

COLOMBIAN NEWS AND VIEWS

The Official Organ of the Mennonite Brethren Mission in Colombia

VOL. I—NO. IV [3]



DECEMBER, 1950

Colombian Staff Increases



On September 8 Reverend and Mrs. B. J. Fadenrecht and their children, Bennie Dwight, Rosalyn Ruth, and Anna Beth Vivian, arrived at Calipuerto, Colombia, via Panamerican Airways. Officially the doors are closed, but God, because of your and our prayers has overruled and performed this miracle. (See next page.)



On January 22 and 26 respectively, Linda Elaine Bartel and Dorothy Joyce Loewen joined the staff in Colombia. Linda Elaine, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. H. K. Bartel, was born at the G. M. U. clinic at Palmira. Dorothy Joyce, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Loewen, was born at the hospital of the Gold Mining Co. at Andagoya, Choco.

HIEBERTS, SCHLICHTINGS VISIT COLOMBIA

From May 18 to 24 Reverend and Mrs. C. N. Hiebert of Hillsboro, Kansas, stopped over at the Colombian mission stations. The Hieberts were on their way home from Paraguay where they had been serving as evangelists and missionaries among the displaced Mennonite people who have found a refuge there. Their reports on the material and spiritual conditions among the refugees stirred our hearts to the utmost; however, to counteract all morbid effects Uncle Nels also told us a few anecdotes as he alone can. Their visit will always remain a highlight for all the Colombian missionaries.



As a result of a strange conviction that they should visit the M. B. mission field in Colombia, Dr. and Mrs. Schlichting came all the way from Reedley, California, via Pan-American Airways to spend two weeks with the missionaries on the field. They brought with them several spools (wire recorder) of messages from the Reedley church and from relatives of some of the missionaries. They were red letter weeks for all the missionaries.

These visits mark a new era in the history of the M. B. Mission work in Colombia when ministers and laymen will visit the field and bring their stirring first-hand reports to the home churches. May more follow the example set!

Ed. Note: A recent missionary council meeting has affected some changes in the staff. Harry and Martha Bartel have taken up work at Istmina, while the John A. Dycks are now at La Cumbre.



INTRODUCING THE FADENRECHTS

Ruth Ella Zook Fadenrecht was born and raised at Chamberburg, Pennsylvania. Here she received her elementary education in the Portico Public School and then graduated from the Chamberburg High School.

She continued her education at Messiah Bible College where she was awarded an A. A. degree in 1940. In 1942 she received a B. S. degree in elementary teaching from Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana.

Of her spiritual experiences Mrs. Fadenrecht relates that she accepted the Lord Jesus as her Saviour quietly in her home one day at the early age of ten. At the age of twelve she was baptized and became a member of the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church. Immediately she felt the Lord's call for foreign service and so she began to prepare herself with an education. All along the way the Lord confirmed her conviction by supplying her needs for such a preparation. Thus when she was united in holy matrimony to Bennie Fadenrecht, who also had an interest in the foreign field, they continued to prepare together.

In the field of practical experience Mrs. Fadenrecht says that she has been housemother for six years, but she has also taught for two years at the Ontario Bible Academy, Fort Erie, Ontario. Both of these experiences will be of immense benefit for the work which the Lord is giving her in Colombia, namely to be mother and teacher to the children of missionaries who attend La Cumbre school for missionary children.

Bennie J. Fadenrecht was born to farmer parents at Munich, North Dakota. He attended the Alsen Public School and later completed his elementary education at the Rosehill District School at Munich. When duties did not permit him to attend high school, young Bennie showed his perseverance by completing thirteen units of high school work by correspondence with the American School, Chicago, Illinois.

Of his conversion he relates that the Lord spoke to him on various occasions during his childhood, and he often felt that he should dedicate his life to the service of the Lord; but it was not until his sixteenth year, when he attended Winkler Bible School, Winkler, Manitoba, that he came to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. When he again felt the Lord's call, he could not but feel unworthy like Isaiah, but he promised the Lord that he would prepare and follow as He would lead.

His educational preparation includes an A. A. degree from Sterling, Kansas, in 1941, the foreign relief course at Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana, and a B. D. degree from Tabor College in 1949.

However, the Lord had other preparation in store for Bennie too, for in 1942 he was inducted into Civilian Public Service where he served in varying capacities for three and a half years. He was infirmary attendant, ironer in the laundry, carpenter, mental hospital attendant, and cook.

Further he taught Public School for one term at Lustre, Montana.

Together with Mrs. Fadenrecht he has helped at the Lawton View Mission, the Mission to the Indians on Pine Ridge Reservation at Pine Ridge, South Dakota, and also at the Post Oak Mission, Indianola, Oklahoma.

