

NUMBER THIRTEEN

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

# COLOMBIAN NEWS

Cachipay, Cund., Colombia, S. A.

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Dec. 1, 1955



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### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES

With this issue of COLOMBIAN NEWS we would introduce ourselves to you so that you might know us better. Some of you know one, some another; and by this means we wish to acquaint you with all of us. At the same time we would take the opportunity to pray that the love of God as expressed in the gift of His Son may enfold each of you and bless you at this Christmas season. May His everlasting peace abide with you and His loving-kindness direct you in your paths of duty and of service to Him.

### RUTSCHMANS GO TO URUGUAY

With sadness the missionaries and Colombian Christians in this region bade farewell to LaVerne Rutschman and family who departed for Miami on October 25. After two months crowded with visiting family and friends, special meetings, deputation, and a bit of rest, the Rutschmans plan to fly to Montevideo, Uruguay, shortly after the first of the year. LaVerne has received a 2 year appointment as professor in a new seminary to be opened in April. While we miss them greatly, we rejoice in the new horizons that have opened before them.

For the past several years LaVerne, who comes from Whitewater, Kansas, has been Executive Secretary of the mission and in charge of evangelism and extension, and Harriet has assisted in the music program of the school. Their five children are David, Robert, Thomas, and twins Richard and Ruth.



In appreciation of the past years of pastoral care, the congregations of Anolaima and Cachipay feted the Rutschman family with farewell dinners as a token of thanks for the faithful ministering given them, and for the spiritual nourishment they have received.

#### MEET THE TEACHER AND THE NURSE



Residing in the main house with the older girls who have finished school and are studying commerce or working for the mission are Janet Soldner and Vernelle Yoder, both of Berne, Indiana. Janet was among the first four missionaries to settle in Cachipay and establish the children's home. Although her main duties are in the nursing care of the children and neighbors, she also teaches in the school, participates in the direction of the work program for the children, assists in the Sunday School in Cachipay, and is recording secretary of the mission.

Vernelle, who is the newest missionary on the field, is principal of the school, which also involves teacher training. She is now completing her third year in Colombia. During the past year she lived in La Mesa for a few months, teaching in the mission school there until it was closed by the local authorities. She continues to serve the children there each week as their Sunday School teacher.

#### STUCKY FAMILY RETURNS FROM FURLOUGH

Thursday afternoon, September 22, was marked by great excitement on the part of the children as they ran to meet the car bringing the Gerald Stucky family home after a nine month furlough which was spent in Berne, Indiana, and in California.....and in countless cities and towns in between where they presented their message of the work of God in Colombia. In keeping with the custom of missionaries "on furlough", the Stuckys were kept busy, as Gerald did extensive visiting in the Canadian provinces as well as speaking in many churches in the States. Immediately before his return to Colombia he also conducted a series of meetings in the First Mennonite Church, Berne, Indiana.



Gerald is now settled into his work as Executive Secretary of the mission and as director of the school-home. Mary Hope, in addition to her home duties, is dietician and in charge of the school kitchen as well as giving music lessons to the older girls. The Stuckys, who were our

first missionaries to enter Colombia, are houseparents in the girls' dorm. Their children, Judith, Peter, and Paul, have returned to their school work along with their Colombian friends, and Timothy, too young to study, cheerily helps here and there on the station.

### THIS IS ALICE BACHERT

Veteran missionary is Alice Bachert of Kitchiner, Ontario, who has served in other Latin American countries as well as in Colombia. In 1948 she came to Anolaima and there established a group that remains an enthusiastic testimony in the town. At the present time she is living in the river port city of Girardot, again attempting to reach those who have never heard the Gospel of Christ.



Miss Bachert reports that her work in Girardot has been accompanied by many irregularities. Difficulties of many kinds, including weather, have worked against permitting good attendance in her children's classes. Often parents have punished the children by not letting them attend, thus dampening their interest as well.

One of the most interested mothers who reads her Bible daily and wants to be baptized has become very much absorbed with Adventist doctrine, due to many visits from their teachers and pastor and an offer to educate her children in their school. She was advised on the basis of scripture and with much prayer; so now she has reconsidered and decided not to ask for membership until her studies are more advanced.

### WE PRESENT THE KEISERS

Living as houseparents in the boys' dormitory with their three daughters, Eunice, Mary Beth, and Rebecca, are the Arthur Keisers of Quakertown, Pennsylvania, who came to Colombia in 1948. During the past year while the Stuckys were on furlough, Arthur was director of the children's work. At the present time he has assumed the responsibility of the evangelistic and extension work, with services in Cachipay, Anolaima, La Mesa, and Pena Negra. Helen, who comes from California, assists in the work program of the children, is editor of COLOMBIAN NEWS, and teaches in the commercial classes for the older girls.



### MINISTERIAL STUDENTS LABOR IN LA MESA

Closed by authorities in July, the school in La Mesa was not able to reopen, leaving about 16 evangelical children without any means of education; so since August one of our two young ministerial students, Luis Rodriguez, has been living in La Mesa and giving private instruction to these children. In February Senor Rodriguez will return to his fourth year of preparatory study, and will be replaced by Armando Hernandez, the other student, who has previously served six months in the school and church. This arrangement is made possible by a system of alternating six months of study and six months of work which is followed by Bible Institutes and seminaries in Colombia, thereby enabling ministerial students to support themselves in school and at the same time to gain invaluable experience in Christian work. In addition to work with the children,

these young men (who are pictured at the top of page one of this paper) are in charge of the weekly prayer meeting, assist in Sunday School and church services, and do visitation and personal evangelism in the town.

Early in October five children were dedicated to the Lord and three members added to the congregation upon confession of faith and baptism. Their testimonies spoke to the hearts of the people of that which the Lord does in the lives of His own.

