

AUGUST 1965

NUMBER FORTY-TWO

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

COLOMBIAN NEWS

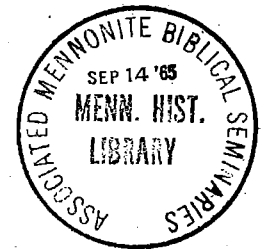
Cachipay, Cund., Colombia, S. A.



Therefore Pray

INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA

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I N D E D I C A T I O N



Gerald

countless number of Colombian lives that have been touched for Jesus Christ by the Stuckys in their twenty-year ministry in Colombia. This forty-second issue of the Colombian News is dedicated to the Stuckys whose work and labor of love in Colombia has not been in vain.

Twenty years ago a young couple, commissioned by the General Conference Board of Missions, entered Colombia to begin a new mission work. Following a year of Spanish language study, Gerald and Mary Hope Stucky made their way to Cachipay, a small town two hours by car from Bogotá. It was just below Cachipay in a large house that the Stuckys began a small school with children of leprous parents.

Through deep dedication and hard work the Stuckys have seen the Colegio Americano grow to an enrollment of 140 students. Under the leadership of Gerald and Mary Hope another school was begun in La Mesa and four churches founded in Cachipay, Anolaima, La Mesa, and Bogotá, with still a fifth church being started in Ibagué.



Mary Hope

STUCKYS TO LEAVE COLOMBIA

Rev. and Mrs. Gerald Stucky announced their resignation from the Colombian mission in a letter written to the mission board. Rev. Stucky has received and accepted the call to become the co-pastor of the First Mennonite Church in Berne, Indiana. The Stuckys express their intentions and their gratitude to the Board of Missions.

We would, therefore, like to ask for an indefinite leave of absence from the work in Colombia and the work under the Board of Missions, to be effective on November 30, 1965. We have only profound gratitude to God and to the Board of Missions, to Andrew Shelly as executive secretary, and to our co-workers, for the 22 years of cordial relationships and blessings received in our work together in God's kingdom. Thank you so much for your prayerful support, understanding, and consideration that you have shown us as we ventured for God in Colombia.

Sincerely in Christ,

Gerald and Mary Hope Stucky

CO-WORKER PAYS TRIBUTE
by
Janet Soldner

At the end of this year, Gerald and Mary Hope Stucky will leave Colombia to become associated in the ministry of the First Mennonite Church at Berne, Indiana.

The members of the Colombian church and the missionary staff have a very warm spot in their hearts for the Stuckys, and it will be with mixed feelings that we will bid them farewell.



The Original Three Missionaries

During the twenty years that the Stuckys have been in charge of the children's work at Cachipay, they have been parents to some five hundred children. We will not forget how happy the children were to hang on the arms of Gerald, several others skipping alongside, their eyes sparkling. On Saturday morning, you would hear them say, "Don Gerardito, will you take me along to market?" They have learned to play wholesome games and to become good sports when Gerald played with them. Crowded around his desk are children chatting about this and that. Especially do they like to chat when the missionary wants to prepare a sermon or study the Sunday school lesson.



A Familiar Scene

Who could count the number of times that Mary Hope healed the hurts that little ones had from time to time as they learned to live together with many other children. Or who could count the times a girl asked to borrow a needle. No one can know how many times a week the boys asked her for shoe tacks or shoestrings. It would be difficult to measure the number of miles Mary Hope has walked from her house to the kitchen to check on the cooks, or to see that they would have dinner on time and that they would not waste food. Though the steps of



Welcoming Guests

a busy day often seemed endless, we learn from Job, "Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?" Mary Hope with her soft and loving voice has helped the children solve many quarrels and has encouraged many a reconciliation.

The Stuckys have gained the love and respect of the children, even at times when we have seen them talk with their little army of boys (and sometimes girls included) standing against the wall of the Stuckys' house or against the pine trees!



