

# Operation Freedom Helps In Selma

Selma, Alabama, a place heretofore unknown to most people, is now on the lips of everyone. It is known as the place where significant strides are being taken toward political freedom and the elimination of racism. In the struggle of Selma, which has been involving thousands of people, some have been killed. Others, mostly people living in Selma and environs, have lost their means of livelihood, and have nothing with which to feed and house their families.



This Selma man was fired from his job with a construction company just after he had begun a voter registration campaign in a neighboring county (Lowndes), where he was also pastor of a church. White men came to the church on Sunday, called aside some of the officials and said: "Get that preacher out of the county before sundown or he will be a dead man!" Church people conducted the pastor back to Selma with an eight-car escort. This left him without any job, even though he had to provide not only for himself but for two children and a hospitalized wife as well.

Operation Freedom, the only organization set up for the specific purpose of giving aid in such an emergency, investigated his immediate needs, and provided the following: \$35 for a monthly house payment, \$23 for a car payment, \$20 for the monthly hospital payment, \$25 for past month's gas and light bills, and \$72 for food. He needed this much right then. A month later he would perhaps have another means of earning. Perhaps not.



This lady - with several children - was fired from her job after she "sat in" at Tim's Cafe. She had held the position, with the Country Club, for 13 years. She applied for welfare, but like so many others was denied. While numbers of people have been coming into Selma to help in the civil rights movement, she has been housing as many as seven extras at a time. She has also been participating in marches and lines at the courthouse seeking to register to vote. Operation Freedom was able to provide immediately \$95 for rent and food.

This man was fired from his job with a construction company after he had signed a petition for integrated schools. Then he was fired from each successive job just as soon as his views became known. He has two children. The lady in the background is a beautician. When the movement began, people were being fired from jobs, so they had no money with which to avail themselves of her services. She has been unable to obtain other employment. She said the gas company would turn off her gas in two days. Operation Freedom was able to assist in the predicaments facing both the construction worker and the beautician (Interviewing them is Ernest Bromley, corresponding secretary of Operation Freedom.)



These are some of the emergencies in Selma met immediately after Maurice McCrackin and Ernest Bromley of the Operation Freedom board made an on-the-spot investigation. The small Operation Freedom local committee in Selma, members of which are all active in the movement, are processing and sending in numerous applications reading just like those depicted in this brochure. Although the persons who have lost jobs need only small amounts of money, the number needing help is large enough to have depleted our funds.

**THESE BRAVE PEOPLE NEED YOUR SUPPORT SO THEY CAN  
CONTINUE THEIR STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM**  
Channel your funds through Operation Freedom  
Gifts to Operation Freedom are tax deductible

This lady, pictured with one of her seven children, was fired from her job and cut off from welfare, after participating in a march to downtown Selma. Operation Freedom provided money for her lights to be turned back on, for overdue rent, and for food. Another lady, a domestic worker, was told by her employer that if she attended the funeral of Jimmie Lee Jackson (killed by police), she would be fired. She went to the funeral, so did lose her job. She tried to get other work; but no one would hire her. Another lady, who has four children and who earned \$15 a week doing housework, received word that if she was not out of jail (for participating in a march) by Thursday, she would be fired. She got out Thursday afternoon, but lost the job anyway. Her husband, who had worked in a tin shop for five years, was then told not to attend any more freedom marches or he would be fired. He kept marching, so lost his job too.



This lady was fired from her domestic job after her employer saw her picture on TV beside Martin Luther King, Jr. in a march headed out of Selma. Her action caused her husband to lose his job also. They have five children, and were without money for rent or groceries. Another lady, after participating in marches, was told by her domestic employer that she was fired; also that the "subversive Martin Luther King" might be able to get her a job. She had been providing for four; but her two-year-old had just died.

**OPERATION FREEDOM BOARD:** Ross Anderson, Ella Baker (SNCC, SCEF), Anne & Carl Braden (SCEF), Amos & Polly Brokaw, Ernest Bromley, Conrad Browne (Highlander), Lloyd Danzeisen, Rev. Frank Gordon (NAACP), Leshia Greengus, Richard Haley (CORE), Virgie Hortenstine, Myles Horton (Highlander), Clarence Jordan (Koinonia), Carleton Mabee, Rev. M.J. Mangham, Rev. Maurice McCrackin, Jack McKart, Pat & Ed Morin, Rosemary Moss, Rev. Clarence Nelson, Wally Nelson, Miriam Nicholas, Roger Phenix, Walter Tillow (SNCC), Rev. C.T. Vivian (SCLC). Jim Williams, Rev. John Wilson. (Initials in parentheses are listed for identification only.)

Operation Freedom was born early in 1961 - when the voter registration movement first started. At that time many people in west Tennessee were without homes, jobs, or food. By sending out an appeal for funds, a few people (mostly in the vicinity of Ohio) were able to provide money for food, tents, clothes, also loans to plant crops, and loans to save from foreclosure trucks, farm equipment, houses. Less than two years later, when the voter registration movement spread into Mississippi, Operation Freedom went too, helping many families in counties of the Mississippi delta where there was much hardship resulting from participation in the movement. Nearly a year ago, Operation Freedom expanded into southwest Georgia. Now it is expanding into Alabama.

But it will be impossible to meet the needs unless present supporters continue to support and new supporters are found.

Operation Freedom is the only organization devoted solely to meeting these emergencies arising from participation in the freedom struggle. Also, all money contributed to Operation Freedom goes directly to the people needing the assistance, none going for administrative costs.

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## CONTRIBUTIONS TO OPERATION FREEDOM ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

send contributions to

**OPERATION FREEDOM**  
c/o Rev. Maurice McCrackin  
932 Dayton Street  
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