



Update: Freedom Summer—1964

Don Nead's Freedom Summer Experience

Don Nead (one of the original members of the LUM dream team and retired Presbyterian campus minister) and his wife, Caryl, were recently invited to an advanced screening of the PBS American Experience new film, *Freedom Summer* in Indianapolis hosted by WFYI-TV.



When Don Nead responded to the invitation he shared that he had been directly involved in the Freedom Ballot work in Mississippi in the spring of 1964. WFYI then asked if Don would be willing to share some of his stories from that work. And of course his response was *YES*.

As a member of the Presbyterian Church USA staff working in Texas in the early 1960s, Don Nead had an opportunity to travel to Hattiesburg, Mississippi in April of 1964 to participate in the voter registration initiative called the Freedom Ballot. Don's eyes were soon open to the seriousness of the racial issues in Mississippi at the time and the difficulties faced particularly by African-Americans to simply register and vote — issues that have reappeared on today's political landscape. It wasn't until this invitation to attend the preview of the American Experience: *Freedom Summer* film, that Don Nead wrote and spoke about his reflections and experiences of that historic work.

Don Nead shared his story last week; and now he invites you — and LUM encourages you — to read his entire story entitled "*My Jonah Experience – Trip to Mississippi to Participate in the Freedom Ballot Voter Registration Campaign in Hattiesburg.*"

Don Nead's entire story may be found online, click [HERE](#).

About the Film – *Freedom Summer*

After viewing the film last week, Don Nead also encourages you to watch the PBS American Experience film, *Freedom Summer* — which premieres TONIGHT (June 24) on PBS from 9-11 p.m. EST (locally on WFYI—Channel 20—Indianapolis). The PBS description of the film written, produced & directed by Stanley Nelson, Jr. is as follows:



Over 10 memorable weeks in 1964 known as Freedom Summer, more than 700 student volunteers from around the country joined organizers and local African Americans in a historic effort to shatter the foundations of white supremacy in what was one of the nation's most viciously racist, segregated states.

More information about American Experience: *Freedom Summer* film may be found on the PBS website — click [HERE](#).

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