

December 1, 1962

NUMBER THIRTY-FOUR

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



SOWING THE PRECIOUS SEED	1
VOLUNTARY SERVICE FOR TWO YEARS.	2
SCHOOLS CLOSE IN NOVEMBER.	3
MISSIONARIES RETURN FROM FURLOUGH.	3
A NEW SANCTUARY FOR LA MESA.	3
HOWARD HABEGGER FAMILY TO COLOMBIA	4
60 WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN IBAGUE.	5
KLAASSEN ATTENDS CONGRESS IN PERU.	5
WEDDING OF EUNICE AND ARMANDO.	6
PRAYER AND PRAISE.	6

SOWING THE PRECIOUS SEED

Knock, knock...."Excuse me madam, but would you permit me to show you these beautifully illustrated magazines of the Holy Land? This picture shows where Jesus was born, and here is Nazareth--the home of Mary and Joseph. Here you have the detailed story of how Jesus was born, His teachings, His wonderful parables, and His amazing miracles. This is part of the Holy Word of God. This magazine you can have for 25 cents....Or perhaps you'd be interested in the Holy Bible--it is the greatest book in the World. It tells all about our Divine Lord."

Two by two, young people and older members of our three churches went from house to house for three weeks in an endeavor to put the Word of God into the hands of every person. Town after town was invaded with the Word of God. First they went to Anolaima, then to La Mesa, La Esperanza, El Ocaso, Cachipay, La Florida, Anapoima, Apulo, and La Capilla.



This is the Word of God

Confronted with the Word of God--some people said, "I can't read." Others said, "I don't have any money." Still others were afraid to have anything to do with the Book. But the general attitude has changed greatly during the last two years and the people have become less frantic, more open, and ready to listen. They also dug into their pockets and bought literally hundreds of pesos worth of Bibles, Testaments, and Gospel portions.



Two by two

The visiting "two by twos" returned rejoicing, enthusiastic, ready to go day after day. Guiding the campaign was the very able Bible Society representative, Mr. Carlos Hurtado.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE FOR TWO YEARS

During the last twelve years, Voluntary Service workers have made a substantial contribution to the mission program in Colombia. Generally, the VSers come for three months only. Most of them come during the summer time, although a few come during the winter season.

At midnight, October 23, the Eldon Bargaen family arrived at the airport in Bogota for a two year term of Voluntary Service. This very welcome couple from Cassopolis, Mich., have brought with them a wealth of experience, deep consecration, and a wonderful willingness to share their well-developed capabilities.

What do VSers do in Colombia? In the past, VSers have painted buildings, taught English, manual arts, and physical education, they plant trees, repair cars, overhaul motors, install telephone systems, give hair cuts, repair the water pipes, help construct church buildings, repair roads, visit and make friends with children and neighbors, and ... what else. They encourage the missionary personnel greatly. Eldon is the son of Prof. B. Bargaen of Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas, and Helen Bartel Bargaen comes from Hillsboro, Kansas. The Bargaens have two children--Jan 9, and Dale 7.



The Eldon Bargaens

SCHOOLS CLOSE IN NOVEMBER

"Boy, I can hardly wait!" "Vacation begins on Friday." "That history exam scares me."These comments may sound like remarks made by U. S. school children in May and June just before summer vacation, but here in many schools in Colombia children cram and take finals during the month of November.

Thus on November 16 closing exercises were held at the Cachipay school with speeches by the valedictorian and salutatorian and with Dr. Robert Lazear, Jr., from the Presbyterian Church in Bogota as commencement speaker.

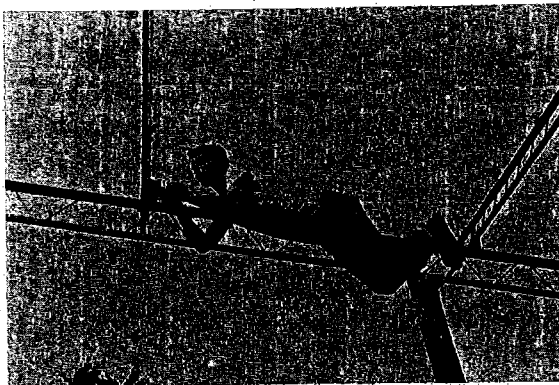
This past school year the Lord has blessed the school with a fine teaching staff, enough workers, and a good group of students. During the spiritual emphasis week, as well as at other times of the year, many of the young people accepted Christ as Savior, and nine were baptized and became members of the church.



The graduating class with their two teachers.

MISSIONARIES RETURN FROM FURLOUGH

Alice Bachert returned to Barranquilla after having spent the summer months in Canada. Vernelle Yoder who has been in the States on furlough will return to Colombia the first week of December to take up her work again in La Mesa. Coming with Vernelle will be Ana Celia Plata who spent the year with the Howard Habegggers in Lansdale, Pa. Ana Celia graduated from the Colegio Americano in 1960.



Fastening the girders for the new church

A NEW SANCTUARY FOR LA MESA

CRASH! With amazement the passengers of the old beat-up panel truck looked out the back door to observe most of the steel structure for the new La Mesa church spilled unceremoniously on the steep country road.

