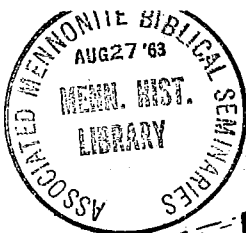


August, 1963



NUMBER THIRTY-SIX.

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

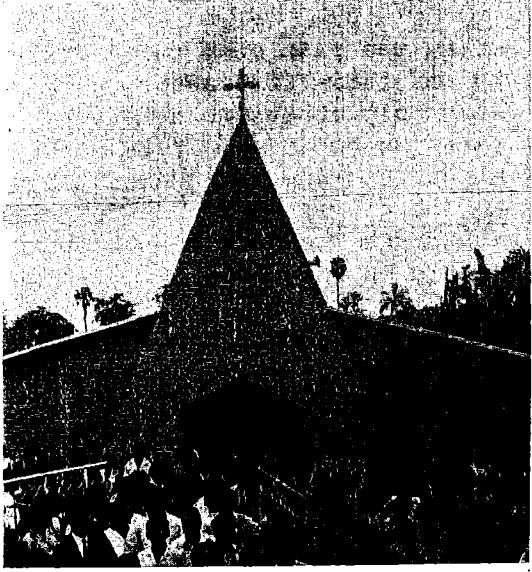
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### La Mesa Church Dedicated

Holy Week saw the fulfillment of a long cherished dream for the church members of the La Mesa Mennonite Church. After ten years of worshipping in an old adobe house which served for both school and church purposes, a beautiful new church structure was dedicated to the glory of God.

The church with a seating capacity of 200, is made of brick with a partial stone veneer. The cost of the new building and furnishings was approximately \$2,300. The funds were furnished by sacrificial gifts of the congregation, by a memorial gift from Mrs. Charles J. Kauffman in honor of her husband, and by a long term loan from the Church Extension Service of the General Conference.

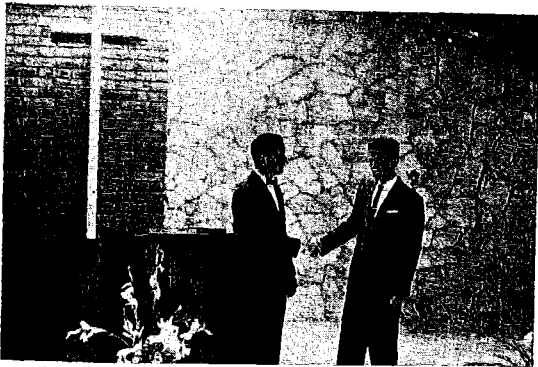
Recently a four-room house was constructed on the same lot as a residence for teachers of Colegio Meno. The school is under the direction of Vernelle Yoder.



La Mesa Church

### A New Pastor For La Mesa

Christian workers the world over are scarce. Becoming a trained pastor is very difficult in Colombia. Young men who hear the Lord's call often do not have more than three years of primary education and usually no money to pay for an education.



Jaime Caro Installed



Interior La Mesa Church

Jaime Caro, the new pastor for the La Mesa Church, accepted the Lord Jesus as his Saviour about seven years ago in a Sunday morning service in this same church.

Soon thereafter the Lord put into his heart the desire to enter into full-time Christian service. With some help from the churches, he has been able to study in the Bethel Institute in Armenia for five years.

On July 3 brother Jaime was licensed as a minister in our annual convention and has now been installed as the pastor of the Mennonite church of La Mesa.

### A New Pastor For Cachipay

Once again the missionary staff of the Mennonite Mission of Colombia has been given a reminder by the Lord of His guiding hand on the work and the way in which He supplies all the needs.

During the past year there has been an acute shortage of workers. There was only one full-time pastor, a layman, in the three churches, although the Lord did supply others to help out. No doubt many people have been praying for the work in Colombia and it is with great joy that we tell you that He has been and is answering prayer. Even during this worker shortage God has been blessing His work greatly in this area.

A short while ago a young man by the name of David Perez, former pastor of a church in Zarzal, made an application to the Executive Committee of our churches to come work with us. After careful consideration, brother David was accepted and given a call to the Cachipay Church.



Cachipay Church

David has a very tragic life story and yet one which once again shows the love of God conquering in a man's heart.

One dark night in 1954 when David was about 21 years old, a group of approximately 25 bandits attacked the country home of David's family. Within a few moments his mother, father, and six brothers and sisters were all killed and only David by the grace of God escaped with his life.

In Colombia many people have given their lives for the sake of Christ and it was partly because David's family was evangelical that they were murdered that night.

As a Christian, David has been given the grace to forgive and has become a useful instrument for God. Pray with us that God will bless the efforts of David and his wife Yolanda in Cachipay.

### MUCH INTEREST in SPIRITUAL RETREAT



Many Books Sold

Our annual church retreat for the Christians in our area comes at the same time in Colombia as do the church camps and retreats in the States.

Many of the believers do not know what it means to have a vacation. Coming to the retreat means taking time off from daily duties.

Rev. Roberto Salazar of the Cumberland Presbyterian Mission and Rev. Pedro Gutierrez of the Latin American Mission gave inspirational messages and Bible studies. Huldah

Myers gave helpful talks on prayer. During these days the annual business meetings of the churches were held. A great concern was the strategy of a stronger outreach program for the church.

As testimonies were given, the believers repeatedly expressed that it was good to have been there. God richly blessed and we thank Him.