Of their call to Colombia the Fadenrechts tell us that they were challenged by the reports concerning Colombia when the Board of Foreign Missions first took over the field, and this grew into a call to serve there. Thus the Lord's "Go ye" became a reality in their lives.

They were ordained at Hillsboro, Kansas, with their pastor, Waldo Hiebert, and the Mission Board members, A. E. Janzen and P. R. Lange, officiating. The Fadenrechts are members of the Hillsboro Mennonite Brethren Church.

They arrived in Colombia on September 8 of 1950, and besides learning the Spanish language, they are serving as house-parents of the missionary children's school at La Cumbre, Valle.

Bennie Dwight Fadenrecht, the firstborn of the family, joined the family in Michigan on October 4, 1945, while his father was still in C. P. S. service.

Rosalyn Ruth Fadenrecht was born in Hillsboro, Kansas, in the Salem Hospital on August 27 of 1947.

AnnaBeth Vivian Fadenrecht was also born in Hillsboro. She will celebrate her first birthday next February.

CHAPMAN SPEAKS AT MISSIONARY COUNCIL DEVOTIONAL SESSIONS

"Forty years ago," said the Reverend Charles P. Chapman of the Gospel Missionary Union of Cali, speaking at the Colombian missionary devotional sessions at La Cumbre, "was the time to evangelize Colombia. Then the doors were wide open for missionary efforts, but," he added heavily, "there were no missionaries."

Today there are missionaries, but they are much handicapped by restricting national laws and organized resistance,

Reverend Chapman has already passed his fiftieth year of active service on the mission field, yet he is still working hard today. To us as younger missionaries his very life is a challenge.

When Reverend Chapman talked about "present day hindrances," he could speak from experience, for since he began working in Colombia the Gospel Missionary



Union has built up and organized over thirty indigenous congregations; and during the past year they have lost more than twenty of them with no assurance of ever being able to rebuild them again. Many believers lost their homes and lives, others denied their Lord, and still others fled the country's borders.

The Gospel Missionary Union and the Mennonite Brethren Mission in Colombia work together very closely. From the schools of the G. M. U. our mission has drawn the bulk of its national workers, while their mission in turn has its missionary children educated in our school.

NOTICE: This issue is dedicated to La Cumbre Station and unfolding it you will find on the reverse side a set of maps, pictures and articles highlighting this station and its various phases of work. This is the first of several issues introducing the various stations in Colombia to you. Put it on your church or Sunday School bulletin board for the benefit of those who may not have received one.

P R A I S E



IN THE LAST ISSUE YOU WERE ASKED TO PRAY FOR:

(1) Souls—and here you see one of the number that were saved in Colombia during the past year. This (extreme, left) is Cipriano Mosquera who was saved at Noanama some months ago. Cipriano still battles with his vices, so be sure to remember him in your further prayers.

(2) A house at Noanama—and above (centre) you see it complete. Beside it stands the old shed that was originally bought with the property.

(3) A second launch—and here you see it in action. It has a two ton capacity, and what a blessing it is. Be sure to thank the Lord.

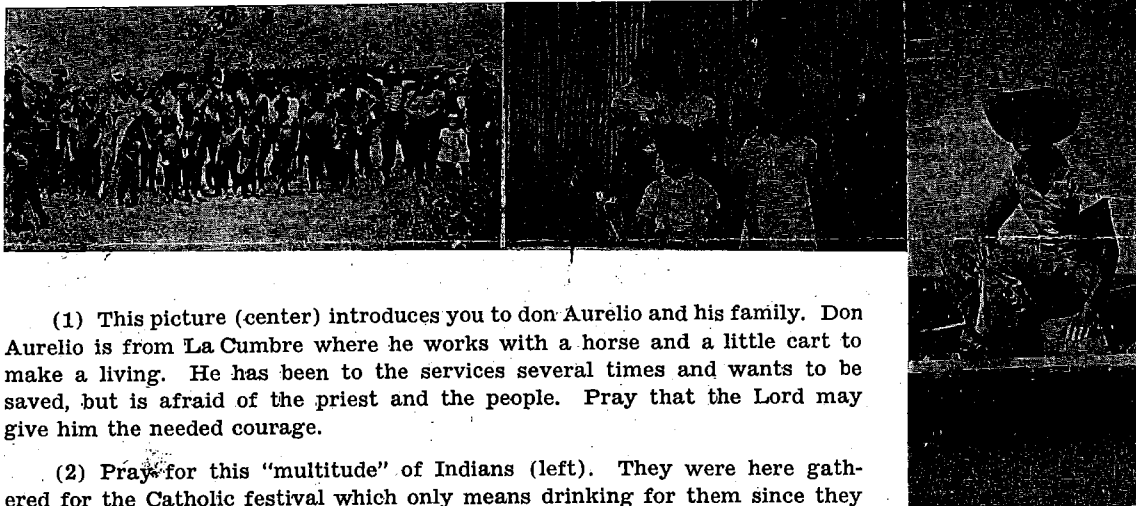
(4) Entrance permits for new missionaries—and on the front page we can introduce you to the Fadenrechts who have been able to enter.

