

APRIL 1966

NUMBER FORTY-FOUR

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

# COLOMBIAN NEWS

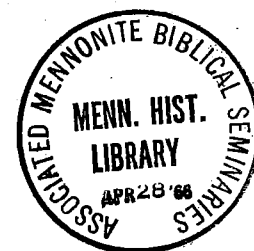
Cachipay, Cund., Colombia, S. A.



Time to pray for...

INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA

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## NEW WORKERS INSTALLED



Pastor - Evangelist  
installed

Rev. George Ediger, new missionary to Colombia, and Robert Elmassian, seminary student from Montevideo, Uruguay, were officially installed to their new responsibilities in Anolaima, Sunday, February 13.

Rev. Ediger was installed as pastor of the Anolaima church. In a simple but impressive service of installation, the congregation in Anolaima accepted George Ediger as their pastor. After many months of being without the services of a full-time pastor, the believers in Anolaima gave thanks to God for the coming of George and Margaret Ediger to give new life and direction to the work.

Mr. Robert Elmassian came to Colombia in January to assist in the work of evangelism. Robert is a student in the Mennonite Seminary in Montevideo, Uruguay, and will remain in Colombia for one year.

He was installed in the same service as an evangelist and church worker. Mr. Elmassian has preached in several of the Mennonite churches, recently having conducted a series of special meetings in the Cachipay church. During Holy Week he brought special messages at the church in La Mesa.

## FINALLY - A NEW VEHICLE

"Can you have the red jeep or the blue panel truck in running condition by tomorrow?" This question was generally directed over the past ten years to a voluntary service worker who has served as a mechanic. Cachipay's famous red jeep and blue panel truck would have gone into some "junkyard" long ago in the United States but in Colombia the theme song is-- "just keep them running."



"It's a Ford"

March 4 was indeed a happy day for Rev. Glen Klaassen, director of the Mennonite mission. In the seaport town of Buenaventura, Glen drove away from the dock a new Ford Econoline Super Van.

After many years of agreeing that a new vehicle was needed and following many months of negotiating with the proper officials in Colombia, the mission possesses a fine new vehicle which will serve as a car, truck, bus, hearse, etc., etc., etc. The Colombian staff is very grateful for this new vehicle.

## EDUCATIONAL TV IN LA MESA

Educational television has become a major factor in the elementary school programs in Colombia. After one year of the successful use of educational television in the Colegio in Cachipay, Colegio Menno in La Mesa is utilizing TV in its program for 1966.

Through the cooperation of the Peace Corps in Colombia, who give technical assistance and instruction, plus the gift of a beautiful new television set by the Union Church of Bogota, Colegio Menno is using the full services of educational programs.

Miss Vernelle Yoder, director of the school, and the national teachers are very enthusiastic about this modern means of

Teachers and television in La Mesa teaching Colombian children. Our two Colegios in Cachipay and La Mesa are among a selected few private schools in Colombia receiving the benefits of educational TV.

## HABEGGERS BACK TO BOGOTA

The Habegger family returned to Bogota in January to resume their duties. Howard and Marlene, with their three children, Cynthia, Lisa, and Eric, began their second term of missionary service in the capital city of Colombia.

Rev. Habegger is the missionary-pastor of the Mennonite Church in Bogota, a new church established about two years ago. Both Rev. and Mrs. Habegger spoke extensively during a four-month furlough in the United States.



