

Our Work Abroad

AFTER THE REVIVAL IN ORURO

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The very first night after the close of the Strachan-Varetto Campaign in Oruro nearly all of the persons who had given us their names, indicating their desire to follow the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, were present for the beginning of a special study of the little Gospel of St. John which had been given to each person. After several Tuesday evenings of study one could easily pick out the most promising ones. Many did not return after the first two nights of study; others came off and on, as we say; while a few became so much interested in the blessed message of the Gospel of John that they were there every night and also at the regular meetings of the church.

We were not able to cover the whole Gospel, for we had only a few weeks for this special study, but we did try to cover the chapters that contained the very food they needed, in the clearest possible language. During these studies opportunity was given to all to state their own experiences and to take part in the discussion of the lesson to be studied. Several read up the portion for the evening and came ready with some thought about it, though one could not expect anything very mature from any of them. On several occasions they were asked directly, one by one, just what they were getting out of the new life as they were living it, and the surprises were many, for some of them were having real joy in their new-found Saviour.

Examining for Baptism

It was felt that many were ready for baptism and that we should have baptism before leaving Oruro to come to La Paz. Of these quite a few were believers for several years, but for reasons well known to the missionaries in charge, could not be baptized. But one difficulty was cleared away after the other, and one by one both new and old converts expressed their desire to follow the Lord through the waters of the baptismal grave.

We spent one night, Wednesday night, for the hearing of the testimonies of those who desired to be baptized, and I assure you

that I seldom have enjoyed a service as I did that one. There were nine who gave their testimony, and it was interesting to note how each had his own story to tell. Often the one, lacking sufficient material of his own, repeats what the previous one has said; but on this particular occasion this was not the case. One could feel the intensity with which each felt his own situation.

The Schoolmaster

A schoolmaster and his wife were also among the number, and this case is of especial interest. For a long time we had to have our services in Llallagua in the schoolhouse of the mining company where this man was the teacher. For some time he was living alone in the house provided by the company, and as a rule came to the meetings. He became so interested in the Way of Life that when his wife rejoined him from Cochabamba he at once began to interest her in the Gospel. She at first was very much opposed to his becoming an "evangelista", but there was one thing she had to explain away satisfactorily before she could be sure that this new thing which had captured him was of the devil. He had been a very bad husband, of which fact she was surer than of anything else, and now, on her return from Cochabamba, she found him a different man. It was this change in his life that made her a willing listener while he read to her out of God's Word. The result was that, when the meetings began in Oruro, she was one of the most interested hearers, and also brought along her sister-in-law, who too took her stand for Christ, though soon after moved out of the city; so we have lost track of her. Already some twenty have been baptized in Llallagua, but here were two more of whom we knew nothing until the call came through the revival services.

Patience Needed

There were others who related very convincing experiences re their conversion, and on the strength of these testimonies nine were baptized at the close of the year. After a very few years of experience here in Bolivia one is very reticent about tabulating results, however desirous one might be of encourag-