



Ruth Juhl and Family Collection
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More than half a century ago I
first saw the Dakota Indians
whose homes were here where
we now live. They were then
in truth heathen people. They
were poor and wretched,
often suffering greatly for
the bare necessities of life.

A little band of earnest
Christian missionaries were
doing what they could to
enlighten the darkness, but
they were so few, and the
difficulties so great that
progress was very slow. The
language was hard to learn
there were no books to teach them
from, no written language even
the books must be translated

and printed, then the hardest thing of all, was their utter indifference, they did not desire to change their habits, much less their religion, Truly they were living in darkness and did not want to come to the light.

But God's truth is mighty and will prevail. Here and there a poor ignorant Indian woman began to listen to God's word, and ^{through} the influence of the Holy Spirit began to pray to Jehovah and to forsake the worship of the heathen deities.

As the years went by a large number of children and youth learned to read the portions

of God's word which they had
in their own language.
One another gave up the
heathen religion and joined
themselves with God's people.
but they were indeed a
small company of the
whole tribe.

Then came the terrible
outbreak of 1862 which is
still fresh in the memory
of many of us. Many Indians
were imprisoned, and hundreds
were condemned to be hung.
During the winter of 62
and 63 while they were
prisoners in a cold and
crowded building at
Mankato, they as one man