Other items of praise:

(5) That the Lord has so led that the persecutions in Colombia have more or less subsided for the present.

(6) That the La Cumbre national school which was closed unexpectedly this fall, has received its permit again.

(7) That the Lord is supplying all the needs of the field according to His riches in glory.



(1) This picture (center) introduces you to don Aurelio and his family. Don Aurelio is from La Cumbre where he works with a horse and a little cart to make a living. He has been to the services several times and wants to be saved, but is afraid of the priest and the people. Pray that the Lord may give him the needed courage.

(2) Pray for this "multitude" of Indians (left). They were here gathered for the Catholic festival which only means drinking for them since they cannot enter the church without clothes. They have in the past partly forsaken their religion and followed Catholicism, but today are disillusioned, looking for a spiritual hold. Pray that they may open their hearts to receive Christ, the true Saviour.

(3) This young man (right) worked for the mission as carpenter and also as launch driver. He was very interested in the gospel, but today seems to be choosing the world instead of Christ. Be much in prayer for him, his name is Francisco Mosquera.

(4) Pray for visas for the D. A. Wirsches and the David Wirsches to return to Colombia.

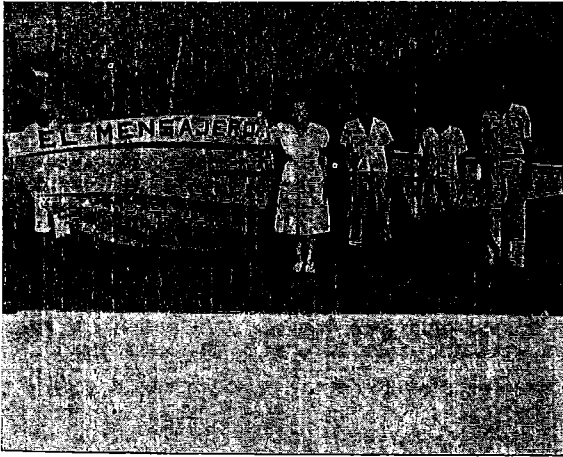
(5) Pray for more missionaries. Furloughs for six missionaries on the field are due in 1951 and who will replace these missionaries? And with what forces will we advance?

(6) Pray for permits to open national schools at Noanama and at Istmina.

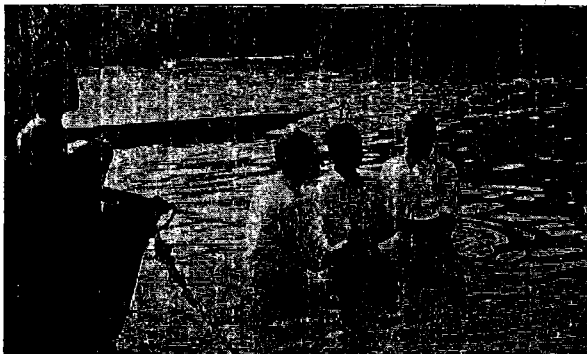
P R A Y E R

Istmina

VIEWS Noanama



This is a close-up view of the new launch for which you were asked to pray and to give. It has here just received its last coat of paint and its name: THE MESSENGER. We as missionaries in Colombia want to hereby publicly express our thanks to the donors. The new launch will be in service at Istmina, while the old one will go to Noanama station.



Here you see Belarmino Sanchez, one of five candidates, baptized in the San Juan River some months ago. It was the first evangelical baptism for colored people in Istmina and many of the people from the village turned out to see the event. Hundreds of persons jeered as one by one the brave candidates entered the water to testify publicly: "If buried with Christ, we shall also rise with him."

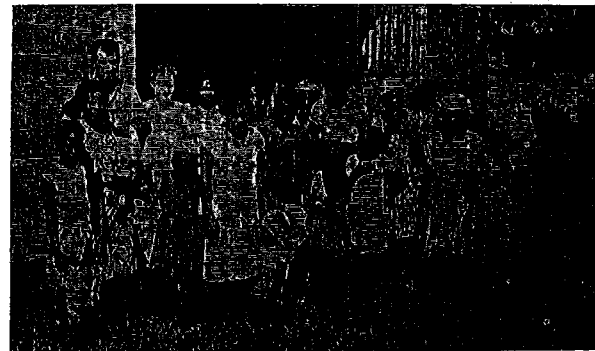
The Catholic priest on being interviewed concerning the evangelical baptism next day, scoffed at it and said: "Oh, they are baptizing a few of the maimed and the blind (two of the candidates are lame). How little did the priest realize that Jesus Himself said that such were the ones that would enter unto His marriage feast. Luke 14:21. What a testimony!



