

December 1, 1961



NUMBER THIRTY-ONE

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

THE KING OF GLORY SHALL COME IN	1
THE BOOKS ARE CLOSED	2
PREPARING FOR SERVICE	2
CECILIA'S TESTIMONY	2
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE	3
GET OUT, WE DON'T WANT YOU HERE	4
IN HIS STEPS	4
VISITORS	5
THIS AND THAT	5
PRAYER REQUESTS	6

THE KING OF GLORY SHALL COME IN

Many have walked through the gates at Colegio Americano, Cachipay, since our best wishes for the Christmas season were sent to you a year ago. Once again all of us--the Mission children, the Christians and workers in our churches and schools, and your missionaries--come to wish you the deepest joy and peace that the remembrance of the Birth of the Saviour King can bring to you this year.

No doubt, to you, as to us, the problems that perplex our government, the Colombian government, and the leaders of other nations, bring heaviness to our spirits of rejoicing and contentment. May it lead us closer to the One in Whom our hope for the future rests.

To you who have shared so generously with your interest, prayers, and financial gifts during the past year, we say "thank you!" As we think about gift-giving and look ahead through the gates that will open 1962 to our lives, we realize that the best gift we can bring is to enter into the service of our King. Together we must strive to bring all men to a personal knowledge of Jesus as Saviour. Join us in singing, "Open wide the Gates of the Temple (our hearts) and the King of Glory shall come in."

THE BOOKS ARE CLOSED

November in our three schools is a month of business as the teachers and pupils suddenly realize that the time for the final examinations has come and that the preparations for the closing program must be completed.

This year fourteen young people finished their elementary training at Cachipay. Several of these will be returning next year to continue their studies in our sixth-year study and work program. Others will be continuing their education in the High School and Commercial schools in Bogota and a few will be going home to live with their parents. We pray that the lessons of Christian living have been learned in such a way that they will be witnesses in their environment.



Teachers' vacation
Lucia, Margarita, Virginia,
Arnubia and Miriam

PREPARING FOR SERVICE

Preparing to serve as teachers in our Mission schools are these seven young people at the Teacher Training School in Ibague. Our missionaries, Glendon and Reitha Klaassen are instructors at the school. For them this has been a strenuous year of study and practice teaching. They, however, recognize how important their preparation is for the future of evangelical schools in Colombia and are willing to spend four years in concentrated study.



The hearts of parents often throb with satisfaction when they see their child achieving honors. Thus, when the news came to us that Cecilia had won second place in her class of fifteen students, our hearts were swelling with satisfaction. Cecilia Ortiz who finished

her elementary training in the school at Cachipay, is the only graduate representing our Mission at the Normal School in Ibague this year. As an honor student, she was given the privilege to deliver the salutatory oration at the Commencement Exercises held on November 26.

CECILIA'S TESTIMONY

"I came to know Christ as my Saviour at an early age while studying at the Colegio Americano of Cachipay.

"When I graduated from the Colegio I wanted to continue my education to become a teacher because I felt that in this way I could serve the Lord and my country best.

But I was unable to enter the Presbyterian Normal School until I was fifteen years old. While waiting I worked and took some special courses at the Colegio.

"In 1957 by the grace of God and the help of the Mennonite Mission I was able to enter the Teacher Training School at Ibague. The past four years of study and one year of practice teaching have not been easy; in fact, at times when things were difficult I felt like quitting. Thanks to God by His guidance and help in every problem I am now looking forward to graduation.

"I do not know exactly what the Lord's plans are for my life but after graduation I plan to serve Him as a Christian teacher and if it is His will I shall continue studying to prepare myself better for His service.

"I have always remembered the verse found in Philippians 4:14, 'I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.' These are the words that have strengthened and helped me through the difficult times and have brought me to this time in my life."



Commencement for Cecilia

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

Mery was a bashful girl of eleven years. We learned to know her only by sight as she brought the milk to the Boarding School in a small pail. She had a smile to greet us but one was aware that she was afraid to ask questions.

Mery's father owned a small piece of land not too far from the Mission. One day he came to the Colegio to ask if he could enroll two children in our school. He was the first neighbor to ask for this favor. Until then we had only boarding school pupils. We were happy for this opportunity and consented to have his two oldest children come.

For two years Mery and her brother, Luis, attended our school. One day the mayor in our municipality said our school would be closed because we were not teaching the Catholic religion to the Catholic children. Mery's parents could not sign a statement saying they were non-Catholic so the children's schooling was discontinued.



Several years passed. Then Mery's mother asked if we would again take Mery as a student in our school. Mery, who had given her heart to the Lord when she was with us earlier, studied catechism, was baptized and became a member of the Cachipay Church.

For two successive years Mery received the certificate for best conduct in her class. This past year she has been studying at the Normal School in Ibague with the help of the scholarship given to her by the Mission. She plans to continue studying next year.

