

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

COLOMBIAN NEWS.....	1
YOUR MISSIONARIES IN COLOMBIA.....	1
FOR THE FIRST TIME NON-DORMITORY STUDENTS ARE.....	2
NEW DINING HALL BEING CONSTRUCTED.....	2
RUTSCHMANS ON FURLOUGH.....	3
CLINIC HOURS.....	3
FIVE STUDENTS IN ADVANCED TRAINING.....	3
PERSECUTION CONTINUES.....	4
THREE COLOMBIAN TEACHERS.....	4
CACHIPAY CHURCH ELECTIONS OFFICERS.....	4
ANOELALMA CHRISTIANS COME OUT OF UNDERGROUND.....	4
PLANS BEING MADE FOR A NEW STATION.....	5
PRAYER REQUESTS.....	5

*5/16  
Lynch*

### COLOMBIAN NEWS

With a prayer and a hope we send to you this our first issue of Colombian News.

For sometime we have felt the urgent need of a closer tie-up between the mission work in Colombia and those at home that are supporting us in prayers and gifts.

The six years that the Colombian Mission has existed have been years full of adventure with ~~trials~~ blessings, difficulties and troubles. In spite of the fact that many of you have not received adequate information of what is going on here, you have nevertheless faithfully prayed for us and supported the work here as you could. How often we have thanked God for you!

With the advent of Colombian News we hope to be able to give to you such news and information that will help you to pray effectively for this part of the work of God's Kingdom.

### YOUR MISSIONARIES IN COLOMBIA

The Colombian mission staff is composed of three couples and two single workers. Due to the severe restrictions on the entrance of missionaries it has not been possible to increase our staff, but we trust that in God's time it will be possible to enlarge our staff so that a more effective witness for Christ can be had here. Just to remind you who your missionaries here are we'll submit the list:

Rev. and Mrs. Gerald Stucky, (1945) from Berne, Indiana, and Monrovia, California, respectively. They have four children--Judith, Peter Paul and Timothy. Gerald is in charge of the children's work, and is general director of mission, 1951-52.

Miss Janet Soldner, R. N., (1945) from Berne, Ind. Janet is the nurse at the mission station in Cachipay.

Rev. and Mrs. LaVerne A. Rutschman, (1947) from Whitewater, Kans., and Phoenix, Ariz., respectively. They have three children, David, Robert, and Thomas. At the present time they are on furlough in the States.

Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Koison, (1948), from Quakertown, Pa., and Modesto, Calif., respectively. They have two children, Eunice and Mary Beth. Arthur is in charge of the evangelistic extension work of the Mission and the building program.

Miss Alice Bachert, (1948), from Kitchner, Ont. Alice has been in charge of the evangelistic work in Anolaima and is now about to open a new work in La Mesa.

#### FOR THE FIRST TIME NON-DORMITORY STUDENTS ARE RECEIVED.

The work in Colombia began in 1945 when the first four missionaries arrived on Colombian soil. The first project undertaken by the missionaries was to establish a school and a home for healthy children of leper parents.

To effectively do this a small farm was purchased near Cachipay, Cundinamarca. Here we have been receiving children from Agua de Dios, the leper colony, and also a few children from evangelical parents that live in our vicinity. All these are dormitory students.

However around about us there are scores of children that have little or no opportunity for an education--they are a field that is white unto harvest.

Our evangelical families in Cachipay have children that they want educated in an evangelical school--so that their children will not be subject to the severe persecution in the Catholic dominated public schools. To begin to adjust ourselves to this opportunity and need, we have accepted six children this year. Of these four are of evangelical parentage and two of Catholic.

Our school is strongly evangelical and the three Colombian teachers that are teaching this year are fine consecrated Christians that sincerely try to lead the children into spiritual and educational experiences.

#### NEW DINING HALL BEING CONSTRUCTED

When the present farm was purchased for the mission, there was on it a two-story building which served as dormitory, chapel, kitchen, dining hall, clinic, missionary home, and school.

Since then the plant has been expanding to accommodate one hundred children. A four room school building and two dormitory-apartment combinations were built and put into use.

