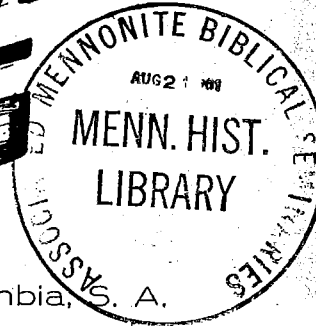


August 1, 1961

NUMBER THIRTY

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

CACHIPAY CONGREGATION DEDICATES NEW CHURCH



Approximately 150 people gathered on Thursday of Holy Week to dedicate the new church building built by the congregation in Cachipay. The dedication services were in charge of Gerald Stucky. The present pastor of this church, whom you see in the upper corner of this page, is Jose Miguel Pava.

The new building, with a seating capacity for 200, is a metal and brick structure with stone venier in the front as well as a large cross. It was built at an approximate cost of \$2,500 U.S. dollars of which about one-half was borrowed through Church Extension Services, Inc. The other one-half was raised locally. In Colombian money the building cost almost 20,000.00 pesos.

The present building replaces the one that was dedicated in September of 1952 which, because of the growth of the congregation, has become too small. Our prayer is that the church may continue to grow in numbers and that the members may become established in the faith.

"....And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved."
--Acts 3:47

FIRST WEDDING IN NEW CHURCH

A rather unusual and joyful April event for the members of the Cachipay Church was the marriage of Lilia Riaño and Alvaro Diaz. Since Protestant weddings are not recognized as legal by the Colombian government, this couple had previously been married by the Judge at the County Seat, Anolaima.

In a simple but impressive ceremony, Lilia and Alvaro repeated their vows before Gerald Stucky and the congregation. The presence of relatives and friends, who do not attend Protestant services except for occasions such as this, offered an opportunity to show how we need to begin a home with Christ as the Head.

1960 PROTESTANT CENSUS COUNT

The Evangelical Confederation of Colombia recently released the latest census which indicates that there are 33,156 baptized Protestant Church members in Colombia. This shows a rate of growth of 16 per cent per year for the last seven-year period. In 1953 the figure was 21,198.

The total Protestant community which includes church members, church school children, and "sympathizers" is estimated to be 1.17 per cent of the more than 14 million inhabitants of Colombia. Of the 193 ordained ministers that serve the congregations, 113 are Colombians.

FIFTH ANNUAL RETREAT

School vacation in July brought together to the Colegio grounds the Christians from our three Mennonite churches in this area. This Retreat, as in former years, was planned for the purpose of bringing about unity and understanding among the Church members.

Retreat leaders, Rev. Cornelius Klaassen and Rev. Carlos Hurtado, who were here to conduct special services last fall, returned to give daily Bible studies. The evening evangelistic services were in charge of Matilde de Hoyos, Pastor of the World Evangelization Crusade Church in Fontibón, a town near Bogotá.

As is true for retreaters in the States, eating becomes an important item. Mary Hope Stucky and Señora Eva, Mission cook, planned the meals which were enjoyed by the retreaters in the school dining room.



FAMILY REUNION

It is only natural to think that the best place to spend a summer vacation is at home, especially if you have been away from home for nearly two years.

For Judy and Pete Stucky the 30th of May was a long waited for day. In fact, they had already begun to look forward to the end of May last August when their parents left them in the States to continue their studies.

At 2:40 a.m. on the 30th of May, Judy and Pete boarded a plane in Indianapolis. They had an uneventful trip until they reached Miami. There Judy, much to her and Pete's embarrassment, had "heel trouble"! That is, the heel broke off of her shoe and she had to hunt around in her suitcase for another pair of shoes. At about 5:00 in the afternoon that same day they arrived in Bogotá. Waiting for them at the airport was the rest of the family and some friends. Needless to say, this was a very joyous reunion!

After having lived in the flat state of Indiana for nearly two years, Judy and Pete found Cachipay and the surrounding area even more mountainous than they remembered it. When the Jeep drove up in front of their house, all the children were out to welcome them home. Even the youngsters who had come since they left were out in "full force" to greet them.



Timothy, Paul, Judith
and Peter Stucky



Since arriving they have been doing many different things. Pete says that his work is as varied as the designs of the Kaleidoscope. He has been anything from a plumber, to a mechanic, to a tree pruner! Judy has been busy sewing and teaching Spanish to the Voluntary Service Workers, Jim and Marilyn Yoder.

Delighted to be home again, the only lament from Pete and Judy is that the summer will end too soon, and they will again have to leave to return to school.

WELCOME VOLUNTARY SERVICE WORKERS



Jim and Marilyn Yoder and their three children, Becky, Tom and Sarah, are serving as our VSers this summer. Already the Mission family feels that they have become a part of us and we know that we will enjoy having them spend several months at "El Recreo".