Howard

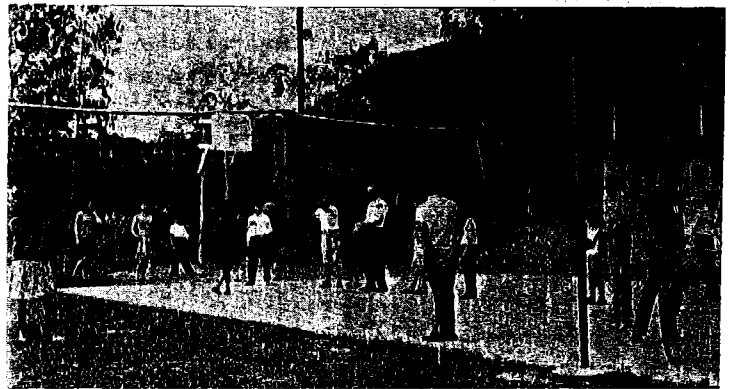


Marlene

## A TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S RETREAT



Time to learn



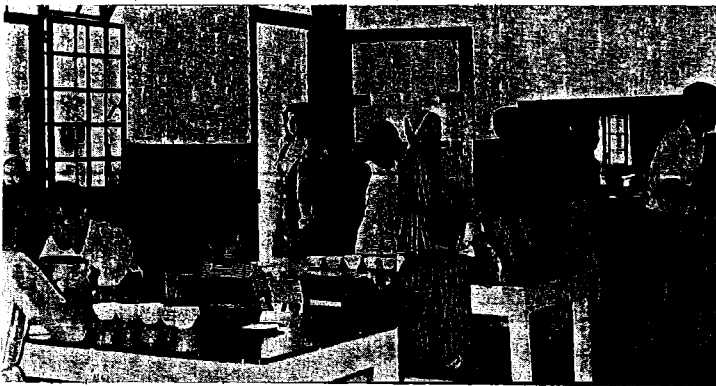
Time to play

More than sixty young people gathered in Cachipay for the 1966 Young People's Retreat. For four exciting days the young people heard three special speakers share their experiences and give guidance for the Christian youth of Colombia.

Mr. Nestor Chamorro, leader of Campus Crusades in Cali, brought several messages in regard to witnessing about Christ to non-Christian youth. Mr. Libney Pineda, taught several classes every morning emphasizing the evangelistic task of every Christian.

Mr. Chamorro presented to the young people the "Four Spiritual Principles," which when presented effectively to non-Christian youth can bring them to a point of decision for Christ.

From the Y.M.C.A. in Bogota, Mr. Alvaro Ramos shared some of his convictions in regard to the Christian and society. He encouraged the young people to be involved in the affairs of society, yet maintaining a positive Christian testimony.



Time to eat



Time to fellowship



The Hernandez family

### NEW ADDITION IN IBAGUE

Rev. and Mrs. Hernandez, our workers in Ibague, were recently blessed by the birth of their first child, Esli Timothy.

Armando and Eunice continue to lead the small congregation in Ibague with fine leadership. Rev. Hernandez has taken a very active role among the evangelical Christians of Ibague. The Mennonite congregation will participate in the United Evangelistic Crusade of Ibague in June and July.

## "MEET JULIA"



Julia Schutz

Pandora, Ohio, and Cachipay, Colombia, are separated by many miles, but a young missionary named Julia Schutz knows that Colombia is where God has led her to serve. The Colombian News invites each of its readers to "Meet Julia."

Julia grew up in Pandora, Ohio, and is a member of the Grace Mennonite Church. Following her graduation from high school, she enrolled in Bluffton College where she majored in the field of elementary education.

Through an experience of traveling to Central America in the summer of 1964, Julia began to consider the possibility of serving Christ in Latin America. Dr. Hector Valencia, veteran Christian worker in Colombia, encouraged Julia to consider the Colegio Americano in Cachipay.

The Board of Missions accepted Julia and assigned her to the Colegio in Cachipay. After four months of Spanish language study in Costa Rica, she arrived in Colombia in December of last year. At present she is engaged in the program of the Colegio as supervisor of the primary school, teaching two courses in the sixth year program, instructor of typing and music, teaches fifth grade English, and assists in teaching the Glen Klaassen and Dan Souder children.

Julia is very happy to be a part of the Colombian mission staff. In a few months she has made a significant contribution in the Colegio as well as in the lives of the children.

## RUTSCHMAN - ENS FAMILIES IN COLOMBIA

Bienvenida, "Welcome," was an often heard word during the month of March as visitors from the United States and Brazil "stopped over" in Colombia.

The LaVerne Rutschman family, former missionaries to Colombia, en route to Uruguay, spent four days visiting the churches and renewing old friendships. The Rutschmans visited the believers in Bogota, La Mesa, Cachipay, and Anolaima.

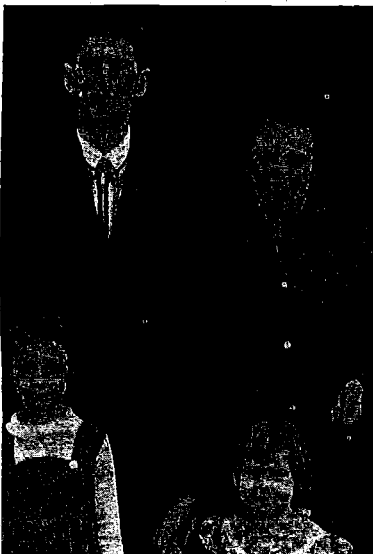


The Rutschmans

The Henry Ens family en route from Elkhart, Indiana, to Curitiba, Brazil, also made a four-day visit to Colombia. Mr. and Mrs. Ens had opportunity to acquaint themselves with the work of the mission. Henry spoke in the Bogota and Cachipay churches bringing Christian greetings from the Mennonites of Brazil.

The visit of the Ens family made it possible to establish a Christian contact between the Mennonites of Colombia and those of Brazil.

To both families the Colombian staff expresses thanks for their visit and interest in Colombia. Dr. Rutschman has resumed his duties as professor of theology at the Mennonite Seminary in Uruguay. Mr. Ens will serve the Mennonite churches in Brazil as a lay worker.



