

GLADE CROSS MISSION
EVERGLADES, FLA.

BY DEACONESS BEDELL

There are four groups of Seminole Indians living in Florida. The Cow Creeks live on a reservation near Lake Okeechobee and Dania; those on reservations provided by the government in other places in Florida; the commercial villages in Miami and other towns; and the Mikasukies along the Tamiami Trail, Immokalee Road, and in their own villages in the Big Cypress.

The Episcopal Church works among the Mikasukies.

In 1898 Glade Cross Mission was established at Boat Landing in the Everglades by Bp. Gray. There were several baptisms but they have died and Boat Landing is no more. The old Indians remember Dr. Godden who bought the store there and conducted a Mission Hostel.

Glade Cross Mission still lives. The Headquarters is now located in the City of Everglades and radiates out among the descendants of the same people.

The Field is a large one extending along the Tamiami Trail 80 miles to Miami; 72 miles west and north to Ft. Myers; 40 miles north to Immokalee especially around the settlement of Copeland; south on Turner River.

The work consists of visits to the Indian Villages, group gatherings at the Mission village and industrial work. Any Indian needing food or help can receive it by bringing something they make which the Mission sells without profit. They come nearly every day and this makes contacts for the Church.

Through the kindness of the Collier Corporation and friends we were able to lease and rebuild an old deserted Indian village. In this village the Indians gather for group work and Church festivals, etc.

An Indian and his family live in the village as care-takers.

Nearly every day the Indians come to the Mission in Everglades City or send for me to come to them--sickness, letters to read or write, perhaps a new baby is born and pretty blankets etc. are given. If those who give them could see the dear little babies and the joy in the mother's face in receiving the blankets, they would know what their gifts mean. Prayer is offered and sometimes I am asked to give a "white man's name." The Indian name is given four days after birth, and kept throughout their lives--do not take husband's name.

I am asked to conduct funerals--sometimes burying them but sometimes just to have prayer after the body has been taken to its secret grave in the Everglades.

The Indians are now employed on farms, logging camps, saw-mills, State Roads, surveying crews, frog hunting, and other crew work with Indians as foremen.

Mothers with small children, young people, and older folk cannot do the above work so the industrial work of the Mission goes on.

They are rapidly changing in their tribal life and the Church must be ready to help both spiritually and materially.

May we have your continued interest and prayers and help that we bring them into the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

OTHER REGULAR WORK OF GLADE CROSS MISSION

IMMOKALEE These are mostly white people who were baptized by Bp. Gray when there was an Episcopal Church in Immokalee. Now it consists of visits to the homes, Church literature is distributed, children baptized etc..

COUNTY JAIL Services held when possible, prisoners seen individually, Bibles, Prayer Books, and literature distributed.

NECRO. WORK Mostly individual and help given to the teachers in the public schools for Negroes.

ISOLATED CHURCH PEOPLE Visits made, children baptized, literature distributed, group and individual instruction given. Several are being prepared for Confirmation. Once a month a priest visits us and celebrates Holy Communion.

The Mission is open to people lonesome, in trouble, or disturbed by the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, etc.. If there was no other work this would make the Mission worthwhile. They do come often.

MARCO ISLAND **MISSION OF OUR SAVIOUR** **GOODLAND, FLA.**
(white)

Commercial Fishing Folk
Winter residents and visitors

For several years the work was conducted in the Community Hall in Caxambas, later changed to Collier City. Through the kindness of the Collier Corporation and other friends a Mission building was leased but services were still held in the Community Hall. The Mission Guild with the help of friends equipped the new building for work:

1. An emergency center where first-aid can be given until they could be taken to a doctor.
2. Hot water bottles, ice caps, bandages, etc. are loaned-also hospital bed and wheel chair.
3. With the gift of a sewing machine a work room was opened for families or Mission work.

Each Sunday Deaconess Bedell conducts a Sunday School and Evening Prayer with devotional talk and questionnaire at the close of the service. She stays all night at the Mission but eats dinner with the people of the community in turn. Calling and Mission work is done on Monday.

The Mission Guild meets the first Wednesday of each month with celebration of Holy Communion in the morning when a priest can come. The women prepare a breakfast-luncheon and the Guild meets in the afternoon.

Now Collier City is moved to another site-still on Marco Island-store, fish market, Mission-everything to Goodland, one mile from the bridge. All who paid rent and bought a lot were given the house in which they lived and were moved free of charge to the new site by the Collier Corporation. A lot and the leased Mission building were given to the Church but we had to pay for the moving. The building has been repaired painted and put in shape by Bishop Louttit, the people doing what they could to help. The work goes on here. This is an important part of the Church's work and we ask your interest and prayers that the Church may grow in this extreme part of Florida-that souls may be won and strengthened in these out of way places.