Timmy, Judy, and Paul
(Peter in U.S.A.)

The Stuckys have four children, Judith Anne, who recently graduated from Bluffton College; Peter, a student at Goshen College; Paul, who graduated from Berne High School; and Timothy, who has been residing in Colombia with his parents. Throughout the years the Stucky children have contributed much to the missionary endeavor and have worked with their parents in a cooperative way.

Our school at Cachipay and our churches are a monument of the Stuckys' consecration and devotion to God and the Colombian people. Their success is a result of united compassion, prayer, and the giving of themselves in service. The work will go on, meeting the demands that are ever increasing in Colombia.

Although the Stuckys' leaving will mean a big vacancy, we wish them God's blessing in the new tasks they will be undertaking at Berne.

(Ed. note: Janet Soldner came to Colombia with the Stuckys twenty years ago. She remains to continue the work that she and the Stuckys began at that time.)



A Rare Moment

Reflections and Reactions of a Colombian Missionary

AFTER 20 YEARS

(The following was a taped interview with Gerald Stucky who was interviewed by Howard Habegger.)

Howard: "Gerald, what do you remember about your first year in Colombia?"

Gerald: "The first year in Colombia was used in language study. Besides the difficulty of learning a language, one thing stands out to me. I had a feeling I should go out and sell Bibles. I took some Bibles and Testaments and went from place to place, downtown in the shopping areas and into the marketplaces. The second thing that stands out in my mind was the first convert we had in our mission. He was a young man of about eighteen years of age, who later left Colombia and is today a big plastic manufacturer in the United States."

Howard: "Gerald, were you ever tempted to leave Colombia during the years of the political-religious war, called the 'Violence'?"

Gerald: "Never! I don't think it really ever occurred to me that I would leave

Colombia because of the persecution or violence. I remember that one of my fellow missionaries thought we would have to leave Colombia momentarily. Somehow, I always felt that this thing was going to clear up and that God would take care of the problem."

Howard: "As you look back over the past twenty years, what would you consider your greatest disappointment and greatest joy while serving in Colombia?"

Gerald: "I suppose the greatest disappointment was the feeling that although one has worked and tried, one is always disappointed that one has not accomplished something more or something better. As for my greatest joy, I would think it is to see some of the children that we have had in the Colegio--now grown up and members of the Bogotá church, or studying in the Normal School in Ibagué. It is wonderful to see before our eyes some of the visible results that the Lord has given to us."

Howard: "What is the future of the evangelical work in Colombia, especially our Mennonite work, as you see it?"

Gerald: "I think at the present time Colombia is at the place of greatest opportunity. Although it makes one feel sad to be leaving at this time, nevertheless, I am grateful to God for my fellow missionaries. The staff we have at present, I think is splendid and very capable, full of youth and vitality and a desire to serve God. I think our Colombian co-workers have shown a wonderful spirit in the work. I am confident there will be real progress in the next five years."

Howard: "One final question. What word of counsel would you share with your co-workers as you leave Colombia?"

Gerald: "That's a difficult question to answer. But it seems to me that if there is anything I would urge upon my fellow workers it is this: put first things first! Keep up your devotional life. Walk with God. Stay humble. Keep your aim clear. If you can keep your primary aims clear in your own spiritual life, your passion for people, your desire to see the church grow, then, I believe that God is going to bless abundantly."

FUTURE CHURCH LEADERS

One of the greatest challenges of the missionary is to help train future leaders in the country in which he serves. In Colombia, one of these efforts is in the training of twelve of our Mennonite young people at the evangelical teachers' training school in Ibagué.

Our students in Ibagué are active in many campus activities such as sports, music, and student council. They also participate in the Ibagué church, in which they



Training in Ibagué
the spiritual life of the school besides assisting in the Ibagué church, in which they are serving in many ways.

PASTOR AND DEACONESS VISIT U.S.A.

