

December 1, 1960

NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

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

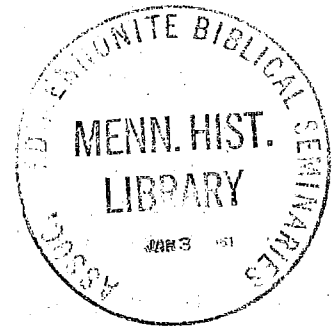
COLOMBIAN NEWS



Cachipay, Cund., Colombia, S. A.

INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA

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GOD BLESS YOU, EVERY ONE

The sun is shining, and the thermometer indicates a pleasant 72 degrees. Out on the window ledge, yellow and white begonias are in full bloom, and hanging in baskets above them, the orchids are also budding out and flowering. Only the poinsetta trees, making a beautiful red background down by the chapel, remind us that Christmas is almost here.

In the large cities, commercialism has taken precedence over the message of the coming of the Christ child. But in humble Christian homes there is joy such as has never been known before, for they now know Him who came to bring them life eternal. You have had a part in this through your prayers and gifts. And so we wish to send you special thanks and greetings at this season, and may God bless you, every one!

KLAASSEN VISA GRANTED

Applying for and receiving a visa to enter Colombia as missionaries may be a complicated matter. In some cases language study has been finished in Costa Rica, and the visa still has not been granted, causing long delays in entering the country and beginning work. In other cases, missionaries have been reappointed to other Spanish-speaking fields when it seemed impossible to secure a visa.

The Glendon Klaassens were appointed to Colombia in December 1958. In August of the following year they were on their way to San Jose, Costa Rica, for a year in the language school. Months passed, and many requests were made to you readers to pray that their visa would be granted. Their term at the school was almost ended, and discussion was even under way as to what steps were to be taken if the visa were not granted. Then just two weeks before the date when they wished to leave for Colombia, their visa was granted. Christians had prayed, and God answered.

A WORD FROM THE KLAASSENS

August 19, 1960, will always remain a red-letter day in our lives because it was then that the Lord answered our prayer as we set our feet on Colombian soil for the first time. We praise the Lord for bringing us here without delay after our time of language study in Costa Rica, and also for His daily provisions in every aspect of our lives.

Many things have impressed us since our coming..... the beauty of the country, the courage and devotion to God of the believers, the challenge of the young people and children, the incredible ignorance of many Colombians of the truth of the Gospel, and the tremendous need for consecrated witness.

We are glad to join our co-workers in this great work. We come and begin, not as experts, but as those depending on strength and direction from God, looking for counsel to our co-workers, and needing your prayers. With the apostle we say, "...the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Our desire is that our lives may be the out-living of the in-living Christ for the praise of His glory.Glendon and Reitha Klaassen.



Reitha and Glen Mark and Steven

THE SOWER WENT FORTH.....



Don Carlos Sowing the Word

A simple country lady stopped peeling the potatoes she was preparing for lunch to look at the pictures in a magazine that the two people, who had appeared at her door, offered to her. When it was explained to her that this was God's message to us concerning His Son, she seemed interested. Cautiously, however, she said: "One can't be too careful what one buys these days, as there are communists about deceiving the people. Why, even here in Anolaima they have a school." When surprise was expressed by the visitors, she went on to explain that it was the Protestant School. Of course her two Protestant visitors were slightly amused by this, but stressed how important it was that she

should buy the Word of God to know the truth. She bought it, and with that sale the campaign to sell the Scriptures in the town of Anolaima was begun.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Hurtado, representatives of the American Bible Society office in Bogotà, spent three weeks with the Mennonite Mission to direct a campaign to sell the

Bible and Bible portions in every home in the surrounding towns. Over 4,000 Gospels and Gospel portions in addition to Bibles and New Testaments, were sold in nine towns and in the surrounding rural areas. A large majority of the people bought something, but where no one was home, or where they did not wish to buy, a Gospel was left as a gift.



