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

COLOMBIAN NEWS

Cachipay, Cund., Colombia, S. A.

NUMBER FORTY



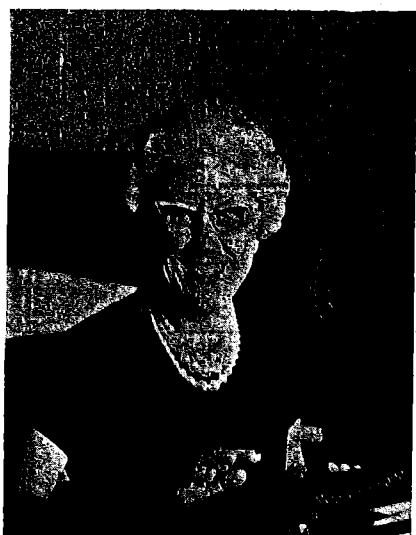
King of Kings

INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA

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IN DEDICATION



Huldah Myers

This, the fortieth issue of the Colombian News, is dedicated to Huldah Myers who after seven years of missionary service in Colombia returns home. Huldah came to Colombia first in 1949 as a voluntary service worker who saw as an eyewitness the Great Commission of Christ in action. Returning to the United States, she felt called to return to Colombia as a missionary, but God did not reopen the Colombian door to Huldah for eight long years. During these years of waiting the vision of Colombia never dimmed though Huldah experienced many moments of frustration.

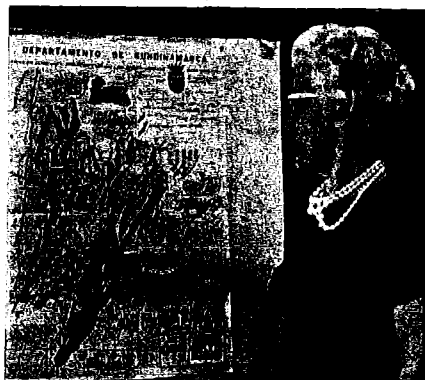
In 1957 the Colombian government issued the long awaited documents which permitted Huldah to enter the country in the capacity of a teacher. Without the aid of formal language school, Huldah studied Spanish during her free hours and learned the language effectively. During the past seven years she was a vital person in the life of the Colegio Americano in Cachipay

as a teacher, counselor, and friend to countless numbers of Colombian children and young people. Huldah's spiritual concern and compassion gained her the respect and loyalty of many Colombians. It was perhaps in the privacy of her office and room, praying, teaching the word, and counseling children and young people that Huldah's gifts of love and perception made its greatest and most lasting impact for Christ and the church.

Although Huldah experienced some physical limitations while in Colombia, she gave of herself to the Lord and the Colombian people in dedication and devotion. Her co-workers who remain to carry on the mission of the church in Colombia express their gratitude to God for Huldah's labors and wish her God's best as she continues to serve Him among her friends in Pennsylvania.



Huldah as Friend...



Teacher...



...and Counselor

Reflections and Reactions of a Colombian Missionary

CAN ONE COMPREHEND?

Huldah Myers

"This is the way, walk ye in it." These words of Isaiah have so frequently revealed themselves to me as if written in large letters. How significant they became as I came to Colombia for my second summer as a VSer and finally, after eight years of waiting, they raised themselves from the written page more clearly than ever. My heart's desire to come as a missionary was at last realized.

Did I then comprehend what my task, my joy, and my problems were to be? An emphatic No must be the answer. Comprehension of the state of one to whom the gospel has never been given was impossible. The significance of John's words about walking in darkness as contrasted with walking in light began to penetrate my mind and heart. Indeed, that darkness is very black and difficult to penetrate. How can it be changed to light? Reminiscing of one's efforts definitely convinces me that, humanly speaking, it is impossible. There seemed to be a constant fight against what appeared the impossible. However, as His word was read and His power was revealed one saw impossibilities changed into realities.

What followed? Abiding joy. As the word of life penetrated the soul, heart, and mind of one who has known nothing but darkness, a deep feeling of awe and wonder filled my innermost being. In the spiritual struggle going on in our presence we saw the power of God triumph over satanic efforts to thwart the word. What abiding joy flooded the heart as victory was won and the realization came that this experience had eternal value and there was "treasure laid up" which could never be robbed. How one longs to be more faithful as a Christian warrior in this mighty battle of darkness against the light. Now, by actual participation, my perspective is changed and truth is seen as refined gold and falsehood seen as spiritual darkness, a darkness that tends to hide one in darkness. Again comes the divine voice, "This is the Way," and the black robe of despair is cast aside and the garment of praise and thanksgiving is put on. One's voice is lifted and from the heart come the words, "I know this has been the way for I have walked in it." Thanks be unto God.

