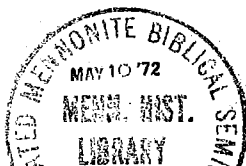


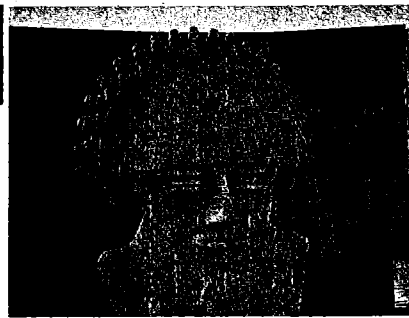
APRIL, 1972

NUMBER SIXTY-ONE

**This is a
CALL TO PRAYER
for
THE LORD'S WORK
in COLOMBIA**



COLOMBIAN NEWS



Colombia, South America

INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA

COLOMBIA, A MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTION

For the traveler, Colombia becomes a living book where history, art and natural beauty are tangible illustrations of life, past and present. Whether walking along city streets and in museums or driving along country roads, the traveler often has the feeling of participating in life as it was three or four hundred years ago. Typical villages are like carbon copies of old Spain--the architecture with the red clay tiled roofs, the rock streets, the antique convents and rich, ornate cathedrals, the open markets, the museums--all make for a colonial atmosphere that tourists enjoy. At the same time the modern cities offer the excitement of jet travel, relaxation in fine hotels and scenes of modern business and industry.



GUATAVITA, SCENE OF THE LEGEND
OF ELDORADO

With the Ninth Mennonite World Conference being planned for Brazil in July, we invite you to become acquainted with the "gateway to South America." See the churches and schools of the Mennonite Church in Colombia. Meet the people who participate in the work and are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Come to Colombia to see the unique Salt Cathedral, an underground wonder. See the Gold Museum with the largest collections of gold and emeralds. Learn about the legends of the Chibcha chief, Eldorado. Be thrilled with the majestic Andean Mountains. Drink 100% Colombian coffee!

For these reasons and many more, Colombia deserves to be visited by you. There is much to see and much to do. Take a trip into the past while participating in the future. Write to us, or to the Commission on Overseas Mission, for tour details in connection with the World Conference. We would be glad to see you in Colombia.

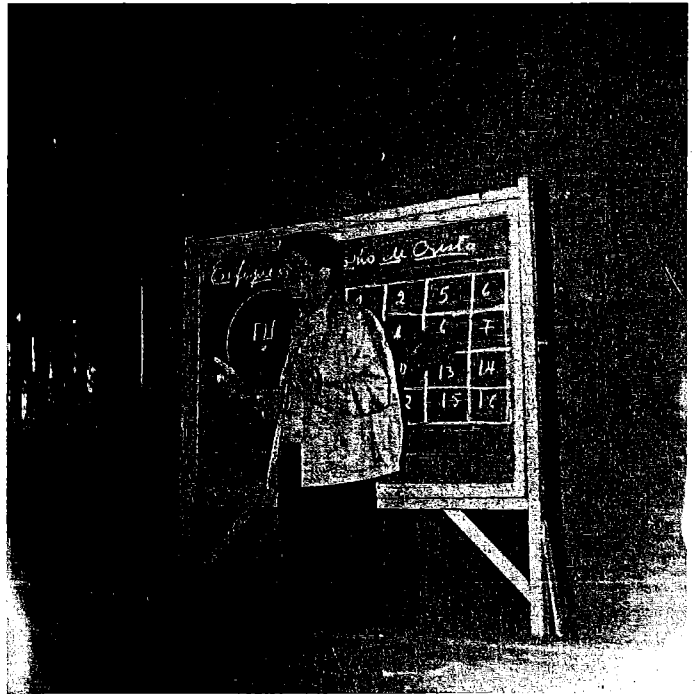


YOUTH RETREAT COMMITTEE
José René Hernández, Miguel
Rodríguez and Vidal Jiménez

"YOUNG PERSON, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WINNING?"