And They Went Out...Two by Two

when it was explained to them that this was God's Word, they asked for more to read. Only in La Mesa was the distribution prohibited by the mayor. Mr. Hurtado has promised to return in a year to conduct a similar campaign. We trust in God's promise that His Word will not return unto Him void, and that many hearts will be touched by what they read.

The church members co-operated very well in this effort. Usually 16 to 20 people went out, two by two, to visit each home in every village. It was a blessing to those who participated as well as to those who for the first time were able to read the Word of God. Very little opposition was encountered. In La Florida, one of the young men was beaten, and several children tried to tear and burn some of the Gospels, but

STUDENT PASTOR RETURNS TO COLOMBIA

Armando Hernandez, former pastor of the Anolaima Church, has now finished his first two years in the Latin American Biblical Seminary in San Jose, Costa Rica, and plans to return to Colombia for vacation in December and January. He is the outstanding product of our churches so far, and is very dedicated in his service to the Lord. During these two months he will hold special meetings in the three churches and speak at the young people's retreat in January. We look forward to his visit with anticipation of great spiritual blessings.

IT'S WARM HERE

When it is cold in North America, it is warm in Colombia. That is the happy situation the Voluntary Service Workers will experience this winter in Colombia. In the past years, the V.S.'rs have come during the months of June, July and August, i.e., during vacation time in the States; but this year for the first time we will have them in December and January.

This arrangement will be ideal for farmers whose slack season is winter, and who would like to escape some sub-zero weather at the same time.

For the first time, the V.S.'rs will be married couples. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Deckert, and Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Deckert come from Richey, Montana, a beautiful place where the weather goes way below zero and the snow piles high.

Much work opportunity awaits them....pruning and budding trees, painting, repair of buildings and furniture, farming and general upkeep. They will also have the opportunity to visit churches, Colombian homes, towns and cities, to eat new and strange foods, and to be a blessing to missionaries and to many Colombian children and adults.

"UNCLE" CORNELIUS KLAASSEN MEETINGS

Arriving in Cachipay from meetings in other parts of Colombia was Rev. Cornelius Klaassen,

former missionary in Colombia and Ecuador, who is now devoting his time to conducting evangelistic meetings in Spanish-speaking countries. For five days he conducted evening meetings in the Anolaima and Cachipay churches, and afternoon meetings in La Mesa. He also spoke in five chapel periods at the Cachipay school.

We praise the Lord for the interest shown during these meetings, the good attendance, and for several who came to accept Christ as their Saviour. The coming of Rev. Klaassen was a special treat to the Glendon Klaassens who had not seen "Uncle Cornelius" for six years.

A REAL TURN-ABOUT-FACE

Misael Lugo, 22 years of age, hadn't really planned on finding himself in a Christian home and attending church. But God's hand was upon his life. During the Holy Week services, he was saved. The musical talent once used in playing the guitar for parties and dances now found a place in the church's musical program as he sings and is learning to play the trumpet. His life of drunkenness and worldly pleasures now is one filled with the Spirit and occupied in evangelization and other church activities.



A New Creature

His favorite verse is John 5:39; "Search the scriptures". From the time of his conversion he has been doing just that, and soon he wanted to give a short message in church. He has continued growing in the Christian faith, and in January plans to enter Bible Institute to prepare himself for the Christian ministry.

Also beginning his first year of ministerial training will be Telmo Moreno, young member of the Cachipay congregation. Both of these young men will attend the Christian and Missionary Alliance Institute in Armenia.

HULDAH MYERS LEAVES FOR FURLOUGH

Completing her first term of work in Colombia and leaving for the U.S. on November 25 was Huldah Myers. She plans to spend some time in Florida, Virginia, and Quakertown, Pennsylvania. During the spring months she will be in Omaha, Nebraska. Her address for the present will be c/o Verna Keiser, Star Route, Quakertown, Pennsylvania.



Miss Huldah

Huldah will be greatly missed by the children of the school, for she is especially dear to each of them. She has also been a faithful advisor to the young people's society, and worked diligently with them in preparation for their retreat in January.

