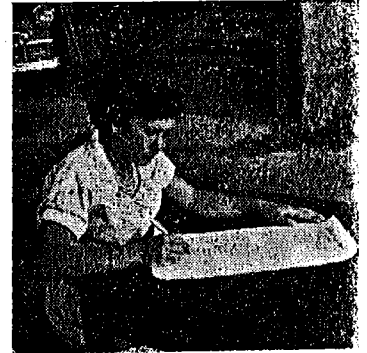


THIS IS A
CALL TO PRAYER
FOR
THE LORD'S WORK
IN
COLOMBIA

COLOMBIAN NEWS

Cachipay, Cund., Colombia, S. A.



INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA

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NEW STATION OPENED IN SAN JAVIER

In the last issue of Colombian News we told you of the plans to open a new station in La Mesa.

Up to this time it has not been possible to find a suitable fouse in La Mesa. But the Lord has opened the doors in San Javier (a small town near La Mesa and the railroad center for La Mesa) for us to open a new work.

Miss Alice Bachert, who in her twenty years of missionary work has pioneered in the opening of a number of new stations, and has done an excellent piece of work in Anolaima, has gone to open the new work.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE WORKERS ARRIVE

For the third successive year, young people from our churches in the United States and Canada have come to serve the Lord by helping in the work here in Colombaa.

This year two girls have come. Miss Marie Kroeker of Henderson, Nebraska, and a recent graduate of Bethel College, and Miss Elsie Heppner of Waldheim, Sask., Canada. Miss Heppner is a graduate of the

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sewing, painting, planting and pruning trees, teaching, counselling, general repair work, etc. Although the material contribution of the workers has been very real and worth while, the intangible contribution that they make to the life of the mission and to the missionaries has been perhaps even of greater value.

THE NEW DINING HALL AND WASHING PAVILION

With the sending out of this issue of the Colombian News we are in the process of moving into our new building constructed as a dining hall.

It has a large room that will seat approximately 100 children, a large kitchen, store room, two dormitory rooms and a bath.

It has a water fountain for drinking purposes--an innovation in this part of the country.

The washing pavilion (some might simply call it a wash house) is a very simple small structure containing but one enclosed room for ironing and keeping clothes, with an open shed for the washing machines and a space to dry clothes on rainy days--of which there are many.

By the time this issue reaches you we hope to be using these new facilities.

THE RUTSCHMAN FAMILY RETURNS FROM FURLOUGH

At the close of the month of June, we were happy to welcome again to Colombia Rev. and Mrs. LaVerne A. Rutschman and their three sons David, Robert, and Thomas. The latter was born during the furlough so this will be his first trip to Colombia.

The Rutschmans have spent nine months in the States visiting their relatives and friends as well as doing much deputation work in the churches.

We are glad to have them back, refreshed and ready to again take their part in the spread of the gospel in Colombia.

EVANGELICAL DENTAL STUDENTE HELPS MISSION

Formerly when a child came to the nurse crying with a toothache it created quite a problem. It meant a choice of three things: An hours walk over a muddy and sticky road to see the public health dentist in Anolaima; a visit to the dentist in Cachipay on Sunday afternoon--since Sunday is the only day of the week that there is a dentist in the nearby town; or a trip to the captial city fifty miles away.

As a result the children usually saw the dentist only in case of a real emergency. Most of our children have very poor teeth, either due to faulty diet which they had at home or because of neglect.

Our problem has been solved by the coming of a Christian dental student every couple of weeks. This means a 2 1/2 hour trip for him from Bogotá. He uses the second-hand portable dental equipment which the mission purchased recently. He has an almost endless amount of work before him.

As an example: A six year old girl came as a new boarding student this year who had to have eleven teeth pulled, some of these being her permanent teeth. She had four lower teeth left with which to masticate

We are very grateful to Mr. Quintana for his kind services. It means a lot to us to have a Christian dentist come out here to the mission. Mr. Quintana is also quite a leader among young people in the Colombian Evangelical groups.

A CHECK-UP FOR LEPROSY

sick with leprosy?" Yes, our children are given periodical examinations. They are examined for spots and whenever found, laboratory tests are done to find out whether the bacillus has entered the body.

The first few years the Inter-American Public Health Service helped us in doing the laboratory tests. Two years ago the Ministry of Hygiene started sending out visiting physicians to check the well children of leper parents.

Due to the lack of funds the government no longer sends out visiting physicians. Who would examine our children now?