The above picture introduces you to Carlos Diaz and his family. Both Carlos and his wife have recently accepted the Lord. Carlos has worked as carpenter with the mission for some time. He was very indifferent to the gospel, but the Lord worked on his heart, and one day Carlos asked to be led to the Lord. Then he brought his wife also. Thus one of the first Christian homes in Istmina has been established.



Samuel's, the old Indian's last greeting to you! Samuel came to our house some months ago looking for medical aid. He was a T. B. patient, already near his death, and so there was nothing we could do for him. Knowing his condition we talked to him about God and eternity, but he seemed not to grasp anything, for we had to speak to him in the Spanish language. He left again, and today, yes, it is already several weeks that Samuel is buried. Where is his soul in eternity . . . ? But there are right now many more Indians who will die soon—too soon—before we will be able to give them the Word in their own language. We are making some progress, but with the many other duties it is slow. Be much in prayer for the Indians.



Here you see a group that attended the dispensary six months ago when the J. A. Loewens were in charge. Today Sister Mary Schroeder often has double and triple that number in one day. It is a great opportunity to sow the Word, for before receiving treatment, all the patients listen to a Bible lesson. And they enjoy it. Sister Mary has only been at Noanama since September of this year, but already she has more work than she can handle. Who is going to come and help her? Will you?



This group attended the Sunday morning service one Sunday last April when John A. Dyck and Lillian Schafer were here on a visit. Since then the group has grown considerably and an average attendance now is fifty or more. There is a great interest, and for the present no priest to hinder our work.

VISITING LACUM

An Orientation

With this page we want to lift you out of your present sphere of activity or thought and transport you in mind to La Cumbre station in Colombia. By means of a series of maps, pictures, and articles we want to introduce to you La Cumbre, its people and its work so that in the future your prayers may be more to the point and your burden and giving increased.

Remember that we are taking you almost 3000 miles by air southeast of our home office in Hillsboro, but still we are about 2000 miles by air from the Mennonites in Paraguay. Istmina and Noanama stations lie about 100 miles by air north slightly off the direct line by which you came. The workers of La Cumbre station will now themselves introduce their work to you.

Introducing La Cumbre

By Harry K. Bartel, Station Director

At nearly 6000 feet altitude on the western of the three main mountain ranges in Colombia, and about three and a half degrees north of the equator, you will find the little pueblo of La Cumbre. Due to the altitude the three thousand inhabitants of the village and the five thousand more of the municipality (most of them are of a light complexion) enjoy a cool climate.

Being located on the side (on sort of a ridge) near the top of a mountain, one may view the countryside for quite a distance. The mission property is located on the eastern edge of the village limits. Looking west one sees the hillsides covered with small farms raising coffee, bananas, platanos, yucca, arracacha, cabbage, carrots, beans, corn, and sugar cane. To the north and east about one and a half miles below, lies a beautiful narrow valley several miles long. Here they grow the same crops as well as much bamboo. Several fields in this valley would serve as ideal airports for small aircraft. The uncultivated parts of the hills and the valleys serve as pasture for the cattle. There is hardly any timber.

A goodly number of vacationers from the various Colombian cities come to La Cumbre during the summer months. Some of them are surprised to find train, bus, truck and taxi service from Cali to La Cumbre. The town also offers telephone, telegraph, and mail service. Besides these there are riding horses and bicycles for rent. One can also enjoy electric lights (generally not. Ed.) when they are bright enough. The running water is interesting because it so often changes color and of course needs to be boiled for drinking.

A new Catholic church is under construction. For the most part its leaders dominate the people, the civil authorities, and all social activities. La Cumbre has a public boys' school, a public girls' school, a girls' school taught by the nuns, and two evangelical day schools. The first three are completely controlled by the Catholic Church; and the latter two are our schools, one for the children of the missionaries and one for Colombian children.

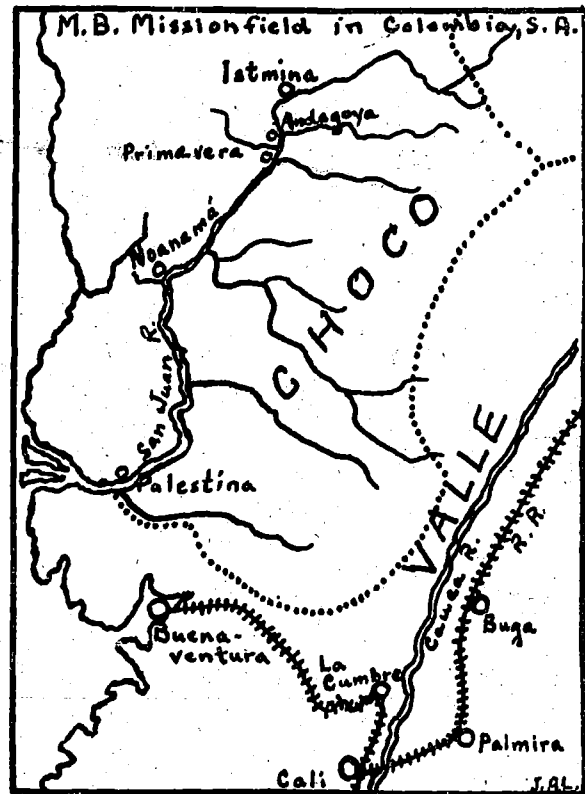
The market building is one of the best in the country. It offers a fairly good market twice a week. There are two drugstores, several small shoe shops (factories), several general merchandise stores, hardware stores, Colombian type grocery stores, barber shops and many taverns.

