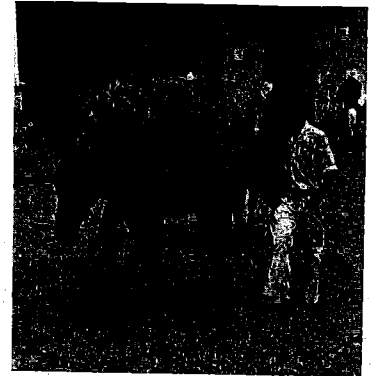


AUGUST 1, 1959

NUMBER TWENTY-FOUR

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

WENONITE BIBLICAL SEMINARIES
COLOMBIAN
NEWS
DEC 3 1959



Cachipay, Cund., Colombia, S. A.

INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA

| | |
|--|---|
| ADIOS, JUDY AND PETER. | 1 |
| WELCOME, VOLUNTARY SERVICE WORKERS | 2 |
| THE SPIRIT MOVES AMONG US. | 2 |
| OUR SUMMER'S PROSPECT. | 2 |
| JAIL VISITATION BY ANOLAIMA CHRISTIANS | 3 |
| ANOTHER BUILDING AT THE SCHOOL | 3 |
| ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST. | 4 |
| AN ENCOUNTER ON THE BUS. | 4 |
| MENNONITE RETREAT TO BE HELD | 5 |
| THIS AND THAT. | 5 |
| PRAYER AND PRAISE. | 6 |

ADIOS, JUDY AND PETER

It is something that must confront all missionary families, but it is the first time it has faced any of the Colombian Mennonite missionaries....that is, the children grow up, and soon they aren't children at all anymore. So, in September when the Gerald Stucky family departs for Berne, Indiana, for their third furlough, six of them will travel to the US. When they return, there will be only four.



JUDITH AND PETER

Judith and Peter have been in Cachipay since the very beginning of the mission. They graduated from the mission school, both receiving scholastic honors along the way. In recent years they have studied by correspondence courses at home. They have been active in young people's work, in the school chorus, and many times have willingly provided the special music, Judith with her flute, and Peter with his French horn. Judith will enter her junior year, and Peter his sophomore in the Berne, Indiana, high school.

WELCOME, VOLUNTARY SERVICE WORKERS

Looked forward to with anticipation every year is the arrival of the Voluntary Service workers who come to us from the US and Canada, paying their own way and giving of their time and talents to help in the Lord's work. They are four this year. Anne Martens comes from Sanford, Manitoba, and for four years has been a junior high school home economics teacher. Gladys Russell, member of the Woodlawn Church in Chicago, is an experienced primary school teacher. Anna Marie Peterson has taught for several years, but will be entering Bethel College as a junior in September. She is from Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and is spending her third summer in VS work.



RAY MAKES BRICKS



GLADYS STENCILS T-SHIRTS

Only man in the crowd is Bluffton College sophomore Ray Yoder, who comes from Goshen, Indiana.

Summer activities among them are varied. There is painting, construction, brick-making, teaching, sewing, crafts, and stenciling Colegio Americano T-shirts for the children of

the Cachipay school. We're glad to have them....one and all....this summer, and every summer.

THE SPIRIT MOVES AMONG US

For a week in May Miss Cora Soderquist, of the Evangelical Alliance Mission, held special services for the children of the Cachipay school. The working of the Holy Spirit was evidenced in a very special way as many of the children felt the conviction of sin and confessed Christ as their Savior.

It was a time of great blessing to teachers and missionaries as well as to see how God was moving in our midst and changing the lives of these little ones so dear to Him.

In April special meetings were also held in our churches and at the school, conducted by John McDonald, Charles Wakelin, and Francisco Rojas, all of Venezuela. Through them and their attractive presentation of the gospel through word and music, many of our neighbors who ordinarily would not attend a Protestant service were able to hear the gospel message.