Dr. A. Jasbon, a long time friend to our children and sympathetic to our work from the beginning, offered to come at his own expense. Dr. Jasbon, formerly was one of the visiting physicians but now he is in private practice, specializes in skin diseases, particularly in leprosy.

Dr. Jasbon examined all of our children last month. Through these regular check-ups, none of our children could possibly have the disease without us knowing about it. If a child shows signs of possible illness he is immediately given treatment and in that way cured at an early stage.

PLANS FOR A CHURCH BUILDING BEING MADE

If you have any ideas or plans as to what you want the new church building to be like in Cachipay, please send them to us at once.

With the arrival of a car-load of sand, cement blocks will begin to be made for the construction.

Our crude meeting place which was built in two days has served us well, but we are trusting the Lord for a more suitable place in which to worship.

CATECHETICAL CLASSES GROW

At the present time we have four catechetical classes which meet each week.

A total of sixteen are receiving special instructions in the faith as part of their preparation for the baptismal service planned for Oct. Of this number five are from La Esperanza, five from Cachipay, and six are children from the school.

PERSECUTIONS CONTINUE

The persecution continues in Colombia against the Evangelicals. In the month of April there were 15 documented cases. We will share one of them with you in order that you may see the great need for upholding them in prayer.

On April 13, 1952, two gunmen attacked a Protestant Church in Armenia. The following is an eye witness account as given by Sr. Marco Tulio Escamilla:

"Sunday evening, April 13, 1952, at seven o'clock, we began our accustomed worship service in the chapel of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. . . After having sung hymns and read from the Word of God, we were making our offering. Some men whom I cannot identify came to the door of the church and shouted, 'Tonight we are going to shoot these Protestant sons of whores!'

"When they said that, I looked toward the door and saw one of the two attackers with a revolver in his hand, threatening the congregation. He was shouting, 'Protestant sons of whores! Bastards! Damned ones! Devils! Wretches!' and obscenities unworthy of the most foul mouth. Finally, seeing that we did not pay them any attention, one of

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"Sure enough, after a few moments, he turned his face toward the street and fired five shots at the pastor without looking in his direction. The shots were poorly aimed and went low, through the congregation. They did not strike Sr. Taba, but one of them wounded the señorita Luz Marina Posada, who was seated in one of the pews nearest the pulpit, in the right arm. It was only by the grace of God that there were not more people wounded. The holes of the other four shots are visible in the wall of the sanctuary behind the pulpit and in one of the pews.

"The consternation which reigned may be imagined, for we feared that others had been wounded. It went to the young lady who was wounded but was scarcely able to reach her for the multitude of people who had come into the sanctuary to see what had happened."

CLORINATING SYSTEM TO BE INSTALLED

Through a generous grant from the Helen Essylston Wood Memorial fund, we have been enabled to buy a water clorinator to help make the river water safe for drinking.

Although many people here drink unboiled river water, it is considered to be a source for dysentery and disease. The water supply for our school and plant in Cachipay is the river and what the Lord sends in the form of rain. The river water to be safe must be filtered and boiled.

The clorinating system will make it possible for the children to drink tap water any where on the farm and school, ...it will also now be safe to sing while taking a shower.

TAPE RECORDINGS BRING BLESSINGS

For about a year we have been using tape recordings to communicate with our families in the States and to make programs for the use in churches in Pennsylvania and Indiana.

The recorders that are in use here are the low priced Ampro machine that makes tapes at the speed of 3 3/4 inches per second and records two full hours on a seven inch reel.

It is our desire to develop a greater interest in missions in the home churches thru up to the minute news of what is going on in Colombia.

The missionaries too have been greatly blessed by listening to sermons and special programs from the home churches. The tapes of encouragement that come weekly from families and friends have been used of God to strengthen us in our work.

Churches that are equipped with public address systems and have access to tape recorders that would like to hear occasionally from the field can arrange for this by writing to us.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

1. Pray that the church building plans be according to His will and that any Catholic opposition may be overcome with love.
2. Pray that the Lord may work a good work in the hearts of those who have accepted Christ as Savior and are attending Catechetical classes.
3. Continue to pray for the Christians in Colombia who are being tried by the fires of persecution.
4. Pray that the opening of San Javier may be attended with much blessing, and that Miss Bachert may be strengthened and encouraged.
5. Pray that permission may be granted for the entrance of Vernelle Yoder as a teacher in our school.
6. Give thanks for God's marvelous care over us and for the good relations that we have enjoyed in Cachipay.
7. Pray for each one of the missionaries.