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December 22, 1964

Jo Ann Ooiman
838 Lutz Street
Canton, Mississippi

Dear Jo Ann:

I have had a very bad case of guilt complex for a number of months since our plan miscarried for libraries on nonviolence for Mississippi freedom centers.

Actually, it was all worked up but did not get put "in the works" due to a bureaucratic snafu.

Now I have just read a press release issued by CORE for a "bomb-proof" freedom center in honor of the three Philadelphia, Mississippi martyrs and I think it is high time we stopped dragging our feet.

As a Christmas gesture, I am going ahead to send out small beginning libraries to a list of freedom centers supplied us by Ellen Maslow. I am sure that our members will pick up and that we can take this risk despite a depleted budget. So much has happened about Mississippi volunteers that perhaps the public is satiated. But I now have a conviction that this is going to be a very long and weary battle.

I hope that all is well with you. I have addressed this to you in Mississippi in the hope that it will be forwarded in case you are taking a brief "breather" in ~~Knoxville~~ Galesburg at the Christmas season.

Many things are happening here which I don't have time to share with you now. I thought, however, that you would like to have this little offset greeting from our family.

Sincerely,

James S. Best
Director of Publications

JSB/bb