

February 13, 1985

Local Missionary describes her life and work in Ecuador

Sandra Cameron Cully was born and raised in Eau Claire. She is 33 years old and is the daughter of the late Mabel and Reuben Cameron. She is a sister to Mrs. Albert Serre Jr.

(Beth Ann) of Mattawa. Sandra, her husband, and children now live in Ecuador.

Several months ago, I asked Beth, to write to her sister and ask her, to send us a letter describing her work and life as a missionary.

I was brought up 17 miles west of Mattawa, in the township of Calvin. At the age of 12, I began attending the Eau Claire Missionary Church where I heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ for the first time. After understanding that Jesus came into the world for the purpose of giving His life on the cross, and shedding His blood for the sin of every human being, I personally confessed my sin to Him and invited Him into my life to be my personal Saviour and Lord.

I had the privilege of listening to many missionaries from many far-away countries when they visited the Eau Claire Missionary Church while I was a teen-age girl. Many times we were encouraged to dedicate our lives to full-time missionary service, if the Lord should direct in that way. The possibility of my being a missionary led me to Emmanuel Bible College, in Kitchener, to prepare myself for missionary service. It was at this school where I met my husband, who was keenly interested in missionary radio.

On March 1, 1981, we felt the Lord was calling to Quito to be involved with radio station HCJB. Let me explain how it happened.

I had gone through a period of time in my life where I enjoyed the comforts of home and wasn't ready to sacrifice them to live and work in a land not so comfortable. Three children were added to our family and I had heard of other missionaries who had to send their children many miles away so they could receive a good education. I was very opposed to such an idea! However, on that winter night in Elliott Heights Baptist Church in Hamilton, all my "reasons" for staying home and sending others were simply excuses as the Lord spoke to my heart about serving Him. We were shown slides of the work here and both my husband and I fell in love with the beautiful scenery that this country offers, not to mention the perpetual spring-like weather. We saw a picture of a large, American school located right next door to the station and staffed by missionary teachers. This school of-

fers as good an education if not better, than any our children had attended in Canada.

My heart began to beat as I pondered the possibility of being a missionary. I decided to make a pro and con list when I returned home after the service and if the pros outnumbered the cons, then perhaps I would consider. However, the preacher was speaking about the call of the disciple Matthew by our Lord and was explaining how that Matthew obeyed his call instantly and without any excuses or delays. I felt inferior to Matthew, to say the least, but the following words from the pastor's lips burned into my heart in a way nothing else ever had.

He said: "If the Lord is calling you to be a missionary, forget your list of pros and cons and follow him now". My husband and I were convinced that the Lord was calling us, so we began our adventure into missionary service that night, by dedicating our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ for full-time missionary service.

We were accepted by the World Radio Missionary Fellowship in February 1983, when we attended Missionary Candidate Orientation in Miami, Florida. We then returned home to begin deputation in various churches, where we represented the work and

presented our needs so the churches could support us both prayerfully and financially. We left Hamilton in August of 1983 to begin studying Spanish at the Rio Grande Bible Institute and Language School. After nine months of intensive language study, we left for Quito and arrived here June 1, 1984.

My husband is a technician and is responsible for repairing hospital equipment and also maintains security of the HCJB compound. I work in Hospital Bozandes also, but at the information desk. I am responsible to help the patients find their way around the hospital and try to control the number of visitors entering the hospital. On Wednesday afternoons I teach two Bible Studies to two different groups of ladies.

We count it a privilege to be a member of this mission and thank the Lord for the opportunity of living here in this beautiful land. We thank you also for the opportunity of sharing this information with you.