At the present time the roof is being put on a new kitchen-dining hall building which is under construction. This is a very necessary addition as the small room used as a dining hall in the two-story house is very crowded at present. The walls are constructed of cement blocks made with a Sears Roebuck mold. The blocks have proved to be a considerable saving over using the local bricks.

## RUTSCHMANS ON FURLOUGH

The Rutschman part of our mission family is on furlough, having left in September for a nine months' stay in the States. We have been thrilled by LaVerné's reports of interest in the work in Colombia as he traveled through California and western Canada.

Just this week we received a news flash from them telling of the arrival of Thomas Dupré, their third son, on March 12. We extend our congratulations to them and await their return to Colombia.

Mail for them will reach them if addressed to Whitewater, Kans.

## CLINIC HOURS

Patient: "At what time shall I come for my injection tomorrow?"

Missionary: "Would you be able to come at 12 noon?"

Patient: "I have no time-piece. Is it alright for me to come when I hear the train coming around the mountain at noon?"

## FIVE STUDENTS IN ADVANCED TRAINING

It is the purpose of all missions to train young people to fill places of leadership in the national church and in the evangelical community.

Since our school does not propose to have more than five or six grades due to the fact that most of our children are not of high school calibre, we have been sending those capable of higher learning to the secondary schools of one of our sister missions.

Edilma Gutiérrez is now in her third year of secondary training under scholarship, the funds coming from the Monnonito mission. Edilma is a very conscientious girl and does everything well, no matter whether it is teaching, playing the piano or weaving.

Recently she has stated that her ambition is to become a doctor and serve the Lord in the Loper colony of Agua de Dios where she was born. She thinks that the medical care is greatly lacking there especially among the evangelicals. She said that she is also willing to teach at the mission school in Cachipay if that is the Lord's leading. Last year she taught the first and second grades here at the school. This year another one of the girls whom we had sent to secondary school is teaching. The two girls have been alternating, while one teaches the other one studies.

Berta Correa is in her second year of christian normal training. Five years ago she came to us as a helper in the kitchen. Soon we realized that she had talent in teaching small children, especially in the Sunday School. Berta has progressed a great deal in her Christian life. She has also expressed her desire to work for the Lord and the mission.

Ligia Gutiérrez and Victor Silva graduated from our primary school last year and are now studying at the Presbyterian secondary school in Bogotá. Their families are carrying the greater part of the responsibility for their schooling but we are also helping them with a scholarship.

Luis Rodriguez, a member of our church in Cachipay has given a good testimony and is eager to serve the Lord more effectively. Recently he began his studies in the Bible Institute of Ibagué.

The future of the Colombian church depends on young people such as these. If they would have to carry the load of the financial re-

PERSECUTION CONTINUES

The persecution in Colombia against the protestants has continued and in some cases grown worse during the first few months of the year.

James Goff, a Presbyterian missionary, and a Colombian ministerial student have made an investigation of some 25 cases of persecution reported to them that took place between December 1 and February 29. This report has received publicity in the States and in the Colombian press.

An extensive investigation has also been made of the persecution within the past few years. The situation here has been described by some as being even worse than in Spain.

Among the incidents reported were the following: An evangelical pastor and his helper were beaten and called names by five uniformed officials while they were preparing for the evening service. A missionary's house was dynamited, and fire was set to it and to the church. A policeman entered a service on horseback and beat the pastor.

THREE COLOMBIAN TEACHERS TEACHING IN CACHIPAY

For the first time since the opening of the mission school in Cachipay, the classes are taught entirely by Colombian teachers. Miss Aura Correa, who teaches the first grade, was one of the first grads of this school in 1948, and was sent by the mission to secondary school in Barranquilla to further prepare her for service to the Kingdom of God as a teacher here.

Miss Edilma Muñoz began her work here in January when we were desperately in need of another teacher. Her wide background of experience has proved valuable not only in teaching, but also in working with the women and young people of Cachipay.

Mr. Enrique Galvis, who has been with us now for five months, had been living in Anolaima for some time and actively participating in the services there. He too has had previous teaching experience, and is very popular with the children.

All three of these teachers are filling a definite need in the program of the mission and thereby giving the missionaries more time to do other necessary work.