### LOOK WHAT JESUS DID for ME

It was a sunny spring morning and the birds were singing with all their might. There was also music in the heart of seven year old, red-headed Ralph, because he was going to tell the people in Sunday school what Christ did for him. This is his story:

About a year ago, I was very ill, and in the charity hospital I had to lie very still because my body was paralyzed. I couldn't move my arms nor my legs. I had to be fed. I was in a ward with other children. I taught them some choruses.

One day they asked me, "Why do you call the clergyman Cura (priest) instead of Father?" I answered, "Because the Word of God says that you should call no one Father, except God, who is our heavenly Father." Then the children began to bother me and call me "Protestant." They noticed that I refused to partake of the sacraments.

When the nun learned that I was evangelical, she told me, "Tonight we will put the devil and the witch under your bed, and they will get you." I replied, "If only I were big like my daddy, then I would be able to preach to you."

Today you see I can walk. My parents and others asked Jesus to heal me. See, how the Lord has healed me! I can even jump.

Then Ralph and his five year old brother, Diego, sang a duet, and they sang with all their might--"He has all power, He can heal your illness, He is full of grace and love." "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me."

### The Colombian Staff

The missionary staff in Colombia at the present time consists of two couples and four single women. One couple, the Klaassens, are at present on furlough.

Vernelle Yoder is director of the Colegio Meno in La Mesa, and is a valuable help in the church work in that city.

Alice Bachert is doing personal evangelism in Barranquilla where she also carries on a worthwhile prayer ministry.

Huldah Myers is principal of the Colegio Americano in Cachipay and teaches the fifth grade. She has also been used actively in evangelism.

Janet Soldner is the mission nurse working in the school in Cachipay as well as in the Cachipay rural area. She is to go on furlough in November.

Rev. and Mrs. Glendon Klaassen are at the present time on furlough. They have been teaching and making a fine contribution during the last three years in the Normal School in Ibague.

Rev. and Mrs. Gerald Stucky and family actively work in churches and in the Colegio Americano in Cachipay. Gerald is also the president of the Mission and of the Conference of Mennonite Churches in Colombia.

VSers Eldon Bargens are short term workers in charge of maintenance of mission property.

### More Voluntary Service Workers

On June 5 two voluntary service workers from the U.S. arrived--along with Judy Stucky--to help out in the work. From Archbold, Ohio, came Byrdalene Wyse, a student at Goshen College, and from Berne, Indiana, came Gretchan Neuenschwander, a graduate of Berne High School.



Missionary Staff and VSers

Here are some impressions of the two VSers: "Riding in the jeep down the narrow cobblestoned road from Cachipay to the colegio the night of June 5, we were apprehensive and yet excited. Through the moonlight we could see the outline of the towering mountains speckled by pinpoints of light from faraway homes. The moment our jeep entered the gateway we were surrounded by lively shouting children. It was a warm, friendly welcome in unique Colombian style, and we knew then we had nothing to fear, and that our summer would be rewarding. That night too we learned that our new names would be Anita and Berta--for obvious reasons.

Our days have been filled with teaching English, mending books in the library, sewing, baking cookies, hiking and traveling with Eldon Bargens (the VS family here), and visiting homes with Huldah or Janet.

And we have come to love the children here in attempting to meet their need for friendship. We have enjoyed practicing our Spanish with them in the dining hall, or on the playground, or in the classroom. We find these children have an amazing amount of patience.

This being our first experience in South America, we have learned much about the customs and culture of the Spanish people. But we feel these three months are only the beginning of service. We hope to continue in Latin America after our college preparation.

Through observing the program here and also some of the needs of the people, we have tasted the desire to see people come to know Christ. We realize more than ever the possibilities and need for young people in missionary service."

#### Destroying Idols

Señora Ana lived in Cachipay for only a short while, when neighbors began to invite her to attend the evangelical church with them. One Sunday evening in June when the invitation was given, Señora Ana went forward. In true repentance she confessed her sins to God and Christ came to live in her heart.

Shortly thereafter a Colombian worker visited her to find that she had a picture gallery of saints which are venerated by the Roman Church. The Christian worker explained to her what the Bible has to say about idolatry.

That explains why she told the missionary one day, "I destroyed all my idols." Also she took the Christ off the crucifix which was hanging above her bed. Now she knows an empty cross. Her Saviour was victorious over death and He lives in her heart. The joy she reveals is an evidence of the living Christ within her heart. It was a miracle of the new birth.

#### THIS and THAT

Howard Habeggars are at the present time studying Spanish in Costa Rica and are due to join the Colombian staff in November. They are to reside in Bogotá and will take charge of the Mennonite Fellowship group in that city. This group now numbers 50 to 60 people.

Twenty-nine people were baptized and joined our churches during the annual retreat in July.

The Merlin Stucky family of Berne, Indiana, visited for four weeks in Cachipay during the month of July. Merlin is the brother of missionary Gerald Stucky.

The Glendon Klaassen family will be on furlough until March of 1964. Brother Klaassen will be speaking in the churches and can be reached by writing 722 Main Street, Newton, Kansas.

Gerald Stucky visited Costa Rica during the month of June to consult with and make plans for the work in Colombia with the Howard Habegger family and with Mr. and Mrs. Armando Hernandez.

PRAYER and PRAISE

THANK HIM for the many new converts that have been baptized.  
for the revival of interest that is being shown in Colombia.  
for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in recent months.

PRAY FOR the Klaassens that their furlough may bring much blessing.  
the new pastors as they begin their work.  
the establishment of new groups and new churches.  
the Habeggars as they study the language.  
The Hernandezes as they contemplate their return to Colombia.

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