

NEWSLETTER  
MARCH 1  
2023  
—  
MAY 31  
2023

# GALCOM

INTERNATIONAL • CANADA

*Make waves.*

Vol. 15, No. 1

## A 30-YEAR-OLD SEED BEARS FRUIT

Dear Friend,

Last spring, our founder Allan McGuirl retired after 50 years of vocational ministry service. One of the benefits of Allan being in a position so long is that he enabled Galcom to build strong relationships, both with our partners here in Canada supporting the work through prayer and finances, and our affiliates overseas broadcasting and distributing radios.

Recently, Galcom partners funded a third radio station for our friends in Colombia, Pastors Davide and Alvaro. They are believers from the Guambiano people group, who are using



Cambodia, 2022

Long-term partnerships allow us to develop better understanding of needs and priorities; our ministry affiliates help us grasp the cultural nuances and learn the best ways to help contextualize the Gospel message. They allow us to measure, over time, the impact we are having as we all serve together in the Great Commission.

This desire for long-term relationships doesn't end with our affiliates around the world. We have a saying here at Galcom, "We don't have donors, we have partners." We cannot thank

### WHEN IT COMES TO THE GREAT COMMISSION, WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

radio to reach not only their own people, but are targeting neighboring indigenous groups with this new station. Allan and a team from Canada installed the first station for them in 1995, almost 30 years ago! Since then, they have faithfully preached the Word of God in their mother tongue, blanketing the entire region where the Guambiano live. I've said many times that radio is the most efficient way to share the Gospel: just a few people with the right equipment are reaching the entire 8,000 Guambiano people, and now going outside their borders.

you enough for partnering with us and we don't want this to be a one-way relationship. We want to hear from you. Does your church have an upcoming mission trip that could use audio Bibles? Do you and your family personally support a missionary whose work can be enhanced with audio technology? Let us know. We are all in this together, and you may have a personal relationship with someone that we would never meet otherwise. By working together as partners, we can accomplish so much more for the Kingdom.



Guambiano believers in Tambo, Colombia, 2022

Contact me today and let's strengthen our partnership in the Great Commission! Let's work together for the next 50 years, sharing the love of Jesus Christ around the world through radio.

With you in Christ's service,

Tim Whitehead  
Executive Director

Please visit [galcom.org](http://galcom.org) for information on any upcoming events.

# AN ENDURING ALLIANCE

*Remember that we are the people  
you chose long ago,  
the tribe you redeemed  
as your own special possession!*

*Psalm 74:2 NLT*

The story of the Guambiano people of Colombia is both heartbreaking and inspiring. They live in the northwest, where the Andes mountains split into three ranges and their land is surrounded by huge volcanoes and mountain peaks. Before the Spanish colonization there were 179,000 Guambianos; they lived on 9,216,989 hectares of land. The Spanish took all but 18,000 hectares; only 70 members of the entire Guambiano people survived the conquest.

Disenfranchised and hopeless, the Guambianos turned to alcoholism. They were also exploited by the cocaine cartels and forced into farming illicit crops.

But in 1932, the missionaries arrived. They began to translate the Bible into Guambiano, and started schools where the children learned to read and write by using the New Testament in their language.

To further reach this indigenous group, Ruth Ruibal, a Colombian missionary, connected them with Allan McGuirl. He took a Galcom team down in 1995 to install the first radio station, at the site of the first evangelical school.

"The Guambianos are a very small people; even the men are barely over five feet tall. But man, do they know how to work!" Allan says. The first station was completed quickly and began to broadcast throughout the Guambiano region. It was so successful that friends of Galcom funded a second station in 2011 at Huila, to reach even more of the people.

In 2022, the evangelical Guambianos approached Galcom with an amazing proposal: they wanted to install a third station, but this one would be aimed towards the Páez community beside them. Pastors Davide and Alvaro are passionate about sharing the Gospel they have been given with their neighbors. It is wonderful testimony to the hundredfold harvest your partnership with Galcom brings!



**Middle**  
**Left**, the tower sections get assembled on the church floor for the third station.  
**Middle**, the *chiva* bus that transported the team.  
**Right**, Teamwork moves the tower into place.

**Bottom**  
**Middle**, Guambianos gather on a mountaintop to celebrate.  
**Right**, the Guambiano identity is closely tied to their elegant clothing and identity, setting them apart from other indigenous communities.

To learn more about this project, scan the QR code to hear our February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Mission Compass show.





Top row:

Left, Guambiano girls in their distinctive blue wool cloaks.

Middle, the first Guambiano believer was baptized in 1946.

Right, Pastor Davide memorializes our partnership with a plaque.



Bottom row:  
Assembled  
location.  
team.  
place.  
Bottom row:  
to pray.  
ly tied  
identifies  
unities.



 **Canadian Centre for  
Christian Charities**

**ACCREDITED MEMBER**

"Spending of funds is confined to programs and projects approved by the organization. Each restricted contribution designated toward such an approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the organization, the remaining restricted contributions will be used where needed most. Gifts are acknowledged and receipted with an official receipt for income tax purposes."

**GALCOM INTERNATIONAL INC.**

Newsletter is published quarterly. Visit us online at [galcom.org](http://galcom.org).

Phone: 905-574-4626 or Toll Free: 1-877-242-5266. E-mail: [galcom@galcom.org](mailto:galcom@galcom.org).

In the USA Phone: 813-933-8111. US Office E-mail: [info@galcomusa.com](mailto:info@galcomusa.com).