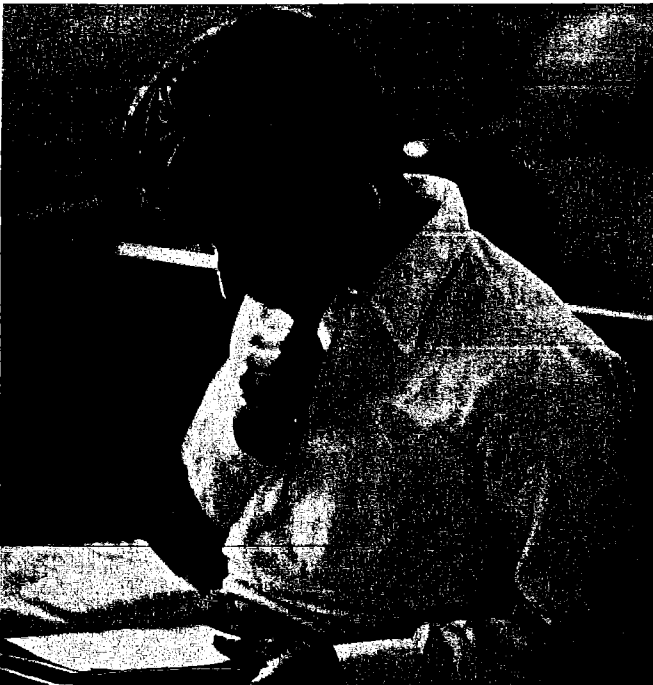
Increasingly, it seems to be difficult for young people to live lives of spiritual victory. Though throughout history there have been difficult situations to face, young people today are especially tempted by illicit relationships and by drug use in various forms.

From January 13-16 some 45 young people faced the issues of modern living and the challenge of being Christians, of really achieving personal victory in every sense. The Cachipay campgrounds again became the place for serious reflections and growth, for decision-making for some.



RETREAT SPEAKER, Rev. Waldo Pinilla

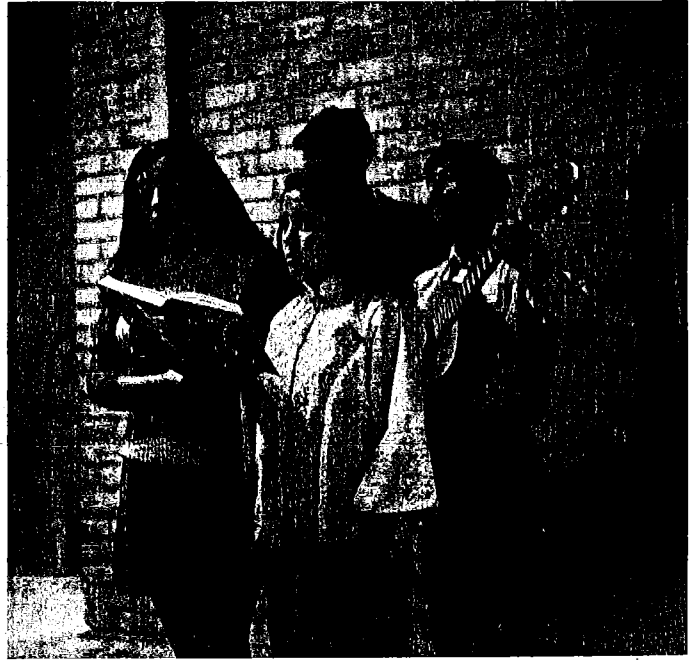
Rev. Waldo Pinilla, pastor of an inter-American church in Bogota and an instructor at the Bogota branch of the United Biblical Seminary, was the resource leader and speaker. We thank God for his ministry. His talks and studies focused on Christian growth in praising and worshipping God, on maturity in personal attitudes and witnessing, on personal evaluation before God and fellows, and on understanding the symptoms and dangers of drug users and how to overcome this problem in everyday life.



YOUTH RETREAT, PERSONAL STUDY



YOUTH RETREAT DISCUSSION GROUP



YOUTH RETREAT MUSICAL GROUP

The many contemporary and biblical illustrations of young people helped the retreaters to see that spiritual resources are available through Christ and through God's word. It is possible to conquer!

