

THE BEGINNING OF OUR INDIAN MISSION WORK IN THE SOUTHWEST

We have been here in Arizona only a short time, and among the first people we met were Eld. and Mrs. Orno Follett of Scottsdale. We had had some experience in working among the Indians and Eskimos in Alaska, and of course when we found out that they had had wide experience along this line we asked him about the history of the Indians in this area, and to tell some of his experiences. A part of his story as he told it to us is reproduced here for the benefit of others who may be equally interested.

"We have had many inquiries regarding the history of the beginnings of our Seventh-day Adventist Mission work among the Indians of the Southwest. It is a surprise to many to know that there are over 50,000 Indians in Arizona alone, comprised of at least 18 or 20 different tribes. Fifty-four per cent of all full blood American Indians are reported as located in Arizona and New Mexico.

We came to southern Arizona from the Navaho mission field in 1932. We soon became acquainted with members of the Maricopa Indian tribe, and they invited us to hold meetings at their reservation. We had wonderful attendance. Nearly all the Indians of the reservation attended the meetings. They continued to come week after week and month after month, and quite a group of them were baptized and joined the church. In 1935 with the cooperation of the General and Union and local conferences, and of the Indians and their friends, we built our first chapel among the Indians of southwest Arizona.

Soon reports of our wonderful meetings spread over the Indian country, and we began having invitations from other reservations. Among those who invited us to hold meetings among their people was the chief of the Guadalupe Yaqui village — Loreto Luna. Shortly after, he and his family were baptized and joined the church. We built a church on the Yaqui reservation also. The Yaquis are perhaps the most needy of all the Indian tribes of the Southwest. The older members of the tribe migrated from Mexico about a generation ago. The great need at the present time is for a clinic. A large room was set aside for this purpose by Sister Luna, and equipment was donated by friends of the Indian work. Brother Luna's last request before he passed away about three years

ago was, "I want our church to reopen the work in our Yaqui village. My people need the Message, and I want you people to take it to them." Opening of the clinic for medical work would be one of the most effective means of helping to answer the request of this Christian Chief of the village, and we are happy to say that it is about to be realized. Dr. Ernest Pohle of Tempe has been asked by the Arizona Conference to take official charge of the medical part of that work. With the Lord's blessing, we look forward to brighter days for our work among the Yaqui Indians.

Invitations also came to us from the Casa Blanca district among the Pimas, and some of their fine people accepted the message and were baptized. They called for a church building, and so we built a chapel at their location, with a room for a clinic.

Later we had invitations to hold meetings among the Yavapais of the Fort McDowell reservation, and eventually a fine little chapel was erected on their reservation. One of our doctors donated \$500.00 toward the expense of this chapel, the balance being donated by other friends of the Indian mission work. Some of the finest members of the tribe accepted the message and were baptized, among them Nellie Quail, well known throughout the Southwestern Indian country.

In the meantime, our Maricopa members were petitioning us for a mission school where they could give their children Christian training. About ten years ago, with the kind cooperation of the Pacific Union and the Arizona Conference, their desires for this mission school were realized, and our first church school was opened. The first two years Brother Boswell of Oklahoma taught the school under almost impossible conditions. Part of the chapel was partitioned off for the school, where 14 children, of the 22 desiring to enter, were privileged to attend. Brother Boswell was an earnest and sincere Christian teacher, and the Indians learned to love and confide in him. The next six years the school was taught by Brother and Sister Ira Stahl. Brother Stahl built a modest teacher's residence. The work continued, and his stay there was especially effective in building the confidence and trust of the people, and his work was much appreciated by all. However, during the past tw

years the school has seen its greatest material advancement. Brother and Sister Willfred Rathbun took charge, and friends back East became interested and contributed funds, which with funds gathered locally, enabled them to put up some fine school buildings. These teachers and their helpers give tirelessly and energetically of their love and labor, and are also much appreciated by their many friends."

(Brother Rathbun's good report appears on Page Two of this issue of THE INDIAN MISSIONARY).

Elder Follett says that several other tribes are still waiting. Shall we not pray the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth more laborers into His harvest? Truly, the harvest is great, and the laborers are few.

—Mrs. May Estelle



Maricopa Mother and Children



Philip and Grace Monohan, both leaders in our Maricopa Church, with their Family.



Nellie Quail and Daisy Shurana (Yavapai)



S. D. A. Tabernacle at the Guadalupe Yaqui village, near Phoenix, Arizona.



Vicente Roman Distributing Clothes To The Needy (Yaquis)