



Freedom Summer of 1964

By Brother William Snowden

Day 28
March 25, 2023

Read I Corinthians 15:58

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

Critical Race Fact!

In 1906, Edward Johnson, a Black man, was convicted of raping a white woman and sentenced to death by an all-white jury. He won a rare stay of execution by appeal. In response, a white mob seized him from the jail, dragged him through the streets, hanged him from the second span of the Walnut street Bridge, and shot him hundreds of times. The mob left a note pinned on the corpse that read: “To Justice Harlan. Come get your nigger now. He was later cleared of the rape.

Through lynching, Southern white communities asserted their racial dominance over the region’s political and economic resources – a dominance first achieved through slavery would now be restored through blood and terror.

Today’s Prayer Concerns:

Lord, thank you for the ability to fight a cause much greater than ourselves. Thank you for those from other communities who fought with us for the cause of justice and equality. In Jesus name, **amen.**

The Freedom Summer, aka the Mississippi Summer Project, was a volunteer campaign in the United States that was launched in June of 1964 to register ALL unregistered African Americans including voters in the state of Mississippi. African Americans were not alone in this struggle.

Over 700, mostly white volunteers, joined them in Mississippi to fight against voter intimidation and discrimination at the polls. Led by the local Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), civil rights organization such as the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE) and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) organized the movement and targeted three goals:

- a. To establish Freedom Schools and community centers throughout the state.
- b. To increase black voter registration.
- c. To challenge the all-white delegation that would represent the state at the Democratic National Convention in August.

Even though the Freedom Summer project did not make a significant impact on voter registration in Mississippi (of the 17,000 Black Mississippians who attempted to register, only 1,200 were successful), the project did establish more than 40 Freedom Schools and raised awareness for the Mississippi Democratic Party.

Now, fast forward to today. Voter registration of Blacks is still a priority in America. However, intimidations, brutality, murder, changing zones lines to benefit those who want to treat Blacks unequally in every aspect of the Constitution, trying to turn back to the old “Jim Crow” laws (under another name), discrimination, etc. are being used today as they were used in Mississippi, but also in other states across America. The struggle is not over. Our vote is power!

Questions to Prayer:

Name a fight that you fought with the support of members from another community. What was the outcome? What were your strengths? What were your weaknesses?