We feel that La Cumbre is a scenic place, and so I shall close with an invitation for you to come and to spend a vacation that you will not soon forget.

A History of La Cumbre Station

By Lillian Schafer

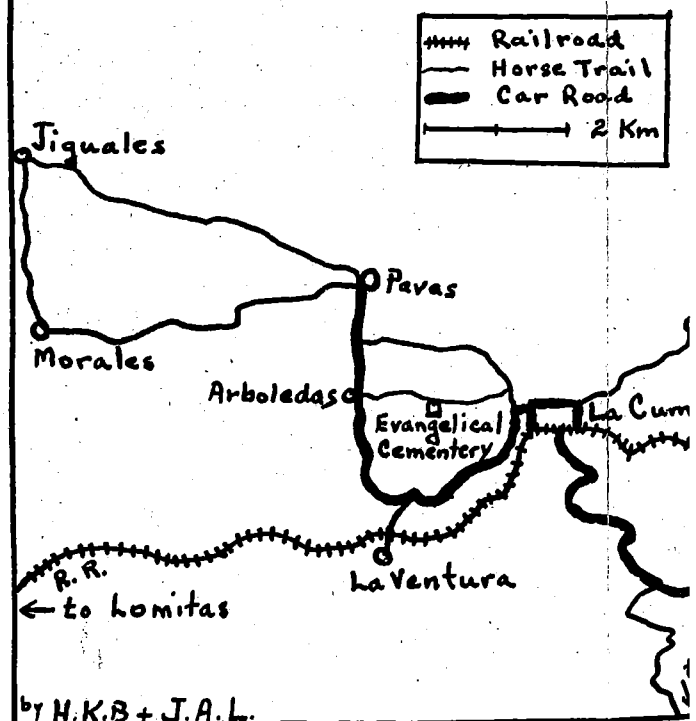
Did you know that the gospel has been preached at La Cumbre for twenty years? When the M. B. Mission purchased the property here and took over this field, the ice was well broken for us on the one hand, while on the other, the forces of evil were well organized against the gospel.



On this map of the M. B. mission field in Colombia you can locate the places mentioned in the various articles of this paper.

This Catholic station to the "moth every hon candle or is the idol

La Cumbre Station and its Out



MBRE STATION



This Catholic picture conveys the relative importance which the Catholic church in Colombia places upon the Virgin in relation to Christ. Christ is pictured as a babe, and Mary is the "mother of God," and thus the Saviour of the world. Most every home, car, bus, or truck carries this picture with a candle or an electric light burning before it. The virgin Mary is the idol of Colombia.

The occasion that brought the first missionary to La Cumbre was illness and a need for recuperation in the cool mountain air that La Cumbre offers. Thus Miss Anna Woof, missionary of the Plymouth Brethren, who had been working in Palmira, came here to La Cumbre during her second term on the field. While here for but a short time she found a needy field and many souls hungry for the gospel. She resolved, the Lord willing, to come to begin a work here.

Her dream became a reality on December 6, 1929, when she arrived at La Cumbre to make her home here, and to take up the responsibility of leading lost souls to the Lord. A house was rented and her work begun by distributing the Word of God on the streets and in the market place. Her coming was soon acknowledged by threats, but she was bold enough to thank God for them as they generally stirred up an interest in what she had to present. Often she had to call on the civil authorities for protection and for liberty to continue.

It was not long until those interested gathered with her for services, and so she also opened a school for the children. It was a great joy for her when after a year of service the first believers followed the Lord in baptism. Thus on January 25, 1931, the first church was founded at La Cumbre. Several other baptisms were held during that year, and before a second year had passed there were nineteen members witnessing for the Lord.

On April 24, 1934, the lot where the Casa Evangelica now stands was purchased. Within a year the first floor was ready to be occupied. On the second floor a chapel was arranged. After the last service in the rented building the believers picked up the benches and formed a procession as they moved to the new chapel. On April 24 and 25 of 1935 a two-day festival of prayer and praise was held to celebrate the dedication of the new building.

