

DECEMBER 1965

NUMBER FORTY-THREE

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

COLOMBIAN NEWS



Angels sang

Cachipay, Cund., Colombia, S. A.

INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA

EXCITEMENT IN HEAVEN	1
KLAASSENS TO HEAD SCHOOL IN CACHIPAY	2
GEORGE EDIGERS IN COLOMBIA	2
STUCKYS ACCEPT NEW ASSIGNMENT	2
THE STRUGGLE TO BE AND TO BECOME	3
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION COMMENDS WORK	3
LAY PEOPLE ARE MISSIONARIES	4
GRASS ROOTS EVANGELISM	4
VERNELLE YODER GOES ON FURLOUGH	5
THE GOOD NEWS CLUB	5
DECISION TIME IN SCHOOL	5
LUIS CORREA INTERIM PASTOR	6
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH	6



EXCITEMENT IN HEAVEN

If God ever gets or got excited--I'd think it was when He sent His Son into the world. Certainly it was one of the most daring and fantastic (humanly speaking) projects in the history of the universe. What deep concern--what love for man!

On the success of this well-planned venture would depend so much in the spiritual and material world. It was calculated to effect the complete defeat of Satan and his hosts, and to redeem erring and sin-enslaved human beings and to make of them Sons of God!

Christmas was very exciting 1965 years ago--it is exciting today. God through His Holy Spirit is still sending His sons into every corner of the world--into the heart of Satan's strongholds. It is exciting to see Satan retreat as a new child is born into God's kingdom. It is also exciting to see young people who have been touched with the love of God leave the well-structured life and venture out into the unknown spiritual realm and battle--being definitely led by God's almighty Holy Spirit.

Christmas really is not gifts, programs, or family gatherings--it is rather a great and marvelous holy excitement in the spiritual realm in heaven and earth. No wonder the angels were on their "tip-toes" to see it. It will be exciting to you too--if you let God send you--anywhere--or at least to somewhere.



Telling the good news

KLAASSENS TO HEAD SCHOOL IN CACHIPAY



Reitha and Glendon Klaassen

Glendon and Reitha Klaassen, young and enthusiastic missionaries of our mission, have accepted the challenge of directing the home and school in Cachipay. Their maturity and experience in Gulfport, Miss., and in the Normal School in Ibagué, well qualifies them to occupy and direct the "nerve center" of our school and of our mission activities in Colombia.

Hundreds of children and young people have come into contact with the gospel and have been influenced by the Holy Spirit to make their decisions for Christ in Cachipay. The school and retreat opportunities are limited only by the imagination.

During the last five years the Klaassens have made an outstanding contribution in the Normal School in Ibagué. Of their years there they write:

"When we moved to Ibagué in December 1960, we thought that our future years there would be significant because of a teaching ministry. Today as we pack up to leave we are sure that we've had a small but significant part in the Lord's work in Colombia, especially since one of the most pressing needs is the training of Christian national leaders.

"We have had the privilege and responsibility of teaching some 135 young people representing 12 different evangelical missions from all over Colombia. Of this number 57 have graduated and 19 have come from our Mennonite churches. We are deeply grateful to the Lord for the privilege and ministry that we have been permitted."

GEORGE AND MARGARET EDIGER IN COLOMBIA

A very happy and wonderful surprise came to the Colombian staff on August 21 when George and Margaret Ediger arrived in Bogotá. They have been manna from heaven and have been an answer to the prayers of many in behalf of the work in Colombia.

The Edigers had finished their language studies in Costa Rica and were on their way to Paraguay. However it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit, to the Board of Missions, and to the Edigers to minister in Colombia for the present.

Happily, the Edigers feel called to evangelism and many doors have opened for them during their months here. May God grant them an abundant ministry for the salvation of souls in Colombia.



George and Margaret



Mary Hope and Gerald

STUCKYS ACCEPT NEW ASSIGNMENT

In the first days of December Gerald and Mary Hope Stucky with their son Timothy left for the United States where Gerald will become the co-pastor of the First Mennonite Church in Berne, Ind.

Leaving Colombia, the Stuckys said: "We are deeply grateful to the Lord for the blessed years that He has permitted us to have in Colombia. We feel that we have received much more than we have been able to give.

"We have learned that the spiritual life is a wonderful adventure with God, not structured, static, and set--but mobile and that we are to be alert to the leadings of God.

