

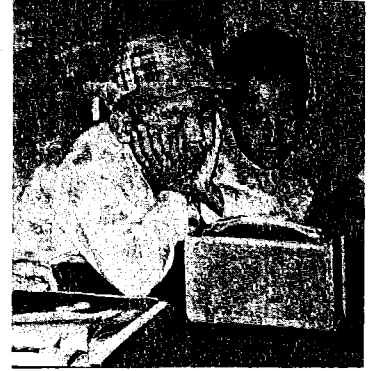
August 1, 1962

NUMBER THIRTY-THREE

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

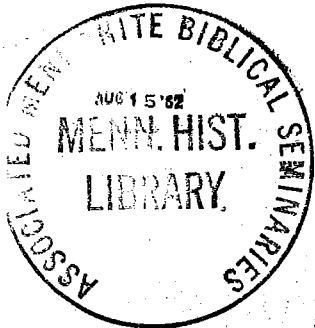
COLOMBIAN NEWS

Cachipay, Cund., Colombia, S. A.



INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA

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THIRTEEN YOUNG PEOPLE BAPTIZED



On June the 30th, on the last day of our annual retreat, thirteen young people openly confessed Christ as their Savior and were baptized and accepted as members in our churches. This brings the total of baptized during the last church year to 23 persons, and total baptized by our churches in Colombia in 15 years to 238 souls.

The office of Information of the Confederation of Evangelicals in Colombia states that in 1953 there were in Colombia 12,000 baptized believers. In 1960 there were 33,000. The percentage of increase was said to be 16% per year, making the growth

of the Colombian evangelical church one of the fastest in the world.

By 1952 our churches in Colombia had baptized 61 people. In the last 10 years 177 people have confessed Christ through baptism. The rate of increase by baptisms has been 29% per year. If every person baptized would become an enthusiastic evangelist, a faithful church supporter, and would live true to the gospel he professes, this would be wonderful. Unfortunately this is not true in Colombia--or elsewhere. Some become lukewarm, some indifferent, others move away, some die--at least physically.

We marvel at what God is doing in Colombia in spite of human frailties. Prayers are being answered--but there are still multitudes of souls without the gospel of Christ.

Our missionary staff at present consists of two couples and four single ladies. There are a number of consecrated national girls that are doing fine work in our schools, but there is a deep need for consecrated young men--both national and foreign--to serve in our churches as pastors and evangelists. The harvest is really great--but laborers are very few.

COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT GRANTS ACCREDITATION

On May 25, 1962, the Ministry of Education of the Colombian government officially granted to our Colegio Americano (the name of our mission school) in Cachipay government accreditation of its school and studies.

Protestant schools in Colombia have long been a necessary and integral part of the Mission program for the evangelization of the country. These schools have been needed because of the intense persecution and discrimination against evangelical children in the public and private schools.



Rev. Stucky receives certificate of Accreditation

Protestant schools have made a tremendous contribution by educating hundreds and thousands of children--in a country where only about one-half of the people can read and write. These schools have developed the leaders of the evangelical church, and have helped to solidify the gains of evangelism. Great numbers of school children have also learned to know the gospel in their classrooms and have been baptized into the Christian faith.



Consecrated teachers pass inspection

In spite of the great contribution that our schools have made in the educational field, they have often been fanatically opposed, and during the last 15 years many scores of schools have been forcefully closed. In 1955

great pressure was put upon our school and home for children of parents with leprosy in Cachipay to force it to close.

But--God had a different program. Through His help and the help of the American Embassy, in 1955 the Ministry of Education granted our school the first "License to function" given to a protestant primary school (according to the government officials).



Everything was inspected

In May of this year government inspectors came to carefully evaluate our school. They examined the teachers, the books, the classrooms, the archives, the play grounds, the library, the shop, the administration, and the children. They asked a multitude of questions and they carefully wrote a lengthy report on all that they learned.

The inspectors concluded that the conditions in our school and the plant in general were excellent and in some cases superior. As a result of their recommendation, the school received its official accreditation on the 25th of May.

What does it mean? It means that the children in this school can freely transfer from our institution to any other government approved school. It means that the quality of instruction meets government standards. It means that there are now at least 6 out of possibly 150 protestant schools in the country that have government recognition. It also means that the Lord has blessed us abundantly--and that many of the poor and underprivileged people are receiving and will receive the same quality of education given to the rich and the privileged.



The School Passed the Test

INCIDENTALLY--

Telephone service has been established between our Mission headquarters in Cachipay and the outside world. Now you can communicate directly with your missionaries from the States for about \$7.00 U.S.!

Vernelle Yoder has finished her studies at Goshen College and has qualified for her teacher's certificate in the State of Indiana. She will probably be available to the churches this fall, and return to the field the latter part of the year.

Visiting the Mennonite Mission for three weeks was the Edward Stucky family from Berne, Indiana. Edward is a brother of Gerald, and is the postmaster in Berne.

RETREAT REFRESHES AND RECREATES



People came happily

his family on the same night. Glen and his wife Reitha have been working at the Normal School in Ibague for the past two years.