During Miss Woof's absence on her furlough Mr. Lester Morgan of the same mission took her place. Before leaving on furlough in 1938 three elders and two deaconesses were ordained and a national pastor chosen to shepherd the flock. Miss Woof served the Lord in La Cumbre for some fifteen years. During this time fifty-five believers followed the Lord in baptism. After she left, the station remained in the care of a national worker. Because of sin and other reasons the number of worshippers dwindled down until, when our conference took over the field in 1946, there was only one faithful believer and only a handful of people attending the services.

The Church at La Cumbre

By Annie E. Dyck

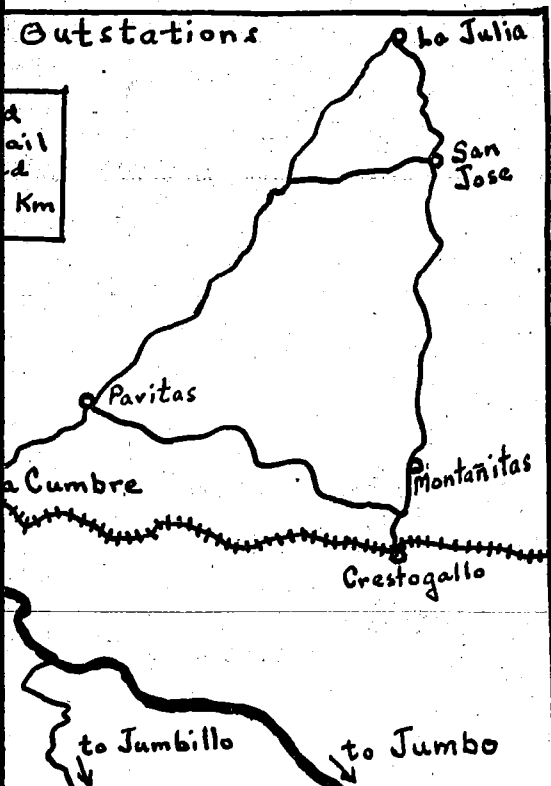
The state of the church when taken over by the M. B. Conference in August, 1946, was a sad one. Of the fifty-five members the church formerly had, only one baptized member had remained faithful. Through much persevering prayer, here as well as in the homeland, the work of building up a broken down church began. The number of regular listeners has increased from three to fifty and often more.

To date six evangelistic campaigns have been held. These have proven to be a great blessing. Lost souls accepted Jesus, and others were re-established in the church. In July, 1949, eleven souls followed the Lord in baptism and the church counted sixteen members. A church council and three deacons were elected, also Sunday School teachers for the five classes and three officers for the Young People's Society were appointed. In February, 1950, another three precious souls were added to the church.

Besides some twelve souls saved prior to the M. B. work here that came back to the fold, we can count some fifty new conversions. Several sessions of D. V. B. S. have been the means to bring some lambs into the fold. Not all have remained faithful and true. There are also many friends and sympathizers to the gospel.

On Sunday morning at 9:30 a. m. a group averaging some fifty children and adults meets for Sunday School. This is followed by the preaching service, beginning at 10:45 a. m. At 1 p. m. children and adults meet for a prayer or Young People's meeting alternately every Sunday. There are no evening services because the believers live too far out in the country.

The small congregation has been faithful in bringing its offerings and tithes. The total offerings of the year 1947 were \$183.19 and tithes \$91.52. And here is what has been given in the first half of 1950: offerings amount to \$118.30 and tithes \$152.30.



the Casa Evangelica is dedicated to the work. There are two rooms for boys, two for girls, and one for the teacher; besides these there is the chapel which serves as the classroom. The basement uses the kitchen and dining room.

The teacher, Theresa Rodriguez, a consecrated Christian, comes from a Presbyterian mission. She received her training in the Gospel Missionary Union Bible Institute in Palmira. Her greatest desire is evangelization, and she insists on the presence of each child in the Bible classes. She is assisted in several classes by the director.

The cook, Senora Maria Ortiz de Agudelo, has served three husbands. She is a widow with two girls. She is anxious to have them an education and to go into Christian service. She has kept on with her work although she suffers much from headaches.

In order to make it possible for the children of the poor people to attend the school, yet not give the education gratis, a small charge is made by the school. The price for board averages about \$5.00 U. S. per month. We charge somewhat less for the children of church members, as we use of the church offerings to pay the cook. This, however, does not cover all the expenses. The Board of Foreign Missions contributes \$500.00 U. S. a year for equipment and general maintenance.

A number of the children were saved prior to entering the school last year. During the January, 1950, evangelistic meetings six more accepted the Lord. By the end of the school year all but one had accepted the Lord. This one accepted Him shortly after. Thus our prayers concerning their souls have been answered. Pray that these may remain faithful.