The Mennonite churches of Colombia sent to the General Conference two outstanding young Christians, Luis Correa, former pastor of the Cachipay church, and Elda Aragon, deaconess of the Bogotá church.

Luis and Elda not only attended the conference sessions, but are visiting and speaking extensively in conference churches in the Midwest and East.



DAYS OF DECISION



Preaching



Baptizing



Teaching

The annual convention of the Mennonite church of Colombia proved to be "Days of Decision." Everyone who attended the four-day convention left with a feeling that God's Spirit had moved in a decisive way.

For some, the convention was the place where they found Jesus Christ as Saviour. Others renewed their commitment to Christ and His church. For many the messages by Rev. Luis Palau, evangelist from Argentina, stirred and stimulated personal revival and new determination to witness to their faith.

A young university student, after arguing other world religions against Christianity, made a decision for Christ. A young woman, member of the Bogotá Church, experienced personal renewal and testified of her desire to serve the Lord in the teaching field. National pastors and missionaries felt refreshed in spirit to engage in the work of the church with a greater sense of commitment.

Services of inspiration were interspersed with Bible classes, recreation, and periods of Christian fellowship. The convention held two formal business sessions in which new plans for the year were discussed. Juan Garzon, former pastor of the Anolaima church, was appointed by the convention to return to "mountain evangelism" and to become a colporteur selling Bibles house to house.

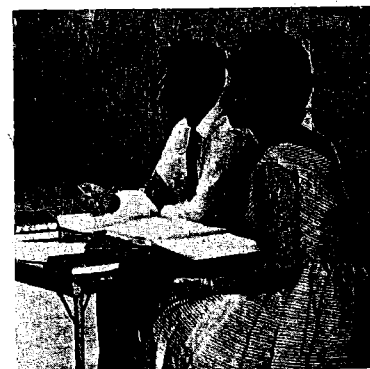
The highlight of the convention took place in a two-hour service in which child consecration was performed, and five believers were brought into the membership of the church by baptism. Finally, Holy Communion was served as the convention experienced their oneness in Christ around the Lord's table.



Singing



Dedicating



Planning

IBAGUE WORK MOVES FORWARD



Church in House

A house in a middle-class section of Ibagué is being used as the center of church extension. Rev. and Mrs. Armando Hernandez are living on the second and third floors of the house while the first floor is utilized for worship services and other meetings.

Several weeks ago, a young couple became Christian through the program of visitation initiated by Rev. Hernandez. The Mennonite students of the Normal School were organized and sent out in teams in a house-to-house visitation program in the neighborhood.

Although the work in Ibagué is just in its first stages we thank God for the good beginning.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Miss Helen Penner has recently arrived in Colombia as a summer voluntary service worker. She is assisting in the program at the Colegio in Cachipay.

Mrs. Huldah Weiss is traveling as a companion and interpreter for Elda Aragon during her visits to various churches in the United States.

Miss Vernelle Yoder, director of the Colegio in La Mesa spent three weeks in Berne after the death of her father.

Miss Bertha Mae Reiff and Miss Violet Keiser, both active members of Eastern District Conference churches, are on a twenty-one day special visit to Colombia.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

Praise Him for the many decisions made for the Lord at this year's convention.

Praise Him for the new members added to the churches through baptism.

Pray for Luis Correa and Elda Aragon as they speak in many churches.

Pray for the Habegggers as they leave Colombia for a four-month furlough.

Pray for Julia Sheets as she goes to language school in preparation for coming to
to Colombia to serve.

Please send change of address promptly to the Board of Missions, General Conference Mennonite Church, Box 347, Newton, Kansas 67114.

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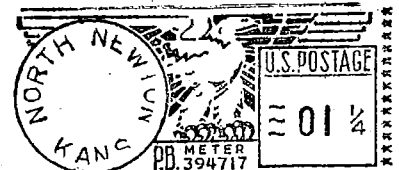
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