

As Christians we should tell our enemies about Jesus and pray they repent and accept Him as Lord and Savior. There are now even New Testaments and special leaflets printed especially to share the Gospel with the guerrilla soldiers in Colombia and other such places where rebel groups fight the government.

See if you can answer the puzzle below to find out what is needed most by the guerrilla soldiers:

Picture Puzzle about Colombia

Identify each picture as something that is found in Colombia, then write down each underlined letter in the spaces below to find what is needed most of all:



1. _ _ _ _ _



2. _ _ _ _ _



3. _ _ _ _ _



4. _ _ _ _ _



5. _ _ _ _ _



6. _ _ _ _ _

What is needed most of all - _ _ _ _ _

Let's pray that the Lord will protect Russell, Aleitha and their family, along with the many other Christians who are taking the Gospel to the guerrillas and the other people in Colombia who don't know Jesus. Voice of the Martyrs has a new special project called Bibles Unbound where YOU can send bibles directly to people in Colombia so they can read the Bible for themselves. Check out their website below.

'Til next time,

Your friend, Shirley

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(Answer to puzzle: 1 - gold; 2 - oil; 3 - emeralds; 4 - parrot; 5 - coffee; 6 - coal. Final answer: Gospel)

World Kids

Fun facts for kids!

True stories!



PAL Page

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Which country is famous for emeralds, coffee and coke?

(No, we're not talking about Coca Cola, but the drug called cocaine!!)

You'd be right if you answered **Colombia!**

Colombia is a fascinating country of huge contrasts - beautiful scenery ranging from the tall Andes Mountains to flat grasslands, and from unexplored Amazon rainforests to popular Caribbean beaches. It is the fourth largest country in South America, and is in the northwestern part of the continent, bordering Panama - the land bridge to Central and North America. The capital city of Colombia is called Bogotá, which is an important Hispanic cultural center in the region.



Colombia has an area of about 440,000 square miles and a population of over 42 million people. Its flag has three stripes in the order of yellow, blue and red.



Colombia has several natural resources which it exports, including tobacco, bananas and its world-famous coffee; but it also has several industries including textiles, oil and mines that produce coal, gold, platinum and the beautiful green gems, called emeralds. In fact half the world's emeralds come from Colombia!

Many kinds of wildlife are found in Colombia, and it is common to see parrots and many varieties of colorful tropical birds. This beautiful country is actually home to more different species of wild birds than any other single country in the world, with a total of 1,721 known species!



It is sad that such a lovely country is also famous around the world for its violence and huge drug production. Centuries ago the natives of the area found that if they were ill or in pain, they could chew the leaves of the coca plant to lessen the pain. Doctors and dentists around the world used to give injections of cocaine to patients just 40 years ago. But then people started using it as a drug to help them forget their problems, or to feel "happy". Drug producers in Colombia started to employ thousands of people to grow and process the drug, and as they became rich and powerful, violence and drug wars increased.



Communist groups formed and rebelled against the government. They joined with the drug producers and started to terrorize the local people - stealing from them and killing anyone who tried to stop them. They now live and train in guerrilla camps hidden away in mountainous and jungle areas, and have caused half a million settlers to flee from their homes to seek refuge in big cities. Now, most of Colombia to the east of the Andes Mountains is controlled by guerrilla forces!



The families that fled from their homes have no money and often can't find work in the cities, so become poorer and poorer. Many of them, especially children, end up living on the streets. It is a bad situation, but fortunately in recent years there has been a big revival in Colombia, and many people have repented and turned from their wicked ways, and found Jesus! There are now churches and ministries spreading the gospel, but it is not easy as many are still persecuted, and some pastors have even been shot and killed.

Medellin used to be one of the most violent cities, but an ex-prisoner who got saved, went back inside the worst prison there to preach to the murderers and drug lords. Now, many inmates have also accepted Christ and a Bible school has been opened for them inside the prison! The prisoners hold weekly services that are broadcast on a radio program called "A Cry of Hope", which is even leading people to Jesus outside the prison!

True story! Years ago, a little 4 year old boy, called Russell, heard that Jesus tells us to take the Gospel to people in other countries around the world. He learned about missionaries and he decided he wanted to be a missionary, but he DIDN'T want to wait until he grew up! Do you know what he did? He prayed that God would call his parents to be missionaries - and that's exactly what happened! A few years later his parents took him to go and live in Colombia. Just a short time afterwards, the Communist guerrilla movement started to take control of Colombia, but Russell and his parents still stayed to preach the Gospel there.

Today Russell is still living there as a missionary with his own wife and children! When Russell was 27, he was captured and held hostage for 5 months by the guerrillas, but he spent much of the time praying for them and telling them about Jesus! Later, he was captured again for a short time - this time with his young daughter, Aleitha! Now Aleitha is 19 and she goes with her father into the dangerous areas of the jungle to preach - even preaching to the guerrilla soldiers! She says: "I can go into the dangerous areas to preach because I'm not married, and so it doesn't matter if something bad happens to me."

When we hear of bad people who hurt and kill people, we want to stay away from them and hope that someone puts them in prison or even kills them. But do you know what the Bible says about our enemies?

Read Proverbs 25:21,22 in the Old Testament and what Jesus said in Matthew 5:44