Almost immediately, Jim and Marilyn remarked about the fact that "life is different" in this beautiful mountain setting. The poverty of these country people with their poor living conditions and lack of sanitation were some of the things that impressed them most. As teachers they are very much aware of the poor facilities available for education and the importance of our Mission's schools and churches in this area.

The Yoder family will be moving to Bogotá in August where Jim will serve as principal in the English School, Nueva Granada. Marilyn will be teaching the third grade. We will miss them when they leave here but we know that their Christian witness is also needed in the city school system.

.....Alice Bachert, formerly working in this area but at present doing missionary work in Barranquilla, sends this account of.....

AN EARLY START

No, this is not about the early workman who gets his work done before the sun's hot rays begin. This is quite expected in a tropical place such as Barranquilla. I am referring to a little girl who wants to give her heart to the Lord and His service at the age of five. She is now listening and learning instead of speaking. Her lack of teeth have recently made it impossible for her to speak except with a lisp. Ildita's rosebud mouth goes into contortions to make herself understood and finally asks what to do, saying, "Now I can't sing like before, but I can whistle one tune that everybody likes, namely, 'El Vino a Mi Corazón'". (He Has Come Into My Heart).

This experience, perhaps, is a good measure for Ildita, because now she really wants to do what is right instead of inventing stories for her little friends who are willing to accept all the little white lies she was able to put across to them. She has even learned to pray with her eyes closed. "But why should I have to do it when the Lord is always here with us?" she questioned. There is a reason--we want Him to have all our love and all our attention. Her willing answer was, "Very well, then, that is the way I will do it." We have all learned something these days from Ildita's loving obedience.

FIELD TRIP

Down, down, down backed the Panel, but it wanted to go up to Cachipay. The rocky road, slippery from the morning dew, made this uphill climb impossible. Calvin Flickinger, who had promised the Anolaima school children a trip to Bogotá, knew that the youngsters would be waiting impatiently. Luis Correa, maintenance worker at the Mission, sensed the difficulty and came with the Jeep to assist on this upward climb.



An hour later, as the Panel turned the corner to the street that leads to the Anolaima Church-school home, shouts of welcome greeted it. Hurriedly, the children climbed into the truck. A silent pause while Calvin asked the Lord for protection and guidance during the

day, was soon uplifted as they motored, through the bumpy streets and onto the curving mountain road toward Bogotá. For some of the children this trip was a new experience so little wonder that many admiring remarks were heard as they drove along the smooth hard-top on the final stretch to the city.

In Bogotá the modern city streets led the children to the National Park for a picnic dinner, the International Exposition, and the modern airport. It was apparent, however, that the highlight of the day was the time the youngsters were permitted to spend in the Dime Store. There was so much to see, and to finally decide which candy and notions to take home was difficult. Slowly, each tired child, carrying a little sack, climbed into the Panel to begin the two and one-half hour ride home.

These children were transferred into a New World for one day, a World that enlightens their understanding of the modern way of living. Man-made roads may lead to a better knowledge of today's civilization. May these children also experience that Jesus, who said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life," is the only road that leads to salvation and heaven.

THIS AND THAT

We extend "congratulations" to Glendon and Reitha Klaassen of Ibagué upon the birth of their third son, James Andrew, on June 23. James' two brothers are Mark and Steven.

Returning in April to begin their second term of service were Calvin and Sidonia Flickinger and their four children. They are the houseparents in the Girls Dormitory and Calvin is teaching in the sixth-grade program.

Mrs. Hector Valencia (Mary Becker) of Bogotá was our speaker during the week of special meetings in May. Her illustrated talks on "Heroes of the Bible" were greatly appreciated by the children. The closing program, centered on the theme, "Jesus, the Light of the World" was an impressive and heart-searching climax to the week filled with spiritual blessings.

Jaime Caro, a second-year pastoral student studying in the Bible Institute at Palmira, is working in the LaMesa Church during the six-month school vacation.

Gerald Stucky attended the Second Latin American Evangelical Conference which met in Lima, Peru, from July 29 to August 6.

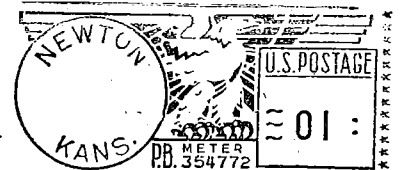
PRAYER REQUESTS

THANK HIM for the new church building in Cachipay.
for the safe return of the Flickinger family.
for the privilege of having Judith and Peter Stucky home.
for the help of the voluntary service workers.
for spiritual blessings during the Retreat.

PRAY FOR Huldah Meyers as she presents our work to the home churches.
our student pastors that their time of service to the churches may be a spiritual blessing both to them and the churches.
the ones who made decisions during the Retreat that they may be more effective witnesses in their home communities.
the teachers during these closing months of the school year.

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