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Dear Friends and family,

Perhaps some of you may be interested in some of the details of a recent one month trip to Colombia: 17 January to 19 February 2008.



It was lovely to see Colombian mountains again, after 7 months in flat Holland! However, it felt strange to be in Colombia without my base (my family) and a "home church". But, as I discovered, with a mobile phone, a jeep, a suitcase and a sleeping bag, one get around quite a lot! I had the opportunity to visit 15 Christian assemblies and to participate in 2 Bible

conferences and 3 retreats. The next time I will schedule a day or two to rest, a time to swim and be alone! Perhaps I can share with you some of the highlights:

**Teachers**      **Retreat:**

Twice a year, the teachers and coordinators of "The Christian Network School" come together for 24 hours. On the 15 of February it was a joy to meet the 14 teachers who currently teach Bible lessons in Colombian Government schools. Some work full time,



others one or two days a week. Each is responsible to their own contacts, usually offering to help teach Religious Formation or Ethics in one or two local schools. Gifts sent to Fundación Semillas (Pereira) are used to help support this evangelistic team and to provide them with materials.



The thrust of this last meeting was to encourage focused work: the salvation of children. It was an encouragement for me to hear their stories, and a challenge to hear some of their problems!

**Workers Retreat:** This was the 5th bi-yearly two day meeting for brothers who work part time (on projects) or full time among some Christian congregations in Colombia. About 20 were present. We encouraged each other in the Lord. Each had an opportunity to share about his calling and vision. The rest could comment, ask and make helpful suggestions. It is a platform for mutual encouragement and accountability.



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**Armenia Assembly:** Having spent our last 5 years in Armenia, I was very happy to see the local brethren working and growing together. As in every assembly, they also have their difficult moments. Two of the sisters who worked part time with "The Christian network School" stopped to devote more time to their families and their local assembly – a wise choice! The congregation hosted an encouraging youth camp in December. On Sunday 17 of February, 5 new believers were baptised. Harmony (with a necessary degree of flexibility) and a shared vision are indispensable within the assembly leadership team. We lead by our example!

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Thank you for taking the time to read this report. May it encourage you to continue to pray for our fellow brothers and sisters in Colombia.

With warm Christian greetings,

- Philip