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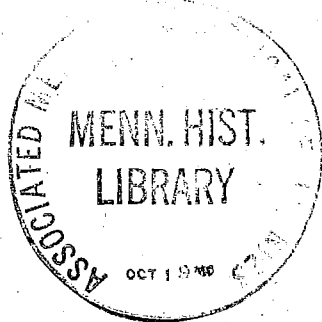
THIS IS A
CALL TO PRAYER
FOR
THE LORD'S WORK
IN
COLOMBIA

COLOMBIAN NEWS

Cachipay, Cund., Colombia, S. A.



INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA



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ANDREW SHELLY VISITS COLOMBIA

"Apparently I entered a new world. . . Unquestionably one of the greatest days of my life . . . Obviously dedication and hunger for spiritual things. . . The searching eyes will always be before me." These are among the many phrases which Rev. Andrew uses to describe his trip to Colombia.

Rev. Shelly, executive secretary of the Board of Missions, spent two weeks in April visiting the Colombian field, fellowshiping with national Christians and missionaries, evaluating what has been done, and examining and making suggestions for further expansion. On Easter Sunday the day began for him at 4:15 a.m. with a hike up the mountain to Cachipay to attend the sunrise service, and ended close to 10:00 p.m. after the last service. Other full days were spent hiking over the rugged mountain



paths to attend meetings and fellowship with the Christians. Much time was dedicated to visiting the churches and out-stations, to meetings with national groups and missionaries, and to speaking before various assemblies, including the students of the Presbyterian Normal School in Ibague and the American school in Bogota.

His visit was greatly anticipated by the missionaries, and they are grateful for his keen insight into the program of the field, and for his willing entrance into the many activities of the two weeks.

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S MEETINGS HELD

During May, Miss Cora Soderquist of The Evangelical Alliance Mission held a week of children's meetings with the students of the Cachipay school. "Aunt Cora" is much beloved by the children, for last year a number of them accepted the Lord in her meetings, and they were looking forward to her return.

Her messages were based on Ephesians 6, and the soldier of Christ and armor of a Christian became very real to the children. A number of decisions and rededications were made, and victories were won during the week.



AUNT CORA

YOUNG MEN GIVE THREE MONTHS TO SERVICE IN COLOMBIA

Arriving in Bogota on June 9 to spend a summer in Voluntary Service work were John Kulp and Ray Linberger, both members of Grace Church, Lansdale, Pennsylvania. Forty-eight hours before they experienced an enthusiastic send-off at the Philadelphia airport by two bus loads of Lansdale friends. With the wholehearted support and enthusiasm of their pastor and church, they have come to dedicate their time and energy to the work of the Lord in Colombia.

VSer RAY LINBERGER SPEAKS

"My presence in Colombia was brought about by a piece of paper that was sent to me through the mail. That piece of paper was a list of the summer opportunities for Voluntary Service workers. When it first arrived, I glanced at it and then threw it to one side of my desk, for I was too busy preparing a term paper to be bothered with such stuff. A few days later, wandering into my room with an idle mind, my eyes again fell on that piece of paper. I picked it up and began looking through it, and as I did, my mind became active. In fact, it became so active in so short a time that I found myself, in a matter of minutes, writing to the Mennonite headquarters in Kansas for more information on the possibility of summer service in Colombia. In a short time I received an answer, and almost before I realized it, I was preparing for the trip.

"To make a long story short, I have been in Colombia for about five weeks. The first two weeks I spent getting adjusted to the new land. Several times I felt like I would much rather be home. But since I have spent some of the last three weeks visiting different places getting better acquainted with the people and customs, my feelings have taken a complete change. I now love the place and the people, and am praying that some day not too far distant the Lord will bring me back to the beautiful land of Colombia to minister in His name to the people here. Pray with me. Rom 8:32"

A WORD FROM JOHN KULP

"When I decided in May to give three months of Voluntary Service to the Colegio Americano, I did not know what to expect in regard to the mission or to Colombia as a country. However, I was very much surprised when my plane landed in Bogota to find a very new and modern airport. There the Flickinger family met me, and we drove to the Sears Roebuck store and ate supper in the cafeteria there. But around these things are old shops and tumbledown houses. So to me, Colombia is a land of contrasts. In the same glance you can see a 1960 Cadillac and a man riding a donkey cart, or a gas station and a blacksmith shop. There are rich people and poor people here, but they all have one thing in common. They all have a soul that will either spend eternity in heaven or hell, and they need the gospel message badly.

"Once you leave the city, it is like stepping into another world. There are tiny houses dotting the mountain sides, and you can see horses, cows, mules, and donkeys everywhere. Some of the houses are very nice, while others are made of mud and have grass roofs. In the mountains only the most wealthy have cars. Most of the people either ride horseback or walk.

"The grip of Catholicism on the country can be seen everywhere. At the center of every town is a gigantic Catholic church. If you ride through the mountains on a bus, every so often it will stop along the road at the statue of a saint or the virgin, and the bus driver will light a candle. I took a ride up the mountain beside Bogota in one of the world's largest cable cars. At the top was a huge Catholic church and many concessions,

including the sale of alcoholic beverages. When I visited the large salt mines, I found, carved in the salt, a large cathedral with statues of the virgin. Even the government is almost 100% Catholic. It is very difficult to preach the gospel to a people who for centuries have known nothing but the traditions and rituals of the Catholic church and who for so long have been bound by the chains of fear to the church.