CACHIPAY CHURCH ELECTS OFFICERS

The response to the gospel in Cachipay during the last year has been very encouraging. For a long time the meetings were held in a rented room near a store that sells beer. In spite of the disturbances caused by drinking people, those interested in the gospel came and listened attentively to the gospel message.

About three months ago the room had to be surrendered. The plan seemed to be to close up the meetings, but God planned otherwise. The believers got together and put up a temporary structure to serve as our temple of worship.

Recently a constitution was adopted by the believers, the church was formally organized, and deacons and trustees were chosen. Rev. Arthur Keiser is serving as the pastor of the congregation.

ANOLAIMA CHRISTIANS COME OUT OF UNDERGROUND

For almost a year and a half the believers in Anolaima have suffered with threats and active opposition from local authorities and the local RC church.

believers have been afraid to attend meetings for fear of being identified with the persecuted.

The courage and strength of the believers and of Miss Alice Bachert, the missionary in charge, has been a source of inspiration and blessing to the entire mission personnel. Although some of the supposed believers fell by the wayside, others have been purified and refined--as by fire.

In the last couple of months due to more friendly authorities and the blessings of God, the believers have not been threatened or bothered so much, and are enjoying relative freedom and liberty.

May it please the Lord to grant ever greater freedom that more souls may be brought into the Kingdom.

#### PLANS BEING MADE FOR A NEW STATION

At the present time the mission is doing evangelistic work in three places besides the work at the school on the farm at Cachipay.

In the town of Cachipay evangelism has been carried on since the beginning. Here is to be found the largest group of believers. Anolaima too has been receiving the gospel testimony for some time, and the believers are strong and faithful. In La Esperanza there are but a handful of believers but there is a good foothold.

The Lord willing, Miss Alice Bachert and a family from Anolaima plan to move to La Mesa in the near future to bear witness to the light of the Gospel of Christ.

Please pray that a house may be found and that the Lord will open wide the doors for this new effort.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for the Christians who are suffering persecution in Colombia.
2. Pray that the Christians might continue faithful in witnessing. It is difficult as the giving out of Bibles and literature is forbidden.
3. Pray that we might receive the yearly registration for the school. This is being held up by the local health inspector.
4. Pray for the children who are in school. There are 51 this year.
5. Pray for the church in Cachipay. It is newly formed and there are many temptations from within and without.
6. Pray for the missionaries.
7. Pray for the Lord's guidance in the opening of the new station.
8. Pray for the many who admit that the Gospel is the truth, but who deny it because of fear of persecution.

liovers have been afraid to attend meetings for fear of being identified with the persecuted.

The courage and strength of the believers and of Miss Alice Bachert, the missionary in charge, has been a source of inspiration and blessing to the entire mission personnel. Although some of the supposed believers fall by the wayside, others have been purified and refined-- as by fire.

In the last couple of months due to more friendly authorities and the blessings of God, the believers have not been threatened or bothered so much, and are enjoying relative freedom and liberty.

May it please the Lord to grant ever greater freedom that more souls may be brought into the Kingdom.

#### PLANS BEING MADE FOR A NEW STATION

At the present time the mission is doing evangelistic work in three places besides the work at the school on the farm at Cachipay.

In the town of Cachipay evangelism has been carried on since the beginning. Here is to be found the largest group of believers. Anolaima too has been receiving the gospel testimony for some time, and the believers are strong and faithful. In La Esperanza there are but a handful of believers but there is a good foothold.

The Lord willing, Miss Alice Bachert and a family from Anolaima plan to move to La Mesa in the near future to bear witness to the light of the Gospel of Christ.

Please pray that a house may be found and that the Lord will open wide the doors for this new effort.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for the Christians who are suffering persecution in Colombia.
2. Pray that the Christians might continue faithful in witnessing. It is difficult as the giving out of Bibles and literature is forbidden.
3. Pray that we might receive the yearly registration for the school. This is being held up by the local health inspector.
4. Pray for the children who are in school. There are 51 this year.
5. Pray for the church in Cachipay. It is newly formed and there are many temptations from within and without.
6. Pray for the missionaries.
7. Pray for the Lord's guidance in the opening of the new station.
8. Pray for the many who admit that the Gospel is the truth, but who deny it because of fear of persecution.