Can one comprehend? Only by actual participation. The children, the young people, and the adults who have become new creatures in Christ have been, as it were, a foretaste of heaven. The praises sung together here in Colombia will resound in all their beauty in the presence of the One who has won them unto himself.

EDUCATIONAL TV COMES TO CACHIPAY

Through the gift of a television set by the Union Church of Bogota (English-speaking church) to the school in Cachipay, a new and exciting dimension of teaching Colombian students has been opened. The Colombian Department of Education, with the technical assistance of the Peace Corps, is producing educational television for primary grades. All five grades in the Colegio at Cachipay are now learning mathematics, geography, history and natural science through this new electronic audio-visual aid.

Both students and teachers are enthusiastic about this twentieth century aid to teaching and learning. It is hoped that another TV set will be donated to the mission in order that Colegio Menno in La Mesa can incorporate educational television in its program for the coming school year.



Union Church Pastor
Presents TV to Teachers

NEW VOLUNTEERS VITAL TO MISSION

Dan and Dale Souder have fast become a vital part of the mission program in Cachipay. Arriving in Colombia in April they quickly adjusted to their new life and tasks. Although the Souders were headed for India, they believe "that all things work together for good" and are happy to serve in Colombia.

Dan, as an expert mechanic, has been busy repairing everything necessary to keep the "moving parts" of the mission moving efficiently. Dale has become known as the person who "plays the accordion" having many opportunities to do so in services, retreats and special programs. Their children, Danny and Amy, have made little Colombian friends and are learning Spanish the painless way--listening and talking to Colombian playmates every day.



Dan



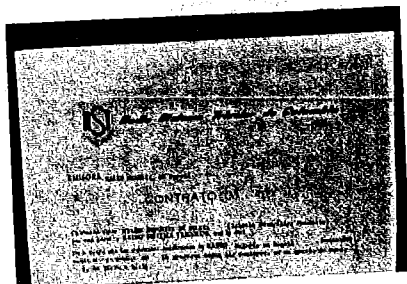
Dale

The Souders are willing to give assistance to the missionaries and nationals wherever and whenever possible. They have already performed many tasks behind the scenes in the spirit of Christian service. In the coming school year, the Souders will become dorm parents to about twenty-two children. Both Dan and Dale are studying Spanish which will make them even more useful as voluntary service workers for Christ in Colombia.

A NEW BREAKTHROUGH IN COLOMBIA



Discussing Radio Contract



The Contract

At 12:00 noon on Sunday, September 20, one of the most significant events in the eighteen-year history of the Mennonite mission took place in Bogota--a new evangelical radio program went on the airwaves! After months of concentrated effort to broadcast the program "Light and Truth," Howard Habegger, in the name of the mission, signed a one-year contract with Radio Melody, a 10,000-watt station in the capital city of Bogota.

At present only the Baptists have a Christian program on the air which basically covers the city of Bogota. However, it is now possible to hear "Light and Truth" at prime time each Sunday from 12:00 to 12:15 on a station that covers the entire state of Cundinamarca. This represents a great "break-through" for the Protestant Church in Colombia! This is a modern miracle and to God we give the praise!

The program is taped in Puerto Rico, under the auspices of Mennonite Broadcast, Inc., with Lester T. Hershey as director. "Light and Truth" is a new fifteen-minute program in the

Spanish language with an evangelistic type message and excellent quality Christian music. Both at the beginning and the end of the program a special invitation is given to attend the Mennonite churches of Colombia. At the present time a major effort is being made to build up a large listening audience within and without the Protestant church community. Although radio time is expensive we believe God will supply the funds and use the program for the purpose of bringing the "Light and Truth" of Jesus Christ to Colombia.

"FIRSTS" FOR COLEGIO MENNO

After several years of operation, Colegio Menno in La Mesa celebrated its first commencement. On Sunday, November 22 in the La Mesa Mennonite Church, Carmen and Samuel proudly became the first graduates in the brief history of Colegio Menno. Both graduates began their studies in the school.