The Ens family

## SOMEWHERE IN THIS CITY

### B o g o t a

"Somewhere in this city, we will build a church building worthy of the name of Jesus Christ." This is the vision of the congregation of thirty-five believers in Bogota. The vision is beginning to take on reality as the Mennonite church approved a five-member building committee during the month of February. The first duty of the committee is to "locate and purchase a suitable property for the construction of a new church building."

Members of the building committee are: Mrs. Mercedes Pedraza de Gracia, oldest member of the Bogota church; Mr. Enrique Pedraza, treasurer and deacon; Mr. Justo Camacho, deacon; Mr. Luis Correa, ex-pastor of the Cachipay and Bogota churches; and Rev. Howard Habegger, missionary-pastor of the church. The building committee is meeting regularly for discussion and planning.

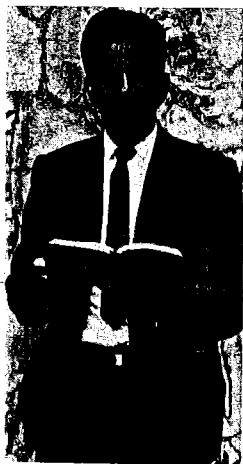
For two years the Bogota congregation has been renting the Presbyterian church building for worship services and other church activities. The members are anxious to build a church which will serve as the center for worship and witness. With the present funds available to the Bogota congregation it will be possible to purchase property and begin construction of a new building.

The building committee has visited several possible sites in the city during the past weeks. At present the congregation is waiting for official approval to construct a church in a new "barrio" (section) of Bogota. If approval is granted, the Bogota church will purchase the property and begin immediately to draw up building plans.

### DYNAMIC LAY WORKER RETURNS

The name Pablo Bernal in the community of La Mesa was synonymous with a Christian life that gave witness to the transforming power of Jesus Christ. Because of economic problems Pablo Bernal and his family moved to another town and have been absent from the La Mesa church for more than one year.

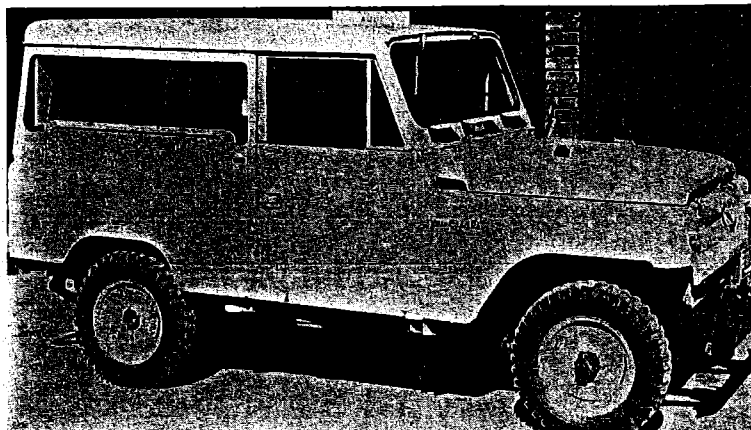
During the past year the Bernal family lost two children through death. But Pablo's faith in God never wavered in spite of many personal and family problems. Last month the Bernal family moved back to La Mesa for which the believers in the church are most grateful. Pablo's dedication to Christ and the church has given new life to the La Mesa congregation.



Pablo Bernal

## TAKEN BUT REPLACED

One of the realities of living in Bogota is the fact that an average of seven cars are stolen each day. The Mennonite mission had never lost a vehicle in twenty years, but finally the "law of averages" had its day in Bogota.



Nissan Patrol II

One week following the return of the Habeggars to Bogota, the mission's '61 Nissan Patrol jeep was taken, probably by a band of well-organized car thieves. Despite all efforts to recover the car by the Colombian F.B.I. and police department of Bogota, the car is considered a permanent casualty.

In a city the size of Bogota a mission car is almost indispensable for the total work of the mission and the church. The '61 Nissan Patrol was replaced in late February with a '65 vehicle of the same make. We are grateful to the Board of Missions and to those who made special contributions to make the purchase of another vehicle possible.

## PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRAISE God for the new spirit of renewal and revival in the La Mesa and Cachipay churches as a result of the special services during March-April.

PRAISE God for the way in which He has directed new workers to Colombia.

PRAISE God for the lessening tension between the Catholic and Protestant churches of Colombia giving new opportunities for broadening witness.

PRAY for Robert Elmassian as he preaches and works in our Colombian churches.

PRAY for the building committee in Bogota that God will give them guidance as they make plans to build a new church.

PRAY that the Holy Spirit will lead the mission staff in some very important decisions that must be made in 1966.

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

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