

# Christian Network School

## Report: May 2005, Colombia

By law, Colombian government schools must teach children at least one hour a week 'Ethics and Moral values'. Many teachers and schools are at a loss as to what to do with this hour. Yet moral decadence and lack of ethics are epidemic, both in and out of schools! It was during 2002 that we began to be aware of the potential opportunities this provides. A few sisters offered to teach Bible lessons in their local school, and in 2003 the idea of the



'Christian Network School' came into being. In Colombia it is referred to as 'El Programa de Bienestar Moral', that is, 'The Moral Wellbeing Programme'.

The Christian foundation, 'Fundacion Semillas' coordinates and sponsors 3 teachers full time, 5 teachers three days a week and 2 teachers one day a week. These are spread out working in 22 schools over 8 different towns. The teachers come from 7 different Christian congregations. Over 4,000 children now receive a Bible lesson every week during term time. This year, one of the teachers is experimenting with secondary school classes. All the others teach in primary schools. We provide some basic financing (low



enough not to encourage any to join for the money), transport costs and Christian books for the teachers and all their students.

This week I (Philip) spent two days visiting 7 of these schools in Cartago, Pereira and Manizales. The photos in

this report were taken during this trip. I sat through some of the classes, and, although work among children is not my personal calling, I was thrilled to see the attention of the children and to hear them singing Christian songs with such enthusiasm. All the



teachers I met conveyed their thanks and appreciation for this positive programme. The three school heads I spoke with, were cautious yet very positive. It is of paramount importance to present the Bible teaching with its application without promoting or criticizing any religious group. It is a matter of lovingly sowing the good seed, the 'Word of God', being confident that "only God... makes things grow" (1 Cor. 3:6-8).

Perhaps the Lord will lay on your heart to pray from time to time for this interesting project. The current pressing needs are:



1. Teachers: The spiritual wellbeing and vision of the teachers. Each must feel a clear calling from the Lord and must regulate his or her own work.
2. Open doors: That these opportunities would continue and that the Lord may enthuse more Christian teachers to take on the challenge. Over these last 2 years, 3 schools have closed their doors due to complaints by parents.
3. Trials for Christ's sake: A sister who is employed by a government school used our material in some of her classes. A complicated religious parent has taken his complaint to the highest levels seeking to get her dismissed. She is currently going through disciplinary proceedings. It is all very stressful.

4. Coordinator: We pray that the Lord may raise a gifted brother or sister with an evident sense of calling to take on the coordination of this project.



If you or your local church wish to contribute financially towards this project, please write for information.

Thank you for your interest in this corner of the Lord's VAST vineyard!

With our warm Christian greetings,

Philip & Anneke Nunn

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