"It would be easier to stay than to go. But we feel impelled by the Spirit to go--knowing that He has gone before us. We pray that we may be able to fulfill by His grace that task that He has set before us--and we have the confidence that He will at the same time strengthen and enlarge His program here in Colombia."

THE STRUGGLE TO BE AND TO BECOME

American boys and girls who often feel that school is a second-rate disaster, could hardly imagine the desperate struggle that tens of thousands of children in the have-not nations go through in order to have the privilege of studying and of having an education.

Small, and often undernourished--but wiry and plucky--children often walk 45 minutes to an hour to come to our school in Cachipay. The paths are rocky and very often muddy. Rains pour as if to rival Noah's flood, and the creeks are crossed by the use of a large log. But school starts at 7:50 a.m. and there they are with bright and shining faces.



Lyda Pinzon

To go to high school or to college remains only a dream for most youngsters in the primary school. They will never have the opportunity because they lack the money, or because there is insufficient room in the school.

Lydia Pinzon one of our grade school girls, after an immense effort has been able to graduate from the Presbyterian High School in Bogotá, has now been offered a \$2200 scholarship in the University of the Pacific in California. A Cinderella-type dream has come true!

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION COMMENDS WORK

The Confederation of Evangelicals of Colombia in its 12th assembly in Santa Marta, August 1965, moved and felt led to write a special letter of appreciation and encouragement to our school in Cachipay, as follows:

"The Confederation of Evangelicals of Colombia having taken note in its 12th Assembly in Colony Carmelo (Santa Marta) of the splendid work that the Mennonite mission has developed in Colombia, especially with the children of parents suffering with leprosy in Agua de Dios, supplying them with an education and especially orienting them in the spiritual life, desires to manifest its most sincere congratulations."

LAY PEOPLE ARE MISSIONARIES

Have you ever taught English in an all-Spanish school? Previously, Dale Souder had never taught anything except an occasional Sunday school class. She now finds herself teaching English in four different primary grades, and enjoying it.

Do you think you could pick up 800 feet of wiring, along with all the connections, and completely install electricity in a school? This is just one of the do-it-yourself jobs that Dan Souder has tackled. After Dutch Stucky of Berne, Indiana, had spent one month of hard, physical labor, on his own time and expense, and received the joy of knowing that his voluntary services were a real contribution to the program in Cachipay, he now returned for a period of three months, to resume giving his time in helping wherever needed.



Dan and Dutch

These are but three of the challenges met by your voluntary service workers--the end results: joy, satisfaction, and the blessing of realizing that one need not say, "I can't." Have you ever considered laying aside, for just a short time, your material security and the convenient luxury of everyday routine, for a deeper desire to really do something, and give of yourself?

GRASS ROOTS EVANGELISM

Monday, November 1, dawned clear and bright, promising good weather in the middle of the rainy season for the prospective visit to Reventones, a town about an hour's drive from Cachipay. Several weeks earlier at a house meeting a lady interested in the gospel invited George Ediger to hold a meeting in her home. Such meetings have become the order of the day for George as he has made evangelistic trips to various surrounding communities with Colombian Christians.

In these meetings the blessing of God is prayed for and expected, but little did George anticipate the marvelous working of the Spirit that would take place that day in the dirt patio of a little home one block from the town center.

When George and his wife, accompanied by a group of Christian friends who had been witnessing to the family over a period of months, arrived at the home of the Gamboas, the husband left to invite some of his friends. Three men came: one, a storekeeper and leader in the community; another, a brother to a doctor; and a third, a farmer. After special music, George presented a message on John 3:16, trusting the Holy Spirit to overrule his errors in Spanish.

"Are some of you tired of your old life and want to have it changed?" he ended.

"Claro! (Certainly)," responded Mr. Gamboa.

"Would others like to give your hearts to Christ and receive a new life from Him?" pursued George.

"Por supuesto! (Of course)," spoke up another man.

"Then I want to ask each of you who would like to receive Christ as your Saviour to kneel with me here on the ground and repeat a prayer after me." George knelt. Then one and another solemnly knelt with him. The Christians present thrilled to witness the Spirit working in the hearts of the group. Six persons invited Christ to come into their hearts in a simple way. Do pray for them!

VERNELLE YODER GOES ON FURLOUGH



Vernelle Yoder

After three years of concentrated effort in the mission school in La Mesa, Vernelle Yoder will go on a three-month furlough to Berne, Indiana.