Miss Vernelle Yoder, director of the school, after much prayer and paper work has secured an official license for the La Mesa school from the Colombian Department of Education. This license permits primary schools in Colombia to function officially and is one step away from final approval which the mission is seeking for Colegio Menno.

During the vacation months of December and January building activity will begin in La Mesa. Because of the increasing enrollment an additional large classroom will be built to the present facility. The additional space will help to alleviate the present crowded classroom situation. The new addition is expected to be completed in time for the new school year in February.



Faculty and Graduates

COMMENCEMENT IN CACHIPAY

The school bell rang for the last time in 1964 at the Colegio Americano in Cachipay in simple but impressive commencement exercises in the chapel. On November 18, fifteen students graduated which is the first big step of formal education in Colombia. For students, faculty, and staff it was the climax of a good year. For all, we hope and pray that which Carlos Colmenares, this year's valedictorian, said in his speech will be true. "Our future is in part determined by our past. During our five years of primary school in Cachipay we have been taught to love and to serve the Lord. May God help all of us to continue with the same desires in the future." The directorship of the Colegio in Cachipay was divided this year between Gerald and Mary Hope Stucky, now home on furlough, and Glen and Reitha Klaassen, recently returned from furlough.



Teachers with Graduates

NEW TEACHERS GRADUATE

Two new primary school teachers will be added to the staff of the Colegio in Cachipay as the result of graduation exercises at the Normal School in Ibague. On Sunday, November 22 Misses Egda Chuquin and Zordaida Pinzon, members of our churches in Cachipay and Anolima, received diplomas along with eight other members of this year's graduation class. Dr. Jose Fajardo of Colombia was the commencement speaker and challenged the graduates to "Serve the Lord faithfully" as Christian teachers in Colombian schools throughout their lives.



New Teachers

NATIONAL COUPLE BEGIN IN IBAGUE

With the return to Colombia of Armando and Eunice Hernandez prospects of beginning a new church in the city of Ibague will soon become a reality. Ibague is one of the major cities in the state of Tolima with a growing population. Ibague is in many respects wide open for more mission endeavor for there are only three evangelical churches in the city at present.

The new national couple has had excellent training and experience in San Jose, Costa Rica, and for the past year worked with a program called "Evangelism-in-Depth" in Venezuela. Armando is a candidate for ordination to the gospel ministry.



Armando and Eunice

Armando and Eunice will begin their work in February in Ibague after a series of evangelistic meetings in the churches at La Mesa and Anolima during the month of January. Assisting in the new mission to Ibague will be Glen and Reitha Klaassen who will resume their teaching responsibilities in the Normal School in Ibague. Thus both a national and missionary couple will be combining their efforts to reach Ibague with the gospel of Christ. It is hoped that the Mennonite students in the Normal School will form the nucleus of the new church and give assistance to the new work.

BAPTISM IN BOGOTA



A Sacred Moment

Only six months after the founding Sunday, the new Evangelical Mennonite Church of Bogota witnessed its first baptism. Miss Judith Plata, sixteen, declared her personal faith in Jesus Christ before the congregation and was baptized and received into the membership of the church.

Two other individuals were received into the membership of the church by reaffirmation of faith. The membership now stands at thirty. A new instruction class for young converts will begin in January to prepare still others for baptism and church membership.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gerald and Mary Hope Stucky continue a strenuous program of itineration challenging churches to the imperative of the Great Commission. Stuckys are expected to return to Colombia in January to reassume direction of the mission.

Alice Bachert is at present in Florida working among Spanish-speaking people in the Miami area. She continues a vital prayer ministry for her fellow missionaries and national Christians in Colombia.

Mr. Pablo Bernal, dynamic Christian layman from the La Mesa church, will replace Juan Garzon as lay pastor of the Anolima church. Mr. Garzon will begin personal evangelistic efforts in nearby mountainous areas in January.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

Praise Him for the privilege of broadcasting the gospel by radio from Bogota.
Praise Him for the recent baptisms in the churches of La Mesa and Bogota.
Pray for Gerald and Mary Hope Stucky as they complete their furlough and return.
Pray for the special meetings conducted by Armando Hernandez in La Mesa and Anolima.

Please send change of address promptly to the Board of Missions, General Conference Mennonite Church, Box 647, Newton, Kansas 67114

COLOMBIAN NEWS

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