Reaching the...

Koasati

Indians

For Christ

Under Direction of
BIBLE CONFERENCES AND MISSIONS, INC.
Reeves, Louisiana
**LEEDS MEMORIAL STATION**

After the death of Brother Leeds there was a need for Christian ministry and guidance among these Indians. This need became a burden on the heart of Rev. and Mrs. Don Johnson and through the assistance of Bible Conferences and Missions the Leeds Memorial Station was established. This station is endeavoring to take care of the spiritual work of the church as well as the educational work of the Christian Grade School and the general field work. This is a very hard and difficult work due to the financial need, the influence of false religion and cults, and the pull of the world with its fleshly appeal - especially that of strong drink.

**CHRISTIAN GRADE SCHOOL**

As a result of many of these Indian children being unable to speak English when they started to public school, they did not benefit from the training as much as was desirable. Seeing this need, the station, with the aid of Bible Conferences and Missions, has established a Christian grade school which gives Christian guidance as well as scholastic training. The first through the fourth grades have been set up with one full-time teacher plus the principal. Will you pray for the monthly support of these workers as well as the Lord’s guidance in adding more grades as the Lord prospers financially and in building space and facilities.

**THEIR ORIGIN**

The Koasati Indians are a tribe of Indians living North of Elton on Bayou Blue that do not get government support. In the early years of their settling in this area the government made grants of land to them in the nature of homesteads, but unscrupulous white men came in and took advantage of the Indians’ lack of ability to foresee the future and soon cheated them out of their holdings, leaving the present generation stranded with little upon which to survive. Now it would be almost impossible for the government to restore to these Indians their original possessions due to other laws that have been enacted concerning peaceful possession and the present innocent owners of the land.

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

From a spiritual point of view, Rev. Paul Leeds ministered to them as a part-time worker, being able to reach them with only one service a month, from the 1890’s until his death in 1958. They had never had a resident work until the latter part of 1959. This is a very needy work and will have to be subsidized with outside support as the Indians are financially unable to care for their own work.

Miss Rose Vilardi is one of the teachers for the Christian Grade School along with Mrs. Johnson.
FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

The school is equipped with a lunchroom operated under the State School Lunch Program. The children are able to do better work, not only because of their improvement in speaking English, but because of their improved health, due to the lunchroom and to closer watching of their physical condition.

In addition to the Christian Grade School the Leeds Memorial Station plans to establish a craft shop to help the Indians with secular employment that their economic condition might be improved.

"... the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few..."

All gifts for the Leeds Memorial Station may be sent to BIBLE CONFERENCES AND MISSIONS, INC., Reeves, Louisiana. Every gift is acknowledged by an official receipt and is deductible in computing your income tax.