

December 21, 1963

1EK 59.15

Rev. Edwin King  
Tougaloo College  
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Ed,

I don't know if this will reach you in time, but I want to introduce a friend... no, a couple of friends, who are coming south this month. Mark and Joan Chesler are going first to the SNCC offices in Atlanta, and then they plan to be at Tougaloo on Thursday and Friday, Jan 2nd and 3rd. They have both been in civil rights work in Michigan, and they move in the circle of SNCC and SDS people here like Tom Hayden. Mark has "infiltrated" a Birch group up here and has published a study of the personalities of right-wingers, of which Mississippi has its share. He is particularly interested in learning about the elections in which Aaron Henry and you ran. Joan is a junior high school teacher and, since they are both thinking of working for a time in Mississippi, she would like to find out whether she could function at all and do any good in the schools.

We are now four: me, Marianne, Paul (5½) and Benjamin (just 3). Our circle up here is doing some work in the area, and trying to figure out the problems of connecting the insurgency for jobs, peace, and racial justice with each other. I think of your bravery, and then of the reports from SNCC-ers like John Lewis that if they could put 1000 workers in the field the Mississippi mountain might move some. Our best wishes go with you, at Christmas and the year round.

Cordially,

*Bill*

Bill Livant 1208 Olivia Ann Arbor, Mich