

Transcripts from *Looking Back & Moving Forward, Together*
September 11, 2014
Raleigh, North Carolina



Freedom Singers Closing Performance

Jim Hightower: I forgot my main duty, which is to bring up the Freedom Singers from Georgia. Charles Sherrod is going to be our leader here, as he has been for so long in Civil Rights Movement and the organizer of the original Freedom Singers from Georgia. Geraldine Hudley is going to join him and even Bob Zellner, I'm told. I didn't know he had a musical bone in his body, but he's going to get up here and try to sing with us. Charles, take it over.

Charles Sherrod: Come on now, act like a fool. Let's sing like fools. I will sing a couple of songs up here from the movement.

Singing: Woke up this morning with my mind, with my mind, stayed on freedom. I woke up this morning with my mind, stayed on freedom. Woke up this morning with my mind, (it was) stayed on freedom. Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah. Ain't no harm to keep your mind, stayed on freedom. Oh no, ain't no harm in keeping your mind, stayed on freedom. Ain't no harm to keep your mind stayed on freedom. Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah. Come on, we've gonna to walk a little bit. Walk, walk, walk, walk, walk, walk, with your mind on freedom. Walk, walk, yeah, walk, walk, walk, walk, with your mind on freedom. Ohhhh, ohhh, walk, walk, walk. Let's talk a little bit. Talk, talk, talk, we'll talk, talk, with your mind on freedom. Talk, talk, yeah, yeah, talk, talk, yeah, yeah, talk, talk with your mind on freedom. Whoaaaaa. Oh talk, talk, ohhh, talk, talk. Ain't no harm to keep your mind stayed on freedom. No ain't no harm to keep your mind stayed on freedom. Ain't no harm to keep your mind, stayed on freedom. Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah. (Loud applause.)

Charles Sherrod: Sweetest song I know is the one I love the most. I sang it in jail, I sang it in police cars, I sing it before the sheriff, and I am singing it here today. Oh Freedom. Now you all help me sing it.

O' freedom over me. And before I be a slave, I'd be buried in my grave and go home to my Lord and be free.

Singing: Oh freedom, oh freedom, oh freedom over me, over me. And before I be a slave, I'd be buried in my grave and go home to my Lord and be free and be free.

No more segregation. No more segregation. No more segregation over me, over me. And before I be a slave, I'd be buried in my grave and go home to my Lord and be free and be free. (Long Applause).