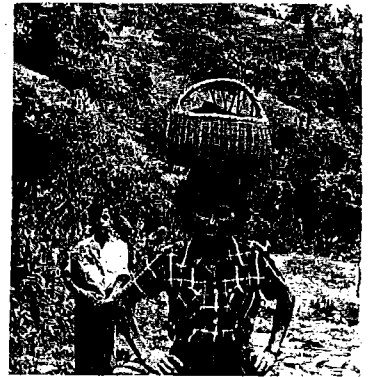


December 1, 1954

NUMBER TEN

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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### GREETINGS

We know of no better opportunity than this to wish our readers a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with His blessings. Please accept our sincere gratitude for your prayers and missionary giving without which this witness could not continue.

### VOLUNTARY SERVICE WORKERS LEAVE

After several weeks of sacrificial work, enriching and novel experiences, and new friendships, the 1954 voluntary service workers returned to the States.

First to leave on August 19 was Orrine Langenegger, now a student at Grace Bible Institute in Omaha. Eileen Myers left on September 16 for MCC headquarters in Akron, Pennsylvania. Violet Keiser, sister to Arthur, waited to welcome her new niece. She returned to Pennsylvania on November 26.

The greatest achievement during their stay was the publication in mimeographed form of the Catechism Workbook in Spanish. Translation work was done by Vernelle Yoder. Serving without pay, these young people have demonstrated again what it means to work in the Name of Christ.

This brings to 15 the number of short term workers who have served in Colombia since the program began. Previous volunteers were: Ellen Harder, Erna Friesen, Rena Dyck (Kroeker), Clara Dyck, Viola Lehman (Shelly), Norma Jean Sprunger, Arlene Rosenberger (Frei), Leo Driedger, Robert Lichty, Elsie Heppner, Marie Koreker, and Ernest Lichti.

#### KEISERS WELCOME DAUGHTER

Dark-haired Rebecca Anne is the newest member of our missionary family. She joins Eunice and Mary Beth to give Arthur and Helen Keiser a lovely trio of daughters. With her arrival in Bogota, November 1, our missionary family now numbers 21.

#### JANET SOLDNER RETURNS

On August 25 after nearly nine months of work, study and rest in the States, Janet Soldner disembarked in Santa Marta, Colombia. She was never more welcome. After a year of measles, typhoid fever, influenza, German measles, and mumps, we recognize that the nurse is the least dispensable member of our missionary staff.

#### FURLOUGH TIME

When this news bulletin reaches our readers, the Stucky family, Gerald, Mary Hope, Judith, Peter, Paul and Timothy, will be enroute to the States after their second term of more than four years of strenuous missionary activity in Colombia.

Besides active evangelistic efforts, Gerald and Mary Hope Stucky have been responsible for the home and school for children since its beginning in 1947. Gerald has been editor of the COLOMBIAN NEWS since its first issue in 1952.

They plan to spend the first few months of their furlough time in Berne, Indiana, where the three older children will be in school. The summer months will find them in Corona del Mar, California.

#### EIGHTH SCHOOL YEAR CLOSES

As this news sheet is being compiled, the teachers and children of the mission school are busily preparing themselves for the most important event of the year-- the last day of school exercises on November 30.

Even more important than the final examinations is the program for this occasion. Besides exhibiting their notebooks and handwork there will be skits, recitations and songs. Invitations have been mailed to parents and friends, many of whom are not evangelical believers. These programs provide an effective way to present the truths of the gospel to many who would never enter an evangelical church.

### YOUR SIN CANNOT BE HIDDEN

He looked just like all of the rest. He laughed, smiled and played energetically. One would never have guessed. But....the money in the pencil box was gone.

Everyone knew that fourteen demerits were given for the theft of one orange. What would be given to someone taking money? Who would dare to take money from the principal's office?

Everyone seemed surprised--and innocent. Who ever would do such a thing? No one cared to confess--and bear the disgrace.

But he who sins shall not prosper. When Mr. Stucky announced that there would be no pictures nor outing for anyone until the guilty confessed, 65 little detectives immediately got to work. Sixty-four were sure they were innocent.

"Ah," they recalled, "Jorge had carried an unusual amount of money on the last holiday trip. And he had been so free with it!" Wherever did he get as much as four pesos?

The children are merciless prosecutors. Jorge explained that he had one peso, that his father had sent two more, and that a friend had given him 50 cents. But one of the children added up the money they knew that he had spent and it totalled over five pesos. Where did the rest of the money come from?

The teacher talked to him for two hours. Why no, he had not taken any money. If he had done so, he would have confessed long ago. He was entirely innocent.

The principal talked to him for an hour. "No," he said, "I wouldn't think of doing such a thing. You gave me a peso the other day to buy socks, but I didn't buy them, so I still had the money."

But the record showed that no peso had been given, and the principal could remember no such transaction. He had clearly spent more money than he could account for having received.

When all of the circumstantial evidence was undeniable, he reluctantly confessed, "Why, yes, I did it. I did it on Saturday when no one was here." With that burden off his mind, he also confessed to the children his misdeed. Their expert detective work having borne fruit, they quickly forgave him. Mentally noting the shame and the punishment that a thief encounters, they decided never to be guilty of a similar misdeed.

### WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY BAPTISMS

On October 3, World Communion Sunday, nine new members were received into the Mennonite fellowship in Colombia through baptism. Eight of these became members of the Church in Cachipay. One was from La Mesa. Among those baptized were a blind man and his wife from Cachipay. Six were children from our school.

Baptism presupposes a clear-cut decision for Christ, several months of special church membership classes, and a life of separation from the world acceptable to the other members of the church.

The churches, not the mission, are responsible for the acceptance of baptismal candidates. Not all aspirants make the grade. Some have had to wait for several years. Baptism on this basis is the mark which separates one from his old life and associations, identifies him with the evangelical Christian community.

#### SCHOOL TO BE OPENED IN LA MESA

Children of Protestant parents find attendance at public school unbearable. In most cases both teachers and other students make school life distasteful. Just two weeks ago one small girl in La Mesa was severely punished by her teacher because she has been attending Sunday School. Her parents are Protestant.

As a result of such conditions few Protestant children are receiving an adequate education. The problem is tragically aggravated with the closing of over half of the evangelical schools by government action during the past six years.

In an effort to alleviate the situation in La Mesa, the local church is planning to collaborate with the mission in opening a small school in January. Classes will be open only for children whose parents are evangelical.

#### PRIEST ATTACKS WORK IN LA MESA

Few places have responded more readily to the gospel than a rural area known as La Concha situated some four miles from the city of La Mesa. New converts have been quick to bring relatives and friends to the services that they, too, might know the blessings of the new life in Christ.

Alarmed by the successful testimony of national believers there, the Roman Church authorities sent a visiting missionary priest to the region for several days of a special mission in October. Mass was celebrated in the ranch house of one of the local haciendas.

Among other things this man stated that there are three enemies of God and the Church: Communists, those who live in a state of common-law marriage, and Protestants. He further stated that despite the Biblical injunction against killing, in no sense was it a sin to eradicate Protestants.

Stirred by this sermon, a drunken fanatic armed with machete and flashlight spent part of one night searching for two of the leaders of the evangelical movement in that area. Fortunately his drunken state precluded his success.

As a result of these attacks some of the weaker ones no longer attend services. But the majority, true to the example of the early Christians, has become stronger.

#### MUMPS

Beginning the middle of August, our epidemic of mumps is still in progress. Little did we think that it would last that long. It appears that everyone is having his turn, from the youngest to the oldest, nurses included. Only a few have it at one time, and by now fewer than a third of the children have escaped.

### YOUNG PEOPLE GO TO RETREAT

Because the evangelical movement is so relatively small in Colombia, and because most of the congregations are isolated, many Christians feel quite alone and in a very unpopular minority.

In order to help combat this feeling as well as to bring new inspiration into the lives of our young people, seven of them were offered the opportunity to go to a young people's retreat in the city of Palmira.

The retreat, sponsored by the young people's organization known as "Embajadores Reales" is of interdenominational character and presents a deeply spiritual challenge.

The trip, 18 hours in length, was made in a chartered bus. The occasion was very happy for our young people for they had splendid fellowship with the other evangelicals traveling in the same vehicle. It was a time of almost continuous singing and rejoicing.

The conference brought new consecrations and a renewed vision of the Christian life. It was a great spiritual experience for those who attended.

### ANOLAIMA BUYS CHURCH HOME

After many years of meeting in private homes, the evangelical fellowship of Anolaima, aided by the church building revolving fund, has purchased a building and lot only one block from the town's central plaza. Once remodeled this building should adequately meet their worship and educational needs.

### COOPERATION IN GIRARDOT

For several months Alice Bachert has been working in Girardot, a progressive Magdalena River port some 50 miles from Cachipay. Demonstrating the unity of evangelical efforts in Colombia, Miss Bachert and a Presbyterian missionary nurse, also stationed there, recently rented living quarters in partnership.

Since both are nurses they find the present arrangement very convenient as far as their clinical work is concerned. Besides nursing, Miss Bachert is also engaged in children's evangelistic work.

With their parents consent a constantly growing group of children attended her classes each week. Recently, however, public school teachers became aware of what the children were doing. Under the threat of punishment and expulsion from school many of the children are no longer able to attend.

### MISSION ELECTS OFFICERS

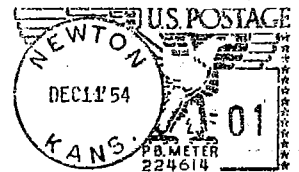
As a result of the recent reorganizational meeting of the missionary staff, Arthur Keiser was placed in charge of the institutional work of the mission replacing Gerald Stucky soon to leave on furlough. Vernelle Yoder was named recording secretary. LaVerne Rutschman continues as field secretary for the fiscal year beginning in September.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Thank God for His faithful guidance in this difficult epoch in the life of the Colombian Church.
2. Pray for the Confederation of Evangelical Colombian Churches soon to meet in their annual conference in Barranquilla.
3. Pray for the Stucky family on furlough that renewed fellowship, rest, and opportunities for service might be theirs.
4. Pray that the Colombian Foreign Office will grant visas to the Calvin Flickinger family now under appointment for Colombia.
5. Pray for the new believers who anticipate baptism in December.
6. Pray for your missionaries.

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