OUR SUMMER'S PROSPECT

VS'er Anna Marie Peterson has this to say about Colombia and the mission field:

"After a pleasant ride by plane to Bogota, an hour's ride over the smooth highway near Bogota, and an hour's ride over a rough, mountainous road, four Americans found themselves on a foreign mission field near Cachipay, Colombia. It almost seemed like another world

for us, coming from North America....high mountains on each side with clouds hanging low; banana trees; orange trees; wild flowers; and vegetables of many varieties....things one reads about in a book, but never dreams he'll see. One truly finds himself in the midst of God's nature.

And then one has a look around him, and he sees a mission. First of all he meets the missionaries, those who have dedicated their lives for the cause of Christ. Their friendliness, their hospitality, and their love for their work is immediately evident.



ANNA MARIE DRAWS

After meeting the children, one's heart goes out to each, the tall, the short, the little, the big; the older, and the younger. The flashing smile, a word of greeting warms the heart, and one cannot help but smile back. Here are many children who come from homes so primitive that one can hardly believe it. Many children do not know a home with Christ as the head, with mother, father, brothers, and sisters.

We see here dedicated people who are giving their lives to develop among less fortunate people spiritual leaders with much love and understanding for their fellow men, rich and poor.

This was all viewed our first day....we know that there will be much more....the churches, and the leaders who are bringing others to the call of Christ.

This promises to be a wonderful summer....for no longer will reading be our only contact with a mission field; the true experience will be ours." by Anna Marie Peterson

JAIL VISITATION BY ANOLAIMA CHRISTIANS

In recent weeks the members of the church in Anolaima have had the opportunity to enter the city jail and witness to the prisoners, distributing portions of the Scriptures and tracts. Interest has been expressed on the part of some of the men in the jail to know more of the gospel and to read the Bible. The chief of police has also shown interest, and has given an open door to the Christians to enter and to preach.

While jail evangelism is a common thing in North America, it is seldom possible to perform here, for almost all avenues of public preaching are closed by legal decree to all non-Catholic bodies. The Christians of Anolaima give thanks to God for this opportunity, and pray that the Spirit may work in the chief of police who has made this possible.

ANOTHER BUILDING AT THE SCHOOL

With an enrollment of over one hundred this year, classroom space became a problem.... there just wasn't enough. So out where the boys used to have a flourishing garden there are now piles of steel framework, bricks, and sand. In addition to serving as an extra classroom, the new building will also have a social room at one end where young people's groups can meet, and where children can entertain their parents.

It is being built through personal gifts and a donation from the women of the English-speaking church of Bogota, who in the past have generously supported us. Part of the

work is being done by the Voluntary Service workers. It is hoped to have the new building ready for the beginning of school in February, 1960.

ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST

"As the heart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." Seldom in a child of thirteen years have we seen such thirst, such a strong desire to know more of the Word of God. Jose Vicente has such love for the Bible that many times he can be seen caressing his small New Testament or putting it under his pillow for safekeeping during the night.



JOSE...HAPPY IN CHRIST

There was the joyful time when he said, "Now I can find the passage myself," and he showed how he could find the book, the chapter, and the verse.

Jose has paid a price for his salvation. At first his parents wished to put him in jail as a punishment for his new-found faith. Nevertheless he wanted only to follow Christ, and nothing could change him. This is the first year that he has had the opportunity of attending school. He remained in kindergarten only a few weeks, and learned to write over night. Reading is easy for him, because he first learned to read the Bible. Whenever something difficult does come along, Jose knows how to face that too....for he knows that he "can do all things through Christ, who strengtheneth" him.

AN ENCOUNTER ON THE BUS

After the purchase of a two peso (25¢ in America) bus ticket from Cachipay to Bogota, and a mad scramble into a crowded bus, we started on our bumpy, two and one-half hour ride to Colombia's capitol. First stop....La Florida, a little pueblo not far from Cachipay. Streams of women with their wares circled the bus, trying desperately to make a sale to some of the occupants. We noticed particularly one woman selling greasy fried chickens whose color was a most unappetizing, mustardy yellow. With a turned-up nose, one of us mentioned, "How could anyone eat that?" To our surprise a young man's voice answered in English from behind us.... "Those are very tasty. They have been prepared in special herbs which give them the characteristic color."

