

Bogota, Colombia, S.A.
Apartado 35,
Jan. 2, 1942.

Dear Friends:

Happy New Year to all of you! This year we are all finding it hard to sing, "Peace on Earth" aren't we? Our thoughts have been with all of you mothers since the radio and newspapers announced "War!" Yet, some way, some how we feel that God will show us the right side and will reveal to the world that He is still in heaven. Every day we pass the German Embassy where the swastika has been flying. Down the street a few blocks is the red, white and blue waving over the U. S. Embassy. A few days ago that swastika was taken down, that Embassy was empty. But the Stars and Stripes still wave in the breeze. Now, friends, is the opportune time for making that "Good Neighbor Policy" a true symbol of Christian friendship. Early the next morning after the radio had announced the bombing of U. S. property Colombian newspapers announced in large headlines, "Colombia breaks diplomatic relations with Japan". A few days later we read, "Colombia breaks diplomatic relations with Germany and Italy". These South American countries showed this true loyalty to our country when all the news was bad for us. If now we North Americans will do our part and not "bungle the job", if we will only give to these people true values, true representations of our people, not false ideals as we too often have done in the past!

In the past many people came down here from the states with the sole aim of making money. After they had made their "pile of gold" they hurried home. They left nothing here except false impressions of our citizens. Many South Americans think that all North Americans drink and, in general, "tear up ned". They think that North Americans feel themselves superior in every way and, after knowing these sensitive, emotional and proud people one can understand their distrust of the northern neighbors.

When we arrived in Bogota we had to take a Colombian teacher from our school with us to buy our furniture. Why? Because we are North Americans and the prices would be doubled. This Colombian man bought all our furniture for us at a very reasonable price.

When we went into a store some time ago to buy something a young man behind the counter said, "You are from the states. What state? We answered, "Kansas". He said proudly, "I have been in the states. I want to go back. It is wonderful there. Her in South America it is too slow. We don't have night-clubs or anything."

All Colombia recognizes the advancement of the U. S. in education, scientific research, etc. They admire the country up north but they do not entirely trust their neighbor. If we can only make that Good Neighbor Policy workable, make it work both ways, we will have accomplished something very worthwhile. They have opened the door for us. They are showing us they want to be friends. Let us not close the door by sending people who are not true North Americans down here.

These people are quite different, they speak a different language, they have different customs. We can learn much from them. They have retained the graciousness that so many of us have lost. They are appreciative. They live simply. The streets are almost empty after 10:30 in the evening.

In order to understand them one must learn their language and their customs. They are ahead of us in this respect. English is required in all the schools here. Every one wants to speak English. Even taxi drivers are striving to speak English. We have found that, with only a small amount of language study, we know these people better. It is a terrible mistake for anyone who does not speak Spanish to come down here, look around, then return and write or tell of conditions down here. It cannot be done that way. There is much criticism of John Gunther's book on "Inside Latin-America". One must live, talk, walk and visit in the homes of these people to really know them. They have an inborn, uncultivated appreciation of art and beauty. It seems to us that when that love of art and beauty exists in a people then God will not be hard to find. The art teacher in our school is an artist from France. He believes in free France. He has studied in England, France Italy and U.S. We have seen some of the charcoal drawing made by students of his and we are certain that they would be a marvel to people in the states.

A short time ago a father of one of the boys in our school came to plead that we give his son some work to do that he might continue his education. This boy had won more scholastic honors than any other in the school but his father's business had been so poor that he had been unable to pay the boy's tuition in full during the past year and feared that his business would not improve during the coming year. Yet he wanted his boy to attend our school so that he could get