JOHN



RAY



SHRINES BESIDE THE
ROAD

"I have had the opportunity to go with Arthur Keiser to the homes of the different Christian families to do visitation work, and have been made more aware of the problems the Christians as individuals and as families face. It has thrilled my heart as I have listened to them sing hymns, pray, and quote Bible verses from memory. The difference certainly is clearly visible in the regenerate lives of the Christians here in Colombia."

RETREAT TIME

Four years ago the first retreat of the Mennonite churches was held at the school farm. Such an idea was completely new to these people. To stay away from home overnight in a dormitory with other people, to eat with them in a dining hall, to study with them, and to play with them were things which they had never done before, nor had they heard of such things. That first year hardly anyone took advantage of the dormitory facilities, and everyone went home each evening.

With each year, a few more have fallen into the happy habit of taking a few days apart and dedicating them wholly to the things of the Lord. Last year the dormitories were a little fuller than in previous years, and so many took advantage of the dining hall meals that sometimes there was hardly room for them all.

July 25 to 29 marks the fourth annual retreat. This year we expect even more to be here. Rev. Guillermo Quiceno, a young Christian Missionary Alliance minister who is well known among our people, will be the evangelistic speaker. Rev. Everett Eck, for many years a missionary in Chile, will offer Bible study classes, while his wife will have special children's meetings. Special music will be provided by the Eck family and Gabriel Suarez, a young Colombian teacher. The retreat will be followed on July 30 by the annual conference of the Colombian Mennonite Churches.

ALL THOSE HOLIDAYS

What fun to have a holiday! The 4th of July celebration was very special this year as all the children lined the playground to watch the fireworks display put on by the VSers. Then on July 20th, Colombia celebrates her independence. This year marks the 150th anniversary of that great event, and many important celebrations have been planned. Yes, a holiday is a merry time!

But there are times when we don't enjoy them so much. The month of June is an example. First, on June 16 come Corpus Cristi. Now it is most likely that most of you are completely unaware of such a celebration. But since it is an important Catholic festival, and since in Catholic Colombia the important church festivals are also legal holidays, we reluctantly concede and let all the workers off for a day's vacation. But then in the



RETREAT BEGINS. . . .



A HAPPY HABIT



A FEW DAYS DEDICATED TO GOD

very next week is another holiday. . .the celebration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Our Protestant minds rebel at such a celebration. . .but what can one do? And then to top it all off, the festival of St. Peter and St. Paul falls within one week more. It is almost too much! We breathe a sigh of relief as June ends, and we can look forward to a few uninterrupted weeks of activity.

HOW THEY STUDY

Our visitors from the US, arriving during the final examinations of the first semester, have been fascinated by the difference in North American and Latin customs in elementary school. It is about 9:30 a.m. Join us as we look in on the children.

Since the first exam (all of two hour duration) began at 8:00 a.m., some of the children have finished and been excused from the classroom. Now you can see them everywhere. . . walking around the playground, down the road, and around the houses. . .walking and walking. Each child has a notebook, and mumbles to himself as he reads and recites, always walking back and forth. There is a lot of memorizing to be done before the second test begins at 10:00 a.m.

Perhaps you would be interested in the content of the exam. Well, I overheard a couple of fourth graders discussing the date on which Columbus left Spain on his second journey to America. Just for your information, it was on September 24, 1493. (I didn't know it myself, but didn't want to reveal my ignorance to the children; so I looked it up!) Or do you know the name of the university Columbus attended, or how many ships and passengers accompanied him on his third journey? I'll let you look those up if you wish to receive a passing grade!

Since geometry is taught in first grade, that would have been an interesting test to sit in on, but maybe I wouldn't know these answers either. Well, anyway, I received my diploma quite a number of years ago; so I don't have to worry about it now.

THIS AND THAT

Traveling to Ibague where the Presbyterian Normal School is located, were Calvin and Sidonia Flickinger, Ray Linberger, and John Kulp. At the present time five Mennonite young people are studying there, and next year Mr. and Mrs. Glendon Klaassen, presently in language school in Costa Rica, will be teaching there.

Recovered from surgery undergone in Bogota in May are Huldah Myers and Mrs. Arthur Keiser. The presence of the Lord was very real in the way He provided for them at this time.

Leaving for Kansas on July 7 was the Calvin Flickinger family, who will spend the major part of their furlough in Newton, Kansas. They were accompanied by Estella Alvarado, student in the Cachipay school. Their present mailing address is Pretty Prairie, Kansas. Calvin has been director of the school program during the past year, and Sidonia was school nurse and house mother to the older girls.

Scheduled to arrive in Bogota on August 4 are Gerald and Mary Hope Stucky, Paul and Timothy. They have spent most of their furlough in Berne, Indiana, where Jerry was assistant pastor of the First Mennonite Church, and have also traveled to the West coast. Judith and Peter will remain in Berne to continue their high school studies.

Visiting the Arthur Keiser family is his sister, Miss Violet Keiser of Quakertown, Pennsylvania. Six years ago Violet spent six months in Colombia as a Voluntary Service worker, and now returns for a two months' visit.

PRAYER REQUESTS

THANK HIM for the Voluntary Service workers who are dedicating this summer to His service
for opening new homes in rural areas for meetings
for new converts
for providing an extra teacher during the illness of Huldah Myers
for victories experienced in the children's meetings.

PRAY FOR the Klaassen family as they prepare to come to Colombia, that their visa
may be granted
the meetings in individual homes, that neighbors may hear the gospel through
them
the national workers, that they may grow in grace, in knowledge, and in
humility
the missionary staff, that they may be filled with the Spirit
the Board of Missions, that they be directed in their decisions.

COLOMBIAN NEWS

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