Paper Urges
Don’t Close
Church Doors

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Mississippi Methodist Advocate called upon its readers Wednesday “to seek a cure for the illness which has come ... as a result of over-exposure to the virulent disease of hate and suspicion planted by subversive forces in our midst.”

The state Methodist newspaper printed an editorial about a foreign educator — a “lady from India” — who was “evicted from Jackson churches.”

The editorial did not mention the educator by name but described her as “a diminutive lady, a person of high rank in her own country, a doctor of philosophy in political science, a product of a Methodist University (and) a guest of the State Department.

“What happened made explanations impossible and apologies by concerned Christians extremely difficult,” the editorial said.

“To shut the door of a church to international guests,” it said, “creates not only grave international incidents but has a devastating effect on our missionary endeavours.”

Several Methodist churches in Jackson have been the target of “pray-in” attempts by bi-racial groups, mostly from nearby Tougaloo College, recently.

Last Sunday two Methodist Bishops, one a Negro, were turned away from Galloway Memorial Methodist Church, the largest Methodist church in Mississippi.

“The lady from India was deeply hurt at being shoved out...