Introducing the Personnel

It is 4:30 in the morning. Harry Bartel is hurrying up the hill on the compound. A slow rain is falling and it is difficult to climb the slippery grade. About a half mile and there is the truck. He jumps in, sometimes in front, sometimes in back, with no roof over him. Seven o'clock finds him at Cali. What a day! There is cement and lumber to buy for the building. Between 4 and 8 p. m. he arrives home again—tired and aching, still feeling the jogs and bumps of the truck on a dangerous slippery road with a drunken driver. And sometimes he does not come home at all until the next day. The rest of the week is taken up with supervising the workmen at the new building, and with the general supervision of the work on and around the compound, for he is still the director.

Now it is 4 p. m. instead of a. m. A rider is coming up the hill. It has rained all day. She is wet from head to foot and muddy besides. With joy she dismounts from the little gray horse. "I think it's the first time this one boy heard the gospel at Largache," she says with joy. Or perhaps she's coming from Jigales where she is encouraged those Christians who must hide in the coffee patch at night from the robbers. Housevisiting, teaching Spanish to new missionaries, and the direction of the young people's work make up Annie Dyck's job.

Ruth Loewen is mamma for nineteen school children. Sometimes it must be a lecture, for Lionel has gone to the store without permission; or who wouldn't have his hands full with Chope knocking on the floor at night saying he has a tummy ache; or Joel complaining of an earache; or Rene slipping to the railroad station with the intention of going home—his clothes packed in paper sacks and wearing three pairs of pants to save baggage room. This says nothing of counting books to keep, school supplies to get, market list to make, and a lot of time spent on her knees asking God for guidance to bring these souls to Him.

And now it is 10 a. m. a-b-c-d—Who is writing on the blackboard with a group of youngsters behind her? Lillian Schafer, the missionary children's school teacher. In the evening and after school we find her poring over the mission account books, for she is also the missionary council secretary. This year she has a new building in which to begin school. What a treat that will be! Won't you pray much for her, for she is training prospective little missionaries?

Then there is also "yours truly," Martha Bartel, who teaches the women's Sunday School class every Sunday, and visits homes as often as she can during the week with Annie Dyck. Hers is also a lot of receiving the many visitors that come to the mission compound. She also has two youngsters to take care of. Judith Lynn is generally playing with the native school children when they are not in class. She speaks a fluent Spanish already. Linda Elaine joined the family in January and thus still demands much attention.

Buenos dias! Oh yes, there is Don Manuel Gutierrez, the national pastor, and his wife, Sra. Debora. Since June of this year the church has had a national pastor. Don Manuel comes to La Cumbre from the Gospel Missionary Union which works farther up the Cauca valley. Last fall in the political troubles he lost his church, his home, and just about all he had. Now he fills a very needy place in the church at La Cumbre—he shepherds the flock. Pray for him.

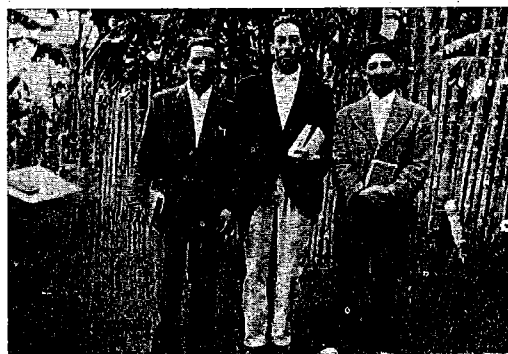
Sra. Debora also helps in the work wherever she can, but her time is more limited, for she has five very active little youngsters in her hands.



Several months ago the School for Missionary Children looked like this. Today several rooms are being occupied. However, much needs to be done to finish it and the funds are short. Remember it in your gifts. The Bennie Fadenrechts are serving as its houseparents and Lillian Schafer as the teacher.



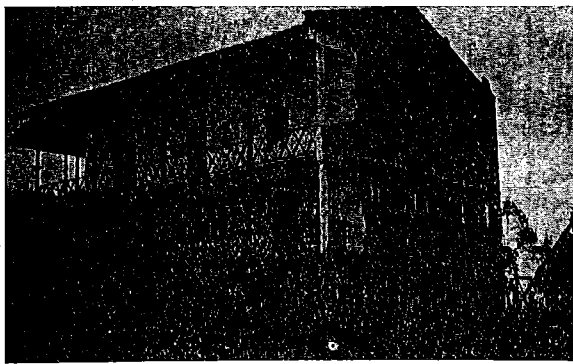
All but one of this 1949-50 group of children left the school having accepted the Lord. This last one accepted the Lord a few weeks later. The teacher on the left is Senorita Teresa Rodriguez. Ruth Loewen is the director and matron of this school.



These three deacons were elected by the national church in 1949. Their names (left to right) are: Luis Rojas, Jose Gomez, and Faustino Largache.