The young people thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the annual retreat. And we hope and pray that all will be winners for Christ.



YOUTH RETREAT DINING HALL



YOUTH RETREAT RECREATION TIME

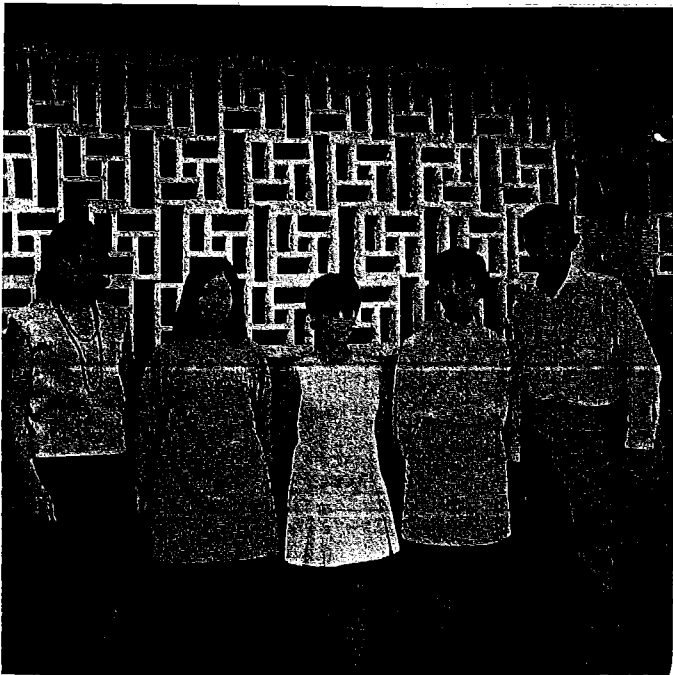
SCHOOL YEAR 1972 BEGINS

February means the beginning of another school year. The three elementary schools sponsored by the Mennonite church in Colombia were ready to go. The Cachipay school opened with almost 50 students and three full-time teachers. They are: Waldina Rojas who is the directress, Gloria Rodriguez and Estella Castillo. George and Margaret Ediger and Larry and Edith Tschetter also help with specialized courses such as music, English, physical education and crafts.

The La Mesa school, the largest of the three, has an enrollment of more than a hundred students. Virginia Terreros is the directress.



COLEGIO AMERICANO, ANOLAIMA, PART OF STUDENT BODY AND TEACHERS (Dora Peirera, extreme left, and Otilia Lugo, extreme right)



COLEGIO MENNO, LA MESA, TEACHERS (Leona Daza, Marina Avendano, Ana Pedraza, Virginia Terreros and Jose Rene Hernandez)

The Anolaima school, directed by Mrs. Otilia Lugo, has 54 students with two full-time teachers. Pastor Luis Lugo also helps with several of the classes.

With Christian education plus the help of a strong church and, above all, the constant influence of a Christian home, we can hope and pray for the fulfillment of Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

NEW WORKERS FOR COLOMBIA

Lewis and Judith Sprunger are expected to arrive in Bogota this month. Lewis has been studying Spanish for several months in San Jose, Costa Rica, while Judy, who grew up in Colombia, has been working as a social worker in family planning. Lewis has a doctorate in medicine specializing in pediatrics. He will be working at the Clinica Emmanuel en Bogota. Both Lewis and Judy are from Berne, Indiana



TSCHETTERS ACCEPT NEW MEMBER

On December 29 Larry and Edith Tschetter adopted little Matthew, receiving him from the Christian orphanage in Villavicencio, a city in the eastern plains of Colombia.