Vernelle not only is a teacher that instructs two or three grades at one time, but she is also the administrator of the school, and is at the same time an active participant in the life of the La Mesa Mennonite Church. Her helpfulness and dedication is a vital factor in the fine growth that the church in La Mesa has been showing.

The "summer vacations" in Colombia are during December and January. Miss Yoder plans to return in February to resume her much appreciated missionary efforts.

THE GOOD NEWS CLUB



Janet Soldner

"A little child of seven, or even three or four, may enter into heaven through Christ the open door." "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world." These are only a few of the songs that are being sung with the accompaniment of the accordion on the porch of a believer's home on a Sunday afternoon.

Farmers going home from market in the middle of Sunday afternoon stop to listen. Why do the children sing so heartily and why are they so happy? This is none other than the Good News Club which was started in September. Margaret Ediger and Janet Soldner take turns giving the Bible lessons and leading the singing. Dale Souder furnishes the accompaniment on the accordion.

The most rewarding thing about this class is the fact that neighbor children who heretofore have had little contact with the gospel are being reached, and seven have now given their hearts to the Lord.

DECISION TIME IN SCHOOL

There is no more important activity in mission work than to help people come into the experience of the new birth. Our schools spend many hours teaching arithmetic, reading, etc., but the foundation that we seek to help the children to build their lives upon is the rock Christ Jesus.

The wonderful experience of spiritual rebirth and renewal was recently witnessed in our school in Cachipay during special meetings with Mrs. Armando Hernandez of Ibagué. The messages were especially designed for young hearts, and the songs and the illustrated talks were very effective.

There is nothing static about the spiritual life of the children--it goes up and down, and there is much struggle. But each one is precious to the Lord. Do remember them in your prayers.



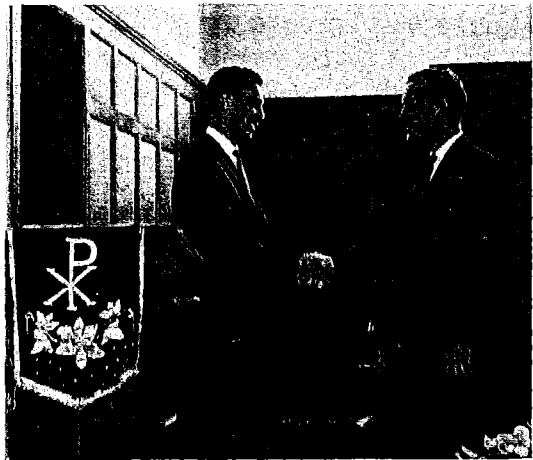
Eunice Hernandez

LUIS CORREA INTERIM PASTOR

In the absence of Howard Habegger, pastor of the Mennonite Church in Bogotá, Luis Correa has become interim pastor until January.

The church in Bogotá is the newest of the organized churches of our mission and is composed largely of ex-students and friends of the school in Cachipay.

The church has an active outreach program including a radio broadcast and an outstation Sunday school program. Luis Correa was the representative of the Mennonites in Colombia (along with Mrs. Elda Aragon) to the General Conference in Colorado.



Luis Correa receives charge

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH

We wish that everyone of you could come visit us during the month of December. It would be a very simple matter then for us all to meet the mission budget--because we know that if you could see what we see all the time you'd be glad to give the little more that it takes.

Since many of you can't come, we try to be eyes for you, and then visit you through these pages and in person to tell you of what we see. This is a great privilege for us. Missionary Howard Habegger, now on furlough from his church in Bogotá writes: "Thus far I have traveled 4700 miles, spoken 31 times in 22 days. Frankly, this is the greatest experience of my life."

We want you to know and:

THANK GOD that over 300 people have professed faith in Christ through baptism in our churches.

THANK GOD for opening wide the doors in Colombia and for the new atmosphere.

PRAY FOR George Edigers in their evangelistic advance program.

PRAY FOR the Klaassens in their new and heavy responsibilities in Cachipay.

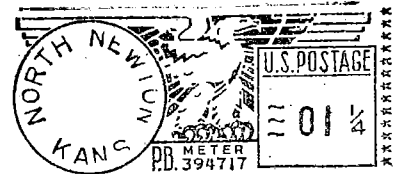
PRAY FOR the missionaries on furlough--furloughs often bring critical issues to a head in the lives of missionaries. Remember they too are human.

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

COLOMBIAN NEWS
General Conference Mennonite Church
Box 347
Newton, Kansas 67114

Return Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.



N. P. Sprieger
Goshen College Library
Goshen, Indiana