Mery Rodriguez has experienced that with God even the impossible can become a reality.

GET OUT, WE DON'T WANT YOU HERE!



Twenty persons gathered for the weekly evening devotional held in the home of a believer in La Mesa. The opening hymns were accompanied by the sound of large stones thrown on the roof and in the back yard. No attention was given to this and the service continued.

When the closing song was announced several neighbors, spurred on by the mob that gathered outside, entered to disturb the meeting. With threatenings they assumed the authority to forbid such services in the neighborhood. They insulted the people by calling them pagans, atheists, Pharisees, and Communists. They took a Bible, a Testament and a hymnbook from the leaders of the meeting and demanded that all leave at once by pushing the people to go outside. While

the group of believers left, the crowd yelled, "Down with the Protestants," "May the Virgin live" and "We don't want you here." Accompanying the mob were senioritas and nuns from a nearby school who repeated the Rosary and sang about the virgin.

Vernelle Yoder, who was with the believers in the meeting, testifies, "We joyfully can bear such reproach for are we not followers of Him who was 'despised and rejected of men'?"

IN HIS STEPS

The feelings of those present at the Baptismal and Communion Service were meaningfully expressed in the words sung by Senoras Paca and Elisa:

"In Thy Steps I Want to Follow
Close to Thee, Close to Thee,
And if I encounter trials here
Help me to trust in Thee!"

How well we understood that our baptismal candidates had experienced many temptations and pitfalls during their few years in the Christian walk. With tear-filled eyes they gave testimony to the joy and peace they have in the fellowship with their Saviour and Lord.

As one of the closing events of our school year the two neighbor ladies, Senoras Paca and Carmen and seven of our school children were baptized in a service led by Gerald Stucky. Following their reception into the membership of the Cachipay Church by Pastor Pava, Calvin Flickinger led the congregation as they partook in the Holy Communion Service.



Senora Paca, working for the "daily bread" for her five children at the new weaving machine purchased with the help of missionaries Stucky.

VISITORS

Revisioning with us the present and future program of Mission Work in this area was Rev. Andrew Shelly, Executive Secretary of the Board of Missions. Although the time he spent here was considered too short, his three-day visit with the missionaries and the churches was greatly appreciated.

Rev. Andrew's report of Mission work throughout South America was both informative and helpful. His readiness to converse and listen to the wishes of our school children, lay-workers, pastors and missionaries brought encouragement to all.



"We must move along."

.....
"We have heard about this--now we are seeing it with our own eyes," commented the eight members of the Tour Group sponsored by Menno Travel Service who spent an eventful Sunday with us.

Coming during the rainy season, they were greeted with the Tropical down-pours and slippery roads. The weather, however, did not seem to affect the good-natured spirit and interest shown in the work here. Their visit was a blessing to us and we wish to thank them for stopping in for the day.



Menno Travel Service Tourists

THIS AND THAT

Robert Savage, director of radio station HCJB, Quito, Ecuador, was a special speaker in our Chapel and the Cachipay and La Mesa churches during the weekend of October 8. He showed the film, "Miracle Over Manhattan," with the speaking adapted to Spanish. While in Colombia he met with officials to plan the Billy Graham Meetings to be held in Cali during the latter days of January, 1962.

Judy and Peter Stucky returned to the States in August after spending their summer vacation at Cachipay. Peter is continuing his studies in the High School at Berne, Indiana, and Judy is enrolled as freshmen at Bluffton College.

The long-dreamed for step was taken on October 14 when the Mennonites in Bogota organized for the purpose of having monthly meetings. Most of the forty members of the group are alumni and former students from the Colegio at Cachipay, now working in Bogota.

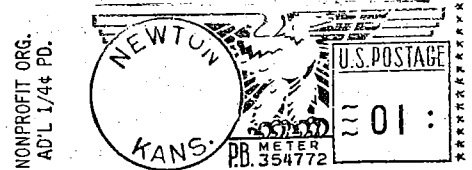
Vernelle Yoder will be leaving for the States in December following her second term of missionary service. Accompanying her will be Myriam Ramirez, secretary at the Colegio, Cachipay. Myriam will be living in Newton and working in the General Conference offices.

PRAYER REQUESTS

THANK HIM for the joy of the living Christ in our hearts this Christmas season.
for the opportunity to work with the school children during the past year.
for those who made conversion decisions during the Robert Savage meetings.
for the Teacher Training School at Ibage.

PRAY FOR our newly baptized members of the Cachipay Church.
Huldah Myers' return to her work in Cachipay.
Vernelle Yoder as she visits our home churches.
the monthly meeting of the Mennonites in Bogota.
Myriam as she adjusts to life in the States.
the missionaries that they may know His leading in the New Year.

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



RELIGIOUS PRINTED MATTER

N. P. Springer
Goshen College Library
Goshen, Indiana