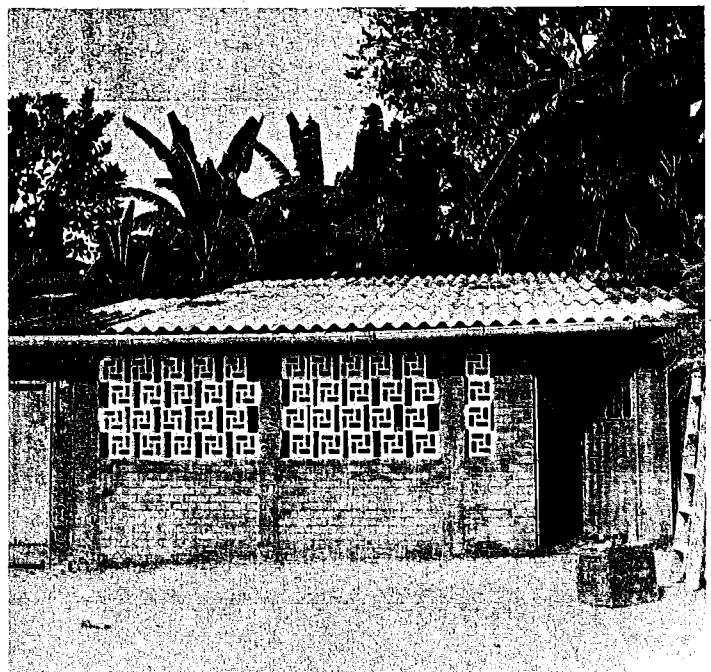
While legal papers are still being processed, it is quite evident that Matthew belongs in the Tschetter home and really likes it. So do the new parents! Congratulations, Edith and Larry!



COLEGIO MENNO ADDS CLASSROOM

During January and February, a new classroom was built on to the school in La Mesa. The simple structure, 22 by 26 feet, gives much needed room for about 20 students who were meeting in a dark, inadequate room in the old adobe building.

The parents of school children donated funds and labor. Also, Save the Children's Fund, an organization helping students with scholarships, gave the major part of the money needed for the materials. In the future, plans are to add a second story classroom to the newer buildings. Miss Terreros is the directress.





ALICE BACHERT TO GIRARDOT

Many of you will remember Miss Alice Bachert as the missionary in Anolaima for many years. Later, Alice moved to the States where, from her apartment in Florida, she continued her close contacts with the Colombian people. More recently, she lived on the northern coast of Colombia where she began her Colombian missionary career years ago.

Since November of last year Alice is living in Girardot, a tropical city on the banks of the Magdalena River. There she continues to participate actively in a prayer ministry. Her many friends appreciate her interest and help. Her daily work usually includes the direct-

ing of evening devotional studies where she lives. On Sundays Alice teaches a Sunday school class for teens in the local Presbyterian church. We wish her the blessings of the Lord in her life and ministry.



YOUNG PEOPLE SINGING (Ibague)
WITH PASTOR CARO AT THE ORGAN

EVANGELISM IN IBAGUE

While evangelism is really part of everyday life for the Christian, there are times when the whole church needs to concentrate on a special evangelistic effort.

The Ibague Mennonite Church, led by their pastor, Jaime Caro, did this for four days before as invitations had been handed out by active members. But God also had prepared the way. The church had suspended some of their regular activities in order to pray specifically for their friends and neighbors who needed Christ. God answered that request and many went to hear the gospel for the first time. With the use of evangelistic films, good music and brief messages, several new people made decisions to follow Christ. It is a thrill to see the small church with almost 300 people present.

WORKERS PRAY AND PLAY

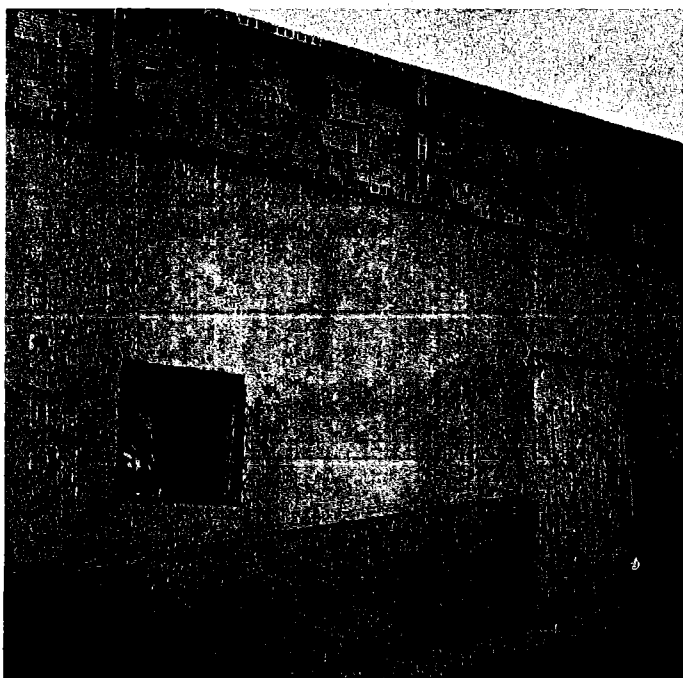
Several times each year, a day is set aside for the pastors, teachers and other workers to get together for a brief retreat. On February 26 a workers' retreat was held in Girardot. The warm temperature and the central location make this an excellent place to meet.