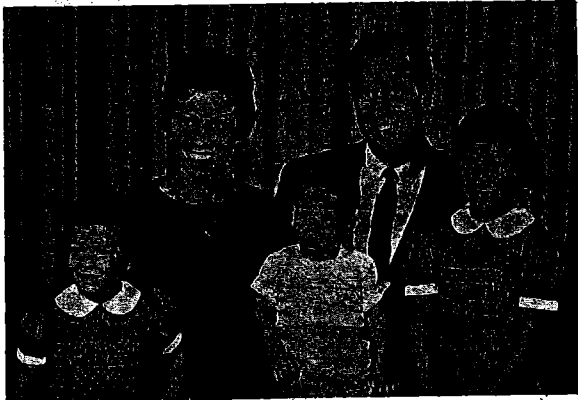
Since they were still far from La Mesa, there wasn't much left

for the five workers to do but to start loading the structure back onto the truck. This done, they continued on their way until they arrived in La Mesa (which means The Table).

There they were met by a group of approximately 15 men from the local evangelical church. Soon the men wielded different types of wrenches, were busily tightening bolts and fitting the structure together. Lending his valuable help was VSer Lewis Sprunger from Berne, Ind., who besides helping out with various work projects, probably gained much insight and experience from his summer of service.

In about two hours, the structure was together, in place and ready to be roofed. By the end of the afternoon most of the roof was on and a tired but satisfied group of workers found new meaning in the old saying, "Many hands make light work."

HOWARD HABEGGER FAMILY
COLOMBIA BOUND



The Howard Habegger family

It is with much joy that we announce the appointment of a new missionary family for Colombia. Howard and Marlene Habegger are scheduled to leave the States the first part of January for Costa Rica where they will study the Spanish language, after which they are to come to begin a very promising work in the city of Bogota, capital of Colombia.

To come to Colombia the Habeggars are leaving a successful pastorate in Lansdale, Penna., where they have been working during the last four years.

In January of 1962 Howard visited the Colombian mission work of the General Conference and served as leader in the young people's retreat in Cachipay. He also attended the monthly meeting of the Mennonite young people's fellowship in Bogota where he became acquainted with some of the many young people who live in Bogota and who have been educated in our schools in Cachipay area.

In Bogota he saw a city of a million people with less than a handful of evangelical churches--where multitudes of people have yet to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time. It is a city of great potentials for the gospel and the Kingdom of God.

In leaving the States with its promising future of successful pastorates, prominence in Conference, civic, and educational circles to go to a foreign country to make known and to live the love of God is following the noble footsteps of Albert Schweitzer--not to mention the Apostle Paul and Jesus Christ Himself.

60 WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN IBAGUE

"Evangelism" is the word heard in the halls of the Normal School on Sunday. From early dawn to sundown it is the common topic of conversation. Rising early the first group of students leave to conduct services in five country areas. At 9 o'clock another group is busy teaching Sunday school classes in the local

church. In the afternoon the rest of the students go to 15 different homes in the city for Bible classes. As the students return from their classes they are bubbling over with new experiences and enthusiasm.



Normal School students in
Ibague

liever in Christ."

Each Sunday about 350 children and 65 adults are reached with the Gospel. Actually the preparation begins long before Sunday morning. It begins with you who pray for us and our students; with you who give to make this work possible. The value of this is expressed in the testimony of one of our Mennonite students. "Evangelism has been one of the biggest experiences that I've had during my life as a be-

KLAASSEN ATTENDS CONGRESS IN PERU

In beautiful Huampani, Peru, during the month of September 300 delegates from all over Latin America gathered to celebrate the Second International Congress of Evangelical Communications. All kinds of evangelical leaders were present--including pastors, professors, newspapermen, missionaries, book-sellers, doctors, students, technicians, etc.--all there to study and discuss the common purpose, the propagation of the glorious gospel of Christ.

The theme of the conference was "Good News...by New Methods..to a New World." The studies began with an analysis of the present day situation in our world--a new world in many ways, but still needing the message of God which is able to transform.

Very interesting and of great importance were the reports given and the new methods revealed for the preaching of the gospel. It was emphasized that all forms of communication must be used.

Marked progress was noted in the cooperation between evangelical groups and the influence of the gospel in many spheres of Latin American life. Notable at the conference was the spirit of Christian fellowship and oneness in Christ. Our representative was Glendon J. Klaassen who is at present serving as instructor at the Normal Training School in Ibague.



The Newlyweds

WEDDING OF EUNICE AND ARMANDO

Wedding bells were ringing in Costa Rica on November 29 for Eunice Vitoria and Armando Hernandez. Eunice is from Venezuela and like Armando has been studying at the Seminario Biblico in San Jose. We wish them God's richest blessing as they begin their life together in His service.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

THANK HIM for the successful completion of the 16th year of the school in Cachipay.
for the faithful service of the national teachers and pastors during this year.
for the progress on the new church in La Mesa.
for the visas for the Howard Habegggers and the Eldon Bargens and the safe arrival of the latter.

PRAY FOR the new believers and those who bought portions of Scripture during the Bible campaign.
adequate staff for the schools and churches for the next year.
the evangelical teachers' workshop and the young people's retreat to be held in January.

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



Return Requested

N. P. Sprieger
Goshen College Library
Goshen, Indiana