

LAMANITE MISSION

January 3re, 1949 was the opening of a New Era for the Indians of the Blood Reserve. Golden R. Buchanan, Coordinator of the Indian Relations Committee of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints and appointed by the First Presidency of the Church, and the President of the Alberta Stake, Gordon S. Brewerton and Heber J. Matkin a friend of long standing and merchant to the Indians -- so much so that the Indians conferred upon him the name of Apa-Wena - meaning - Met with the Tribal Council in their council meeting and after some deliberation, were granted the privilage of sending missionaries among their tribe on the Blood Indian reservation for the purpose of teaching them the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Elder I. Bliss Roberts of the Taylor Stake volunteered his services to the newly formed mission. Christian Jensen of Aetna, G. Gordon White of Regina were among the first L. D. S. missionaries to take the Gospel to this people in their own homes. Previous to this time the Catholic and Anglican Missionaries were in full control of the religious activities on this reservation. In fact no person, religiously or otherwise, was permitted to trespass on these lands except by special permission.

Names of first missionaries

Keith Bevans, Marvin Harker, Gordon Olson, Bryon Smith, Lawrence Gibb, Ivan Davies, George Stewart, Ormus E. Bates, Cleave Leavitt, Arlin Leavitt, Max Payne, Clifford French, Leo Davidson, Nels Nelson, Richard Low, S. W. Redd, John T. Dunn, Lincoln Card, Carl Williams, Young Williams, Bruce Burt, Kay Green.

The territory was divided into districts and a pair of missionaries appointed to each district.

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The Indian Mission was organized in the year 1947 on the 26th of June with Brother Wm. Barrus as the President. Brother Barrus was released as the president of the Stake High Priests Quorum to fulfill this new position.

He had 20 missionaries under his direction. During the next 4 years they had 13 Indians baptized as members of the Church of Jesus Christ.

The Alberta Stake mission was joined with the Lamanite Mission in the year 1952 with Seth Nelson - President and Fielding Thomas and Brother Barrus as councillors. Brother Nelson was president until the year 1954.

In the year 1954 the Stake Mission was re-organized with
President - Ron Holland
1st- Brother Green
2nd ☉ Bob Tagg

First Relief Society was formed 24th Sept 1952
President - Anna Bowlby
1st - Garnet Bates
2nd - Nan Olsen.

The above also were the class Leaders.

The first party was held at the home of Chief White Bull on the Reserve. -

1st song- We thank thee Oh God for a Prophet
Prayer - Sister Bates
Sister Smigel of the Stake Board gave a talk on how the Relief Society was organized. Chief White Bull gave a talk.
There were 5 women and 2 girls present.
Lunch was served and closed with prayer.

Oct. 11 - First opening meeting held on Moccasin Flat. Bro. Redd presiding with the Relief Society officers present. There were 6 Indian women and 2 visitors present.

Jan. 12, 1953 - Sisters Nelson, Barrus & Bowlby - travelled all winter to hold their meetings with these Indian ladies twice a week. The Book of Mormon Lessons were given with the help of the Flannel Board by Sister Bowlby.

Oct. 1954 - Sister Bessie Hacking joined as a missionary and is a great help in teaching these ladies.

May 1955 - Relief Society re-organized with Sister Layton as President, - 1st - Anna Bowlby - 2nd Eve Tagg Sec- and chauffer -- Bessie Hacking.