The day's schedule was well organized supplying time for personal devotions, group devotions, Bible studies, a panel discussion, sing-time, a business session, and, of course, recreation.

For the evening service, a Christian film was shown each night. Also for three nights there were Bible quizzes in which different retreaters took part. There was also a short time of "Singspiration" and special music. Climaxing the service was the message by the Rev. Mr. Guevara.



Retreaters Discuss Problems

Simultaneously with the Bible studies for adults were held children's meetings in charge of Reitha Klaassen.

As a special feature, after the Saturday night meeting, a campfire service was held in which various people had the opportunity to rededicate their lives to the Lord.



Bible Knowledge Competition

The Holy Spirit spoke to a number of the children and it was a real joy to all to have a number of decisions made to receive Christ.

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK IN SCHOOL

The first week in May a series of special children's meetings were held in our school and home for children of parents who have leprosy in Cachipay.

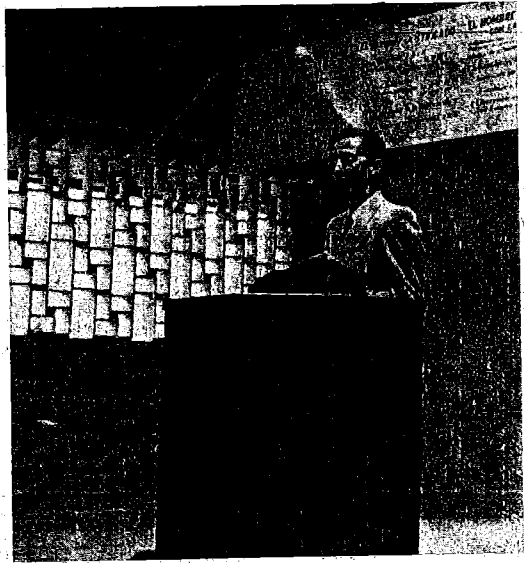
The spirit-led messages brought by Mrs. Patricia Schulert of the Latin American Mission touched the hearts of all who heard them. She was assisted by Miss Martha Guerrero.

COLOMBIA'S DELEGATE TO CONFERENCE

The Mennonite Churches in Colombia will be represented at the Mennonite World Conference in Kitchener, Ontario, in August by Mr. Armando Hernandez. Mr. Hernandez will be graduating from the Latin American Mission Seminary in Costa Rica at the end of this year.

Before leaving for Costa Rica, the Anolaima Church had been served by this consecrated young man whom we gladly send as the chosen delegate of the Colombian Church.

Miss Vernelle Yoder, now home on furlough, will serve as his interpreter. They will also attend the General Conference in Bethlehem, Penn.



Armando Hernandez

SOMETHING TO PRAY ABOUT

During the last three months our two national pastors, and one missionary pastor have all found it necessary to resign their pastorates for personal reasons.

The resignation of Pastor Rodriguez in La Mesa was effective July 15, and the resignation of Pastor Pava in Cachipay was effective on July 31.

Brother Calvin Flickinger found it necessary to leave for the States during the month of June. Readers have known of the illness of Mrs. Calvin Flickinger who left for the States in January. Her health has not been sufficiently restored to make it possible for her to return and thus Mr. Flickinger also found himself obligated to leave the people whom he had learned to love here. Calvin had been in charge of the Anolaima school and was also pastor of the church.

Voluntary Service workers--Peter and Claire Harder could not remain in Colombia because of their inability to obtain a permanent visa. Alice Bachert also left for furlough in July.

Our Colombian Mission staff is reduced to a mere skeleton. The Lord, however, is not biting His fingernails--as someone has said. Our extremity is God's opportunity. Juan Garzon will pastor the Anolaima church. Judith and Peter Stucky have both returned to the field and are helping out actively in the work of the school and churches. Lewis Sprunger from Berne, Indiana has come as a voluntary service worker. There is a good staff of Colombian girls who are working as teachers. BUT PRAY--that the Lord will raise up dedicated men to lead in the work of the churches and that they will be able to replace the pastors.



Juan Garzon

PRAYER AND PRAISE

THANK HIM for souls saved during the annual retreat.

for the thirteen young people who had the courage and the desire to be baptized.

for an increased sense of responsibility among the nationals.

for the government approval of the school in Cachipay.

PRAY FOR the Flickingers as they make their new adjustments in the States.

Alice Bachert and Vernelle Yoder as they witness on their furlough in the churches.

Armando Hernandez as he goes to the Mennonite Conferences--that the experience may mean great things for Christ's Kingdom.

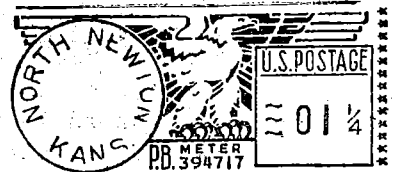
the missionary staff and the national Christians as they face a tremendous challenge with a very small staff.

yourselves--that our churches in the States may have the vision and the willingness to carry the gospel to the world.

COLOMBIAN NEWS
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General Conference Mennonite Church
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