After conversing for a few moments, we learned that he was a Catholic boy, not quite through high school, who had spent five years in New Orleans. His father was Irish and his mother Colombian. His time during the summer was spent helping out on a Catholic farm and school for children, doing manual work as well as making an attempt at teaching.



ANNE TEACHES CRAFTS

He was most interested in us and at first didn't realize that we weren't Catholics, but that fact didn't seem to hinder his making any comments about himself and his work.

The children on that particular farm worked very hard, starting at 5:30 in the morning. Our impression was that there was very little time spent in the classroom. His offer to spend an afternoon with us in a nearby town partaking of the contents of a superb wine cellar, one of the best in Cundinamarca, he said, wasn't taken very seriously by us. He also thought it would be helpful to them if one of us were musical and would organize a children's choir at their school.

After telling him a little of our work and purpose, mentioning the fact that our enrollment at the Colegio Americano was over a hundred, he answered emphatically, "Now I know why the priest calls you 'those darn Protestants!'" But the fact that the work here brings such a response from him is an incentive for us to work harder to give more support to this mission. For indeed these Colombian people have a great spiritual need, and any attempt to fill it is being suppressed by the strong Catholic influence in this country.

....VS'er, Anne Martens

MENNONITE RETREAT TO BE HELD

August 3 to 7 will mark the third annual retreat of the Mennonite churches of Colombia, to be held at the school in Cachipay. The facilities of the school, as well as its beautiful setting, offer an ideal location for such a Christian conference, and other church groups have often used the grounds for that purpose. The week will open with the presentation of the picture, Martin Luther, on Monday evening. Special speakers will be the Rev. Harold Olson, director of the Lutheran Bible Institute in Bogota, and the Rev. Aristobulo Porras, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Girardot.



A BEAUTIFUL LOCATION

Rev. and Mrs. Harold Burkholder of Dallas, Oregon, who will be visiting the Colombian mission field, will also bring messages to the retreat group. As in any North American conference, there will be Bible studies, inspirational messages, a Bible contest, music, films, and recreation. On the last day there will be a baptismal service and communion. On Saturday, following the close of the retreat, the annual business conference of the Mennonite churches will be held.

THIS AND THAT

Expected back in Colombia in September is Janet Soldner who has spent her third furlough in Berne, Indiana, in hospital work and study in Kentucky, and in many other places, bringing the message of the work of God in Colombia.

Speaking at the men's brotherhood conference of the Presbyterian Church which met in Ibague was Gerald Stucky. He also brought devotional messages at the regional retreat of the Presbyterian young people which was held in connection with the dedication of the new church building of the Presbyterian Church in Armero.

Alice Bachert continues to live in Barranquilla because of ill health. Reports indicate that she is not much better.

Two hours by car, one hour by airplane, and then two days on a river launch took Arthur Keiser to the town of Galindo where he addressed the Youth Congress of the Inter-American Churches of Colombia.

Miss Huldah Myers was counselor at the first retreat of the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship in Colombia, held near Fusugasuga.

Attending the Colombian ministers' and Christian workers' conference in Medellin in April were student pastor Antonio Sandoval, lay worker Juan Garzon, and Arthur Keiser.

A welcome visitor was Dr. H. R. Schmidt who unexpectedly dropped in for a five hour visit in Cachipay, enroute to visit his brother, Dr. John Schmidt, in Paraguay. He is on the medical staff of the Bethel Clinic and the Bethel Deaconess Hospital in Newton, Kan.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

THANK HIM for the evidences of the working of the Spirit among the children of the Cachipay school.
for the four young workers who have given of their time, talent, and money to work among us this summer.
for the new opportunities for witnessing....in rural areas, and in the Anolaima jail.
for supplying the material needs of the mission.

PRAY
that the Stucky family may have a furlough filled with God's blessings.
that Alice Bachert may be restored to health.
that the Glendon Klaassens, under appointment to Colombia, may receive God's help as they begin their language study in Costa Rica.
that the Colombian Christians may be faithful in preaching the gospel to others.
that each missionary may be faithful to the Lord's calling.

COLOMBIAN NEWS

Board of Missions

General Conference Mennonite Church

722 Main Street

Newton, Kansas

Non-Profit Organization