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Annotated article by James Kingsley to The Commercial Appeal, 30 September 1962

James Kingsley

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The Commercial Appeal
Memphis

By James Kingsley
STAFF WRITER

OXFORD, Miss., Sept. 30.— Long lines of worshipers filed into the churches at Oxford Sunday, while military planes flew overhead and ~~an encampment~~ of soldiers set up camp northeast of the city.

All of the churches had overflow crowds and in some the congregation was twice as many as the previous Sunday. Only one church pastor ~~is~~ said his attendance was down from the previous week. He attributed the decline to ~~Monday~~ colds which has put many residents of this city to bed or keeping them confined to their homes.

~~Minister~~
"During ~~these~~ these troubled days, all of us should spend more time on our ~~knives~~ knees ~~and~~ praying for the leaders of the nation, state, the university and Oxford, itself," one pastor said.

Another pastor directed his pastoral prayer to the situation at Oxford by "calling for moderation and recognition that violence will not solve problems.

"Each of us should demonstrate more religion, because it often takes more courage to be calm than to run out and fight," the Methodist minister said.

ANOTHER
The Rev. Mr. Grisham, pastor of the Oxford University Methodist Church said: "The middle of the road people do not have anyone to lead them in Mississippi. We all know that our governor (Gov. Ross Barnett), was elected to his office on the coattails of one group in the state. This same group has been running over the state for the past six years at least yelling and hollering.

"But it takes courage to be calm."

The Rev. Mr. Grisham said his attendance of Oxford citizens was more than double Sunday of that the previous week. "We always have good attendance from the students also, but ~~the~~ most of them were in Jackson for the football game or at home this weekend."

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first add —churches.

He added, "but we did have good representation of the students Sunday, among those who returned early or remained at the university during the weekend."

Another minister said ~~his~~ his ~~church~~ ^{colds} attendance was down a little. "There are many ~~people~~ in the city. But I look foward to their returing Wednesday night and again next Sunday."

As the military jeeps rolled through the city, there were many residents, who bowed their head, while others look ~~up~~ upwards as if searching for their unseen leader.

"I just can't believe that the Government would use men, machines and guns against ~~their~~ their own people," one ~~churchgoer~~ churchgoer said.

Another remarked that, "God's will will prevail and I ~~will~~ pray that ~~no one~~ no one is injured in this crisis."

end