First, the Presbyterian church and school facilities were used for a time of inspiration--singing, study, testimonies and prayer. Rev. Aristobulo Porras, pastor of the church, led the group in Bible study, making interesting comparisons between the Lord's Prayer and Psalm 23. He pointed out how prayer must be practiced and expressed in faith in daily and life-long relationships with God.



RETREATERS AT LUNCHTIME

Then, after a lunch together in the parsonage patio, the remainder of the day was spent in swimming at a popular pool. It was a lot of fun playing ball and tag, or just visiting. We found out that playing and laughing together is a fine way to share Christian fellowship, too.



ANOLAIMA SOCIAL ACTION

Should Christians participate in social action? The Anolaima church says "yes." A significant project that is nearing completion is the remodeling of the house of Mrs. Elvira Ramos, a long-time member of the church. The house was literally falling apart, especially since termites had destroyed the rafters, doors and other wooden parts. Mrs. Ramos, an elderly widow, makes only a few cents by sewing and then selling her goods. She needed help badly. In demonstration of Christian love, the church, led by Pastor Luis Lugo, and with the help of money and work from volunteers, put a new roof on the building, replaced some of the walls and doors, and publicly gave testimony in this way of the love of Christ. A good example to follow!

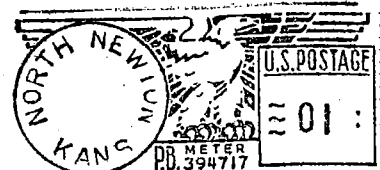
WELCOME VISITORS!

We have been happy to have the following visitors in Colombia: Mr. and Mrs. Bob Beck with Julie and David from Bluffton, Ohio; Mr. Wayne Hofmann from Lodi, California; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hammit from Ann Arbor, Michigan; Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Puentes from Lincoln, Nebraska; and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Meyer and daughter Arlene from Berne, Indiana.

COLOMBIAN NEWS
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NEW RADIO EFFORT IN IBAGUE

Jose Chuquin, teacher in the Colegio Americano of Ibague and student at the University of Tolima, is the speaker on the radio program sponsored by the Ibague Mennonite Church. The program, "Moments of Reflection," is given weekly. Its purpose is to give a Christian orientation to life and to help the listeners find the solutions to their everyday concerns.

Mr. Chuquin, a graduate of the mission school in Cachipay and of the Presbyterian High School of Barranquilla, is actively using his talents to serve Christ and others. His radio ministry and other activities are a real asset to the Ibague church.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRAISE GOD for a wholesome and helpful youth retreat.
PRAISE GOD for Christian teachers for the three elementary schools and for their opportunity to help many children.
PRAISE GOD for visas for Lewis and Judy Sprunger to enter Colombia.
PRAISE GOD for freedom to witness and work for Christ in Colombia.
PRAISE GOD for the funds and personnel needed to carry on a faithful witness.
PRAY FOR the Lewis Sprungers and the Mark Claassens as they arrive in Colombia this month to begin their service.
PRAY FOR the young people of the Colombian churches.
PRAY FOR the many people who have heard the gospel and have responded.
PRAY FOR a full-time pastor for the Bogota church.
PRAY FOR the radio programs in Ibague and in Bogota.
PRAY FOR the John Wiebe family on furlough in Canada.