

THE DELTA MINISTRY AT A GLANCE

THE DELTA MINISTRY OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

- ... is a year-old, long-term project to change the low economic, health and social conditions of Mississippi's poor.
- ... has an interdenominational, interracial staff of 14 (including six native Mississippians) plus volunteers from the North and a corps of local Negro youth.
- ... has set up centers so far in Greenville, Hattiesburg, McComb and Cleveland, Miss.
- ... operates a conference center -- the campus of an old junior college at Edwards -- as one of the few places in the state where interracial confrontation is possible.
- ... is the first major program in this country to be supported through the World Council of Churches by church groups on five other continents.

IN ITS FIRST YEAR, THE DELTA MINISTRY

- ... played a major part in the registration of 10,000 new Negro voters in 4 counties.
- ... helped bring "Head Start" schools to Mississippi over the violent objection of racist politicians in the state; this gave 1,100 summer jobs to Negroes and a pre-school boost to nearly 6,000 youngsters.
- ... supported a doctor and four nurses in a county health improvement program.
- ... in cooperation with the National Student Association and the Department of Agriculture, offered to distribute government surplus food in 18 counties which had no such welfare program; the counties rushed to set up their own programs and thousands more poor people ate better as a result.
- ... ~~Distributed tons of food and clothing,~~ through local committees which assessed the need, to approximately 10,000 families.
- ... supported local employment committees fighting job discrimination in 4 cities.
- ... conducted citizenship workshops and seminars all over the state to train enlightened voters and skilled leaders
- ... supported cotton field workers in their efforts to get a better wage; when 12 such workers were forcibly evicted and found all rental housing closed to them, DM arranged for temporary housing and continues to support the strikers in their attempts to achieve human dignity.

THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE

- ... led a theologian to call DM "one of the most critical forms of church renewal."
- ... brought violent reaction from Mississippi whites, ranging from shotgun blasts to sophisticated political and press attacks.
- ... caused southerners to bring terrific pressure on denominations to cut financial support of the National Council and DM. Along with the unanticipated high cost of these activities, this has created a serious budget deficit for 1965.

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