OUR DAILY BREAD

"Sometimes there is nothing in the house to eat during the day, but always before nightfall, we have all had something. A neighbor may bring in a bowl of soup, or my husband may come with a little he has earned, or I may have been able to sell one of the little things I have crocheted. God never leaves us without anything." These were the words of the Senora Paca, one of the more recent Cachipay believers, when she had come one morning to return a book of embroidery patterns that she had borrowed.

Life has never been easy for her and her family, yet this morning she was very happy. About two weeks before her husband, Charles, who has always had such a problem with drunkenness, made a commitment to Christ. For the two years that she had known the Gospel herself, she had been praying for him, and at last it seemed that he had really made a new start.

From her own experience she knew how many pitfalls and temptations there were for the new Christian. Her husband, his family, her friends, and neighbors all told her that she was wrong to be interested in the Bible and the Protestant Church. Yet, within her heart she felt a satisfaction and an assurance that at last she had found the truth which kept her pressing on in her new life.



"He Has Blessed Us So"

One by one she saw her prayers answered. She felt the help of God in almost impossible situations. She was strengthened in her faith as she understood more of the Bible. Although the support of her five little children rested almost entirely on her, God never failed. She tried one thing and another and at present is doing knitting, crocheting, and embroidery at home while caring for the children. Her beautiful handwork is worth far more than she is able to get from it, yet she does earn enough from it to help feed the family.

The children have really learned what Jesus meant as He taught his disciples to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." The Senora Paca went on to say, "Even little Ricardito who is only four has learned that he must pray to his Heavenly Father when there is nothing to eat. He may go off and start to say, 'Our Father who art in Heaven,' or he may come to me and say, 'Mama, Let's pray.' Then when something comes, I say, 'See, this is what God sent,' and again we bow our heads and give thanks."

As she left, she added, "God has been so good to us, He has blessed us so much."

THIS AND THAT

Receiving baptism and being accepted as church members on October 2 were 5 from La Mesa and 7 from Cachipay. The same day 18 children were presented to the Lord in La Mesa, and communion was celebrated in all 3 churches.

Beginning construction of a new church building are the members of the Cachipay congregation. The first building, erected 10 years ago, was only a roof supported by rough-hewn logs. Later a simple room was built as a temporary measure. Now there is great enthusiasm among the members at the prospect of a permanent building.

Making plans for their second annual spiritual retreat to be held in Cachipay in January are the young people of the Mennonite churches in Colombia.

Spending their first furlough in Newton, Kansas are Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Flickinger, Ronald, Daniel, and John. Their address is 506 S.E. Second.

Journeying to Ibague to get to know their place of future work and to meet with the staff in making plans for next year at the Normal School were the Glendon Klaassens. They were accompanied by Gerald Stucky.

Traveling to Girardot to participate in a Spiritual Retreat sponsored by the Presbyterian young people, Nov. 4-6, were a group of 20 from the Cachipay congregation. Gerald Stucky was one of the speakers.

Taking advantage of a holiday for an outing at the Cachipay school were members of the World Wide Evangelism Crusade Churches in Bogotá, and the fourth year Secondary students of the Colegio Americano, also in Bogota.

Vacationing along the Magdalena River which they traveled by paddle-wheel steam boat, and along the coast of Colombia were the Arthur Keisers.

PRAYER REQUESTS

THANK HIM for the opportunity of placing portions of scripture in many new homes during the scripture selling campaign
for the many invitations our evangelists are receiving to conduct services in private homes
for the health and strength He gives to the missionaries to do the daily tasks before them
for the new building being erected in Cachipay
for the granting of the Klaassens visa.

PRAY FOR the Young People's retreat to be held in January
Armádo Hernandez who will spend two months with the churches
Huldah Myers as she leaves for furlough, that she will be supplied with new physical strength
the believers in our churches, that they might be a powerful witness for Christ
the children of the boarding school, that as they go to their homes for vacation, they might give a strong Christian testimony to unsaved loved ones
workers, that the Lord of the harvest might send forth into this, His harvest field.

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