

April 1, 1962



NUMBER THIRTY-TWO

THIS IS A  
CALL TO PRAYER  
FOR  
THE LORD'S WORK  
IN  
COLOMBIA

# COLOMBIAN NEWS



Cachipay, Cund., Colombia, S. A.

INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA

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## RETREATERS GO FORWARD WITH CHRIST

During the month of January, the young people of our Mennonite Churches in Colombia had their annual retreat at El Recreo in Cachipay. The challenging messages and the campfire service will not soon be forgotten by the forty to fifty young people

meeting together. A new serious spirit was felt and seen among the young people and when the call for consecration of life was given, many responded. The testimonies were heart-touching.



The leaders of the retreat were Rev. Howard Habegger of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, Rev. Phillip Evaul, director of the Normal School in Ibague, Rev. Glendon Klaassen, instructor in Ibague, and Rev. and Mrs. Gerald Stucky of the Colegio Americano in Cachipay.

### THE PETER HARDERS ARRIVE



"There are some people sitting on the front steps that want to see you," announced the secretary to Missionary Stucky. "They look as if they might be foreigners." There they were--the new Voluntary Service workers from Lansdale, Pa. Unannounced, unexpected, and a delightful surprise.

The Harders had driven their car from Pa. along the rough Pan-American Highway, through rivers without bridges, to the country of Panama. There they found it impossible to go forward because of restrictions placed on their car. They parked their car and flew into Colombia. Arriving at the airport at 2:00 a.m., the

Harders went directly to the railroad station and by 4:00 a.m. they were pounding at the doors (they thought railway stations were always open!). The amazed caretaker of the station was not permitted to say "no" so Peter and Clair took over the railroad station until train time.

This fine couple found their way to Cachipay and presented themselves for service--spelled S E R V I C E. They have made themselves exceedingly useful and are putting the mechanical apparatus of the Mission into number one shape. Peter is an excellent mechanic and Clair is a splendid nurse.



Peter repairing the Jeep's motor

### A HUNGER FOR EDUCATION

While the United States government is giving some 40,000,000 dollars to Colombia to help build 22,000 school rooms to thus help fill the educational gap in Colombia, our Mission continues to educate in mind, body, and soul many Colombian children. This year about 170 young people are studying in our three schools and are being taught by twelve consecrated teachers.

The school in Anolaima is in charge of Calvin Flickinger who is being helped by a national teacher. Calvin is also temporary pastor of the church in that town. During the course of the year a new school building is to be constructed to make possible adequate and approved facilities.

In La Mesa, the school is in charge of two national girls who are graduates of our Normal Training school in Ibague.

The school in Cacipay is directed by Gerald Stucky and Huldah Myers. There are approximately sixty-five boarding students and sixty-five day students. Many of the boarding students continue to come from Agua de Dios, the Leper Colony.

BARRANQUILLA--WHITE UNTO HARVEST

Our missionary in Barranquilla, Alice Bachert, was present at the Billy Graham Meetings in that city. She writes, "In recent days it has been a privilege to see and enjoy the thrill of what looked like a harvest time!

"Rejoice with us and with the hundreds who responded to the call for accepting the Lord's message to lost souls. For many days, yes, months, prayer was ascending for the preparing of hearts and then, in due time, harvest was ripe and the evangelists Graham and Ford were in our midst. The fifteen hundred and more cards signed will give you an estimate regarding the work that is now taking our attention.

"The use of the large stadium was denied after the first meeting by one of the clerical authorities. So the second meeting had to be sacrificed while immediately many hands undertook to prepare the equipment on the Evangelical Colegio grounds. The crowds then grew larger each night and the Lord blessed according to His promise. He answered abundantly and above that which our prayers had asked."

The results of the meetings with Billy Graham in Cali, Barranquilla, and Bogota, have been marvelous, not only in the many souls that have been brought into the Kingdom of God, but also in the general effect that they have had on the country in regard to its attitude toward Protestants. In spite of the fanaticism of Colombia, Dr. Graham was very well received and thousands gathered to hear his message.

MISSIONARY NURSE AT LEPER COLONY

In cooperation with a Colombian nurse from the Presbyterian Mission, Janet Soldner is helping to give aid to some of the leprosy patients at the Colony, Agua de Dios. In January, the nurses served over fifty patients at the Clinic set up in the Evangelical Church. The drugs they distribute are supplied by the American Leprosy Mission through the Relief Agency, CARE. The look of appreciation which the patients wear on their faces makes the nurses aware of the fact that this service is meeting a great need.

PAN AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Attending the Eighth Congress of the Pan-American Medical Women's Alliance in February were Janet Soldner, nurse at Cachipay, and Lillian L. Rich, M.D. from Washington, Illinois. The purpose of this Alliance is to bring the medical women of the Americas together for the exchange of ideas and of improved treatment.

After this Congress in the city of Manizales, Dr. Rich and a missionary doctor from Puerto Rico visited our Mission at Cachipay. While here, they saw a number of patients from the community as the news soon spread that there were two women doctors visiting in the area.



