

— In The News —

116 Protestant Martyred in Colombia Last 13 Years

San Jose, Costa Rica (CNS)—“Thirteen years of religious persecution in Colombia have resulted in an appalling total of 116 Protestant Christians martyred because of their religious faith, 65 Protestant churches and chapels destroyed by fire or dynamite, and over 200 Protestant day schools closed,” says Presbyterian Missionary James E. Coff, director of a Presbyterian school for boys in Barranquilla, Columbia.

Goff, in the lead article of the May-June Latin America Evangelist magazine published here by the Latin America Mission, says that although persecution has diminished since 1958, its roots of hatred and its pseudo-legal basis have never been removed.

A change in the political climate, he warns, “could produce another blood bath for the Lord’s people.” In spite of the persecution, Protestant church membership in Colombia has increased more than two-and-a-half times in the past seven years.

Goff, whose duties as information secretary of Colombia’s Evangelical Confederation are to investigate and report cases of persecution, says, “A new attitude on the part of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, plus positive action in defense of freedom by the Colombian government, could change the picture almost overnight.”

He says continued harassment of Colombian Protestants is supported by highly discriminatory acts of the Colombian government including two treaties with the Vatican and a set of executive orders.

Protestant Religious Service Attacked

Repelon, Colombia (EP)—When Protestants here gathered for a religious service in a private home on May 17, they were attacked by a mob of school children and adults in the company of Father Jeremias Contreras, the parish priest, according to Rev. James Goff of the Evangelical Confederation of Colombia. He says the group, estimated at over 300 persons, surrounded the house.

Following the singing of Catholic songs and hurling anti-Protestant epithets, they stoned the Protestant assembly, inflicting several minor injuries. One of the group was able to escape and call the mayor who came and restored order.

Graham Answers Manchester Critics; Addresses 50,000 in Ireland

Belfast, Ireland (EP)—Evangelist Billy Graham spoke to more than 50,000 Irish here June 26th on the eve of his journey homeward by air following the three-week North of England Crusade in Manchester.

In an interview with the Methodist Recorder in London, Graham took issue with critics of the Manchester meetings who said his evangelism was “too narrow” and lacked social implications.

“The distinctive place of mass evangelism is that it is a source of strength and a spear-head of attack for Christian movements,” Graham said. “Social advance in the name of Christ is the consequence of the work of the Holy Spirit in individual life. For this reason the centrality of the message in these crusades is the Cross of Christ.”

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If the night slips away and the day flies by without your stopping to read God’s holy Word, to pray, and to do good to others, just what have you accomplished that is worthwhile?—Walter E. Isenhour.

The King’s Highway



CONFIRMATION PLUS OUTREACH

Churches need to be well established in the faith. Paul was constrained to confirm the churches he had founded of his first missionary trip. He took Silas and “went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.”

However, Paul was not so completely absorbed in confirming the churches that he could not hear the Macedonian call. He evidently had the regions beyond on his heart while strengthening the churches in the faith. This is seen in that while visiting the churches he found a young man whom he considered suitable for pastoring in new areas. He had Timothy “to go forth with him.” Also on this church tour Luke was added to the missionary team. The churches provided men for further outreach of the Gospel. Paul, with these, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit entered Macedonia. There, new churches were established in Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea and down in Corinth.

Our churches need to be confirmed in the faith. We need also an outreach into new areas. The Apostle Paul was concerned about both. Let us not be so busy with our established works, that we have no concern, no zeal, no men and materials, no go within us, for those communities beyond us.

B. M. Hicks

NEEDED — RECRUITS

With the many objectives before us that are calling for financial help, the Home Mission Board decided it was necessary to recruit new members to our Gospel Jet programme.

We can look back and say “Praise the Lord” for the “Jet” idea; its promotion and accomplishments. Yet we are alarmed at the dwindling members of our Jet Fleet—eight hundred Jets got out and only four hundred return.

The Jets are sent out four times a year in time of urgency and need. This year it was decided at our Alliance that Jets would also be used to raise monies needed to supplement pastors who do not receive the minimum salary from their churches.

With this added burden it is not difficult to understand our need of recruits.

Would you be one to join our ranks so that the fleet can be brought up to at least its former strength? If you are not a member, would you be willing to give \$1. four times a year when a Jet comes your way? Below is a form provided for those who can and are willing to help. Send form to Rev. Gerald Inman, Box 596, Shelburne, N. S.

In Him,
Jack Stevens

I wish to enroll as a member of the Home Mission Gospel Jet Programme.

Name:

Address:

People are lonely because they build walls instead of bridges.—Joseph F. Newton