Since June of 1950 Sr. don Manuel Gutierrez has been serving the La Cumbre church as pastor. He is supported entirely by the national church. With him in the picture appear Sra. Debora, his wife, and their children (oldest to youngest): Carlos, Omar, Orlette, Harvey, and Joelito.



The Casa Evangelica was built by Miss Woolf in 1925. It was bought by the M. B. Mission in 1946. It has been enlarged to nearly double capacity and its walls have been changed from mud to brick and mortar.



This is a part of the Largache family. The parents, don Faustino and sra. Paula, were saved under Miss Woolf's ministry, but backslid in her absence. Today they are again serving the Lord. Several of the children (Lillia on the left, and another here absent) were saved under the ministry of our missionaries. The boy Isaias, is still unsaved.



Here you see the home of the Largache family. The walls are of cane and mud plaster. The roof is of burnt tile. It is a typical native home in the Valle country.



Catholic Church

The old wood and mud-plaster building burned down two years ago when the priest was running a theater in its basement and the film caught fire. Today they are building a beautiful cathedral of brick and cement. Meanwhile the evangelical Christians still haven't even got a modest little church. Won't you remember a chapel for La Cumbre in your gifts?

The School for Missionary Children

By Lillian Schafer, Teacher

"We need a school for our children," was the cry of nearly every missionary family that the Reverend G. W. Peters visited on his exploratory trip through Colombia (1943). Some were sending their children to the neighboring country, Ecuador; others were teaching their own children or employing a private teacher; still others sent them to a Spanish School or just kept them at home. Thus our conference faced a dual problem. First: should we send missionaries to Colombia, we must also provide for their children. Second: could we provide the much needed school for the missionaries' children of other missions also?

Among the first candidates that answered the Lord's call to Colombia was an experienced teacher* who was willing to take up the work of teaching the missionaries' children as the need would present itself.

However, it was not until the private teacher of the Gospel Missionary Union missionaries' children resigned and returned home, that the plea to open our school at once was made. This mission had undertaken to teach the Spanish language to our first missionaries, and this Mission was also providing us with national workers from their Bible Institute, so couldn't we help them out in this manner? Thus, on October 6, 1947, the school for missionary children opened its doors in rented quarters for the first time for a term of eight months with an enrollment of three children, namely Grace, John, and Helen Shillingsburg.

For the second year there were seven children from the Gospel Missionary Union and from the Inter-American Missions. Among these children was Dilys Harbison, who was 11 years old but had attended school only one year while on furlough.

The third year, 1949-1950, brought adversities. Several of the children went on furlough, political conditions caused the withdrawal of two more, and finally the teacher became sick. Thus the school was closed.

Thus far the Sisters Mary Schroeder, Lydia Golbek, Ruth Loewen, and Annie Dyck have served as matrons and helpers in the care and teaching of the children. For the present year Reverend and Mrs. Bennie Fadenrecht are serving as houseparents.

Another answer to prayer is the large building that is now nearing completion and which will provide classroom space and dormitory facilities for the school. When completed in its entirety about twenty children can be accommodated. Except for the building, the school has been self-supporting. Our thanks go to you, the prayer-supporters and the faithful financial contributors, for providing such a building. Your missionaries have high ideals for this school.

*Miss Lillian Schafer came to the field with thirteen years of teaching experience. She holds a life teaching certificate for the State of North Dakota. Ed.

The National Day School

By Ruth Loewen, Director and Matron

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Early in the work in La Cumbre a man came to the missionaries one day saying that if he would not stop attending the evangelical services his children would be put out of school. The believers also did not want to send their children to a school where the influence of the Catholic Church would contaminate them. Hence the need for a school under evangelical influence was felt keenly and steps were taken to start such an enterprise.

An evangelical day school was thus opened in the fall of 1947, but after three short days it was closed by the La Cumbre authorities.

Prayerfully and undiscouraged Brother John A. Dyck was sent to Bogota in January, 1948, to secure a permit for the school. God gave grace, but it was not until May of that year that the educational director of La Cumbre issued the local permit.

In the fall of 1948 the school again opened with some twenty children enrolled. After Christmas several more enrolled. Senorita Oliva Parra served as teacher. A goodly number of children found the Lord.

The term of 1949-50 began with twenty-eight children enrolled. Senorita Teresa Rodriguez served as teacher. Due to the political upheaval and the plundering of homes by bandits, it was deemed wise to close the school after three weeks of teaching. With heavy hearts we sent the children to their homes not knowing if it would be possible to ever reopen the school. However, we felt led of the Lord to reopen the school on January 9, 1950. While not all of the children returned, several new ones were admitted. A nice group of twenty-six children was enrolled.

From next page: "The larger part of the children board at school. The second floor of"

pg. 3, lower left