Doctors Rich and Pendleton

### INCOMPARABLE JOY

Huldah Myers, who returned to Cachipay in January, after a year's furlough, is now assisting with the school work at Cachipay. Her testimony: "We speak of 'peace that passeth understanding' but there is also a joy above all joys. 'Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth...' What a privilege we have to share in that joy even while dwelling here below.

"It has been with great rejoicing that I have welcomed eleven children to my room where we have talked of heavenly things and, above all, where we have dwelt upon the precious truth that we have been bought with a price. The miracle of the new birth appears more glorious each time we see it experienced.

"Responsibility follows such joy. These new lambs in the flock must be led for there are cobblestones and thorny paths in the way of growth. Such guidance cannot be spasmodic. It must be constant and for some over an extended period of time. To be the guide we would desire to be, requires much physical, mental, and spiritual empowering from above.

"Friends at home, you may share in these joys and these responsibilities by your intercession. What reassurance you brought to my heart over and over again as I visited you in your homes and churches. I am confident that you are upholding us and, therefore, I want to share with you a bit of the joy of my heart."

### LIVING WHERE THEY LIVE

When Mrs. Calvin Flickinger and their four children returned to the United States for medical treatment, Calvin was forced to choose between living by himself or with a Colombian family in Anolaima. Since the Victor Pinzon family kindly invited him to stay with them, he accepted the invitation and has been with them since the beginning of the new school year in February.

Even though he is sleeping on a harder bed than usual and eating rice twice a day with other dry foods, such as potatoes, yuca and platano, there are advantages which help him overlook some of the differences in customs. He is living face to face with the problems these brothers and sisters in Christ are facing and through this intimate contact is learning more about why they think and reason as they do. It is Calvin's prayer and desire that his testimony and witness be such as to help guide the spiritual lives of those with whom he lives and works.

### WHO GOES THERE?

It seems that some young people would like to live in our Mission School in Cachipay forever. But, even as a bird shoves her little ones out of the nest, so our young people must go elsewhere to work, advance, and serve. In recent months, Myriam Ramirez, who had been working as Mr. Stucky's bilingual secretary, accepted a position at 722 Main St., Newton, Kansas, to work as a secretary at the Board of Missions headquarters.



Mr. Luis Correa, graduate of our school in Cachipay and later, head of maintenance, left in February for Montevideo, Uruguay, to begin studies for the Christ ministry in the Mennonite Seminary. Vernelle Yoder, Director of Colegio Meno in La Mesa, left for her furlough after a fruitful four years. She is at present studying in Goshen College. Rev. and Mrs. LaVerne Rutchman visited Cachipay and vicinity on their way back to Uruguay. LaVerne has finished his residence work on his doctorate and will continue teaching in the Seminary in Montevideo. Rev. and Mrs. Ernst Harder visited the Mission work in Colombia on their way back to the States where they will be on furlough. Huldah Myers returned to Colombia after a year of furlough to continue her duties in the School in Cachipay.



LUIS CORREA



Trainees Enrique and Ana Celia

Ana Celia Plata, graduate of our school in Cachipay, was chosen as a "trainee" to live in Lansdale, Pa. with the Howard Habegger family.

Another "trainee" is Enrique Garnica, also a graduate, who left for Pennsylvania to live with the Keiser family and to work on the Keiser farm.

#### EVANGELICALS IN COLOMBIA MEET

The Assembly of Evangelicals in Colombia had their meeting in Cali during the first days of March. The purpose of this Confederation is to give a united front to the government of Colombia as well as to help one another in the program of evangelization of Colombia.

Plans were laid in the Ninth Assembly to start a nation-wide literacy campaign in cooperation with the program outlined by the Presbyterian Church in Colombia. This is of special importance in consideration of the fact that about one-half of the population in Colombia is illiterate.

During the years of the persecution the Church grew rapidly. In 1948 there were 8,000 baptized believers according to the census. In 1953 there were 12,000. In 1960 the number of believers had increased to 33,000--thus making the Colombian Evangelical Church one of the fastest growing churches in the world. There have been 116 martyrs during this time--but, perhaps it is still true that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.

Our own Mission program and staff is relatively small and is in great need of help and expansion. Let us pray that it may be like the mustard seed so that we may be able to do greater things in the kingdom of God.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

THANK HIM for the return of Huldah Myers and for the answer to prayer on her behalf.

for the children which have given their hearts to the Lord during the past weeks.

for consecrated national teachers and workers.

for sending us many new children from the community and giving us the opportunity of witnessing to them and their parents.

PRAY FOR Vernelle Yoder, as she studies and visits churches.

Sidonia Flickinger, that her health may soon be restored in order that she can return to Colombia before long.

Luis Correa, beginning his studies at the Mennonite Seminary in Montevideo.

Our churches that they may be witnessing churches, having much spiritual power.

For the physical and spiritual health of the missionary staff, that each one may be able to meet the many demands and challenges of each day.

COLOMBIAN NEWS  
Board of Missions  
General Conference Mennonite Church  
722 Main Street  
Newton, Kansas



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