#### THE STORY OF THE LITTLE RED HEN

It is always a happy occasion when a new baby comes to live in the home of one of our Christian families. Vidal, Samuel, and Anita were happy for another baby brother. Visiting the mother and the new baby presented a sight which might be of interest to the young mothers who read this article. On the same bed with the mother and baby was a nice, fat, red hen. "Is she a setting hen?" the mother was asked. Smilingly she replied, "No, she is accustomed to laying her eggs here on the bed." It was an interesting picture to behold.....mother and babe lying on the right side of the bed, and the little red hen on the left, content as could be, but not wanting to be disturbed.

#### CACHIPAY SCHOOL AND HOME CONTINUE AS USUAL

Thanks to much prayer and support from Christian friends, God's power, and the friendly help of our Embassy, our school has been able to continue as before. Although we still do not have our permit to function, we are making every effort to comply with the government decrees and to obtain the license that we very much need. We feel that the future is not out of God's hand, and that He is very able.

On November 25 school closed for another year. There were only five who graduated from the fifth grade which completes primary work. Of these, only one will continue his studies elsewhere, and the others will return for advanced studies in commerce and for work at the mission station.

Planning for the closing program found everyone only too eager to have a special part. A selected group sang "The Battle of the Centuries" as the opening number. There were plays by the various classes ranging from the "Three Bears" by the first grade to "Six Fotos for Three Pesos" by the fourth and fifth. Recitations, songs, several numbers by the rhythm band, tonette music, and a short skit of magic tricks were also included. The announcing was done by a clown, a third-grader.

#### CEDEC CALLS SPECIAL MEETING

The Evangelical Confederation of Colombia called a special meeting during the month of September to discuss the school crisis that is confronting all evangelical schools. The government has decreed that all schools that wish to function in the country must obtain a special "license to function" permit. The basic requirement for this permit are such that it will be almost impossible for many protestant schools to function.

It was pointed out at the meeting that scores of Protestant schools had applied for licenses and that none had been granted. It was stated that many of the applications were incomplete and that they were to be remade as complete as possible, although it appeared there was an impasse in the educational department in regard to applications from Protestant schools. After much thought and prayer it was decided to confer with the American, British, and Canadian Embassies with the hope that some amiable solution

could be found to the problem.

### NURSING NEWS

The Guerreros were happy when little Ruthie was born, although she had club feet and a deformed arm. Don Ancelmo and his wife Dona Cecilia live in a rural area where they raise lots of bananas and coffee. It is no place for a sick woman with a tiny baby to live, for their home is not accessible by car, and during the rainy season the horse can't even make it to their home because of the mud.

Several weeks after Ruthie's birth, Dona Cecilia became very ill because of intestinal parasites and anemia. Don Ancelmo brought her to Cachipay to stay at the home of one of the Christians. The day our missionary went to visit her, she was alone and so ill, she was unable to take care of her baby. It meant either taking her to a hospital where evangelicals often do not receive the care they need, or else taking her to the mission where she would be able to receive the necessary nursing care in order to get well. We do not have hospital facilities, but we did have an empty room and we were quite able to take care of her for a while.

Within a few days she made great improvement, and again wore a smile. The baby, who had been neglected because of her mother's illness, also showed improvement. The young mother, married at fourteen and now only nineteen, was eager to learn how to make the baby's formula and how to take care of her little daughter. May the Lord bless this young couple and make them a real testimony to those in the vicinity where they are living.

### TESTIMONY OF A NEW CHRISTIAN

On October 2 in Anolaima, Paulina Olarte was baptized on confession of her faith, and gave the following testimony to the love of God,

"I have come to realize that practically all my life has been spent in transgression. After my unsuccessful marriage I was obliged to suffer, to seek, and to wonder why God had allowed my lot to be such an unfortunate one in comparison with others whom I considered more sinful than myself. I had tried to do the best I knew, following the Roman church's advice, but none of the saints had helped me in any way.

"Finally I took the advice of my sister and her husband who are Christians in Anolaima, and they put me in touch with the missionary Alice Bachert who directed me to a real comprehension of the great truth of salvation. So when I took my burden to the Lord Jesus and placed my faith and confidence in Him, I knew that I was saved by grace. My desire as a result is that I might serve Him as long as He gives me strength, and my daily prayer is that my Lord might use me in His divine hands."

### COMINGS AND GOINGS

We were gladdened by the visit of Rev. and Mrs. Walter Dyck during the last days of September and the first of October. Rev. Dyck is a member of the Board of Missions and their visit to us came at the end of their year-long ministry in Paraguay, Uruguay, and Brazil.

For one week in October, special meetings were held for the children by Mrs. Irene Wilder who is skilled in children's work. This is Mrs. Wilder's third visit to Cachipay, and as in past years the children were delighted with her messages. Many received Christ as their Saviour for the first time, while others entered into a new relationship of consecration to Him.

With sixty resident students, dental care is always a problem. We therefore warmly welcome Dr. Eduardo Alba, a young Presbyterian dentist of Bogota, who has expressed his desire to give several days of his time each month to Christian service, donating his work because of his love for Christ and for the little ones in His Kingdom.

PRAYER REQUESTS

THANK HIM for the living Christ whom we have the privilege of serving, and for the opportunity of presenting Him at this Christmas season.

For the new Christians who have found in Him the Way, the Truth, and the Life.  
For being able to finish the school year without further difficulties.

PRAY for the Rutschmans as they enter a new field of service.

That the evangelical schools may be able to secure the necessary papers to continue functioning during the coming year.

That our young ministerial students may continue in fervent testimony, and that others who have felt His calling might be directed by the Holy Spirit.

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