

Rev. John Jeremiah Read was the Missionary who was responsible for the ordination of Rev. Jonas Wolf, a Native American Indian, in the article below. (Note: They misspelled his name as "Reed." Correct spelling of Rev. Read's name is listed in the official Chickasaw website information.)

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

INDIAN MISSION.

Indian Presbytery, which is coextensive with this Mission, reports 12 ministers and 22 churches. Notwithstanding many deaths, the number of communicants increased during the year to 913, being 147 more than was reported last year. Among the deaths none was more lamented than that of the Rev. Allen Wright. He had held high and useful positions among his own people, and had been to them a faithful minister of Jesus Christ. His death was felt by all to be a severe loss to his nation and to the mission work. His son, Rev. Frank Wright, who was assisting his father at the time the death occurred, has since been in charge of the churches to which his father ministered.

The narrative of the Presbytery states that in all the occupied fields there has been a gradual growth in numbers and in grace. A few cases of the special outpouring of the Spirit have been reported. Sabbath-schools are few, on account of the lack both of English-speaking teachers and of Choctaw books. Two licentiates have been ordained during the year. At the spring meeting of Presbytery not only are the ministers and elders present, but hundreds of Indians gather together. On these occasions religious services are held three times a day, till the Sabbath, when four services are held. This is a means of great strengthening to the Christians.

Rev. Jonas Wolf, now an ordained minister, and governor of the Chickasaw Nation, has taken charge of the work which was formerly done by Mr. Reed among the full-blood Chickasaws, who are unable to speak English. As Mr. Wolf himself can neither read nor write English, no report has come to us from him, but Mr. Reed states that he is doing efficient service. Mr. Reed, on giving up so much of his work to Mr. Wolf, turned his attention to the young people of the Chickasaws, who, in the national boarding academies, are almost an English-speaking generation. There are four of these academies, aggregating 210 scholars. Many of the scholars come from irreligious homes, some of them from homes where skepticism has displaced the teachings of the Bible. In

two of the academies until recently there was scarcely ever a religious service. Mr. Reed reports a happy change in this respect. A warm welcome is now extended both by teachers and scholars to those who bring the Gospel to them; and during the past year two teachers and about fifty scholars have been received into the churches of various denominations that labor in this region. It is regretted that no report has been received from Armstrong Academy, which is under the care of Mr. Lloyd.

The labors of our brethren in the Indian Territory have generally been attended with much hardship. In visiting the various preaching places they have had to travel long distances on horseback, frequently in very inclement weather. The conclusion has forced itself upon them that the field is of greater extent than they can cultivate, and they now have under consideration a plan for reducing the area of their work by yielding a portion of the territory to the Presbytery of the Northern Church, which is at work in the contiguous region. It may be remarked that the Indians, as a people, have long been accustomed to receive all the privileges of church and school without making any return. Medicines have been furnished them free of charge. They pay no taxes to the Government. The result of this may easily be imagined. The Indians depend on others instead of helping themselves; yet Mr. Reed reports that some efforts towards self-support are beginning to be made among them. At the quarterly sacramental meetings, as at the meeting of Presbytery, the expenses of a liberal hospitality are cheerfully borne by the Christians, and the churches contributed during the year about \$500.

In consideration of the mission work among the Indians being within the bounds of one of our own Presbyteries and to a large extent among the English-speaking people, the executive committee would suggest to the General Assembly the expediency of transferring the control and charge of the work from this committee to the executive committee of Home Missions.