of the fear which causes hatred. We talked about why <sup>some</sup> white men hate Negroes so much (one of the boys expressed special interest in this question). Then the discussion became more specific, dwelling on voter registration, on some history - especially Reconstruction history.

with the emphasis on the fact that during Reconstruction Negroes were able to vote. We also touched on Negro origins in Africa.

We asked for some idea of what they wanted to study for the rest of the time. The answers indicate that we'll have to build our curriculum around math, science & Negro history. One person wants art - Sue Sanford will work with her. Another wants shorthand; no one of us is qualified & we're hoping to make arrangements with some other volunteer who is.

We plan to divide our mornings into 4 parts in the following order: Algebra, History, Science, Citizenship. Bob will be largely responsible for Alg. & Sci.; Sue & I for the other 2. We'll provide more detailed lesson plans for tomorrow tomorrow morning. This afternoon is devoted to canvassing for more students.

Susan Sanford

10:00 I took those under fourteen, we began by drawing for about an hour which was met with quite a lot of enthusiasm. We discussed why we go to school, why I am here in Mississippi, different colors of skin, and what the north is like. We then played "Gossip" which was quite successful and discussed what we will do tomorrow. The younger children will be coming in the afternoon. I expect we will have about twenty tomorrow. (We had twelve today - most of whom didn't want to leave.)

[1964]

July 6

Earle Bessey

The first day of school at New Bethel Church was uneventful. We spent about 2 hours discussing general problems in mass today, and organized the patterns with which we will treat the curriculum. I am responsible for lecturing + leading discussions on negro history for the week. This allows one person to concentrate on one area and to get to know that area well.

A lady in the milltown neighborhood fixed us a lunch, for the second day in a row. Our student body grew as the day progressed. I hope to have 25 tomorrow. The most important thing is making the kids interested + letting them work for themselves. Right now I'm advocating the beauties of reading - reading anything. They all have comprehension problems - and if we make them read a lot - and read aloud to us - we ~~can~~ <sup>can</sup> improve their reading.

My aims in history are to awaken pride in their heritage and give them foundations for responsible + active citizenship.