



newsletter 85

december 2016

Jesus said, 'Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me,' and 'Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.'

Matthew 18: 5, 20

In his September newsletter, Programmes Director Carlos writes, 'One of the objectives of IMiC is to bring families closer to God through the teaching of the Word. In all our activities, we try to take the opportunity to speak about God's love. It is difficult for the families that IMiC supports in Bogotá to congregate in a Christian church as they live in different parts of the city and currently there is not a partner church locally. IMiC therefore decided to have its own time and place of worship where they could meet.'

In September, services were started at the IMiC office in Bogotá with the support of pastor Oliverio Rojas and will be held every 15 days with the help of other pastors we link with. We want to glorify God and do everything for his honour, and we hope and pray that this time will be a good foundation for these families.'

Bogotá family day

At the end of September, the families from Bogotá had a day at Granja Peniel with 25 schoolchildren from Liceo El Encuentro, their teachers and parents. The school wants to give social support and share with the children and IMiC team in games, gifts and meals.



Families and friends at the Farm

Please pray that these days of sharing will continue to develop good relationships within and between families and children.

The Galán centre

The Dining Room in the Galán neighbourhood of Fusa now serves 20 families and benefiting 82 people in total. These families are all in difficult economic situations and have problems within the family. The mothers are often overwhelmed by their circumstances and suffer from the stress that this life brings.



Birthdays celebrated

An away day was arranged for the families - 22 adults and 59 children - at a resort where they could spend time together, relax and swim in the pool. There was the opportunity for some Bible teaching and a celebration for children with recent birthdays.

Please pray for the parents/carers of the children that they will be encouraged through these events and support from IMiC. Pray for the children's protection from the negative influences they encounter in their neighbourhoods.

Children's Expo Colombia

Expo infantil is an event for children and youth that brings together children from different churches and social institutions to share in the love of God. IMiC had the opportunity to participate with a group of children in Bogotá. These events allow the children in the programmes to take part in activities which they would not normally experience.



The children with Carlos and Luz Dary

Please pray that these types of event will be a blessing and encouragement to the children and be an inspiration for the possibilities that life holds for them.

A Granja day out

Children from a Bogotá school visited the farm for an ecological tour and to learn about the environment and care for creation. These visits,

which are paid for by the schools, make a contribution to the running of IMiC and are valuable in making contact with and getting the work known to a wider community. As we have discovered numerous times, what seem to be ordinary contacts can turn out to have some unexpected and extraordinary benefits to the work at a future date.



Enjoying the environment

Please pray for the future of the farm as efforts continue to find a buyer who will use it to the benefit of children in need. In the meantime, please pray that the eco tours will provide a useful income and will be of value to the children, teachers and parents who also learn about the work of IMiC.

Together for La Guajira

'Together for La Guajira' is the name given to the project to support the Wayuu people in La Guajira region of north-west Colombia.

The project to set up a Dining Room there is well underway. A building with the basic requirements has been sourced and just needs the equipment to get the dining room up and running. The plan is to provide meals for 30 of the most needy children in the district. This project is being supported by local pastor Fabian Gonzales.

A well has been completed in one of the villages called Canaan, with the help of Arun Community Church in Littlehampton, West Sussex, and Links International. This will be a great asset to

the village, not only for a domestic supply of water but also for their agricultural activities.



A well-come new resource in the village

IMiC has also been able to make gifts of clothing to the families of recyclers.

Please pray for the Wayuu people and for a break in the drought that is causing so much suffering. Pray for the continuing development of relationships with these people and that God will provide for the practical aspects of completing the Dining Room.

Christmas appeal for the Wayuu

We are planning to give food and clothes to the Wayuu community we're supporting in La Guajira... to make Christmas a special time for this desperately poor community.

Could you consider adding the Wayuu to your Christmas gift list?

Our aim is to provide shoes, clothes and food for 150 children and put on an end-of-year celebration for them... to show them God's love. You can send a cheque made payable to 'Links International (IMC)' to our office (see back page for details) or donate online at:

www.everyclick.com/imc2016christmasappeal

Faithful fundraisers around the UK

Our amazing fundraisers have been as busy as ever this year...

Hats off to the ladies of the Petersfield Knit and Knatter group, run by Sandra Coombes, who have been kept in stitches producing knitted goods that have gone out to Colombia with a team from Links International. Some of their creations are modelled by Colombian children in the photo below.



Knitwear fashionistas in Colombia

The annual IMC Fun Day in Rams Walk, Petersfield, was a great success, as trustee Charles Farr reports...

'The morning of Saturday, 11 June, dawned a bit damp and made us wonder if our wet weather contingency plans would be up to the challenge! Fortunately, the weather mopped itself up and did as the forecast told it. Our 'eye-catcher' was the mile of pennies: a string of coins (the more valuable the better!) laid out along the centre of the precinct. Passers-by were generous and contributed £310.

Cycleworks of Petersfield kindly loaned us a turbo trainer so that we could run a sponsored,

static cycling challenge. Hilmar Hauer saw off the opposition with a 22mph ride! We're grateful to Tim and Harrison Merriman, and Sam Boyd, for taking part too!

The cake stall, knitted goods and tombola were a few of the many stalls that caught people's interest, enabling us to raise some more funds and talk about IMC.

One of the most valuable aspects of Fun Day is having the opportunity to explain the needs of disadvantaged children in Colombia to passers-by and how IMC is helping to meet them. Who knows what seeds such encounters may sow? Many, many thanks to the supporters who ran stalls and raised over £1,000.'



Smile and a mile of pennies

Please pray giving thanks for all the supporters of IMC. Pray for opportunities to share about the needs of children in Colombia and for more people to be inspired to support the work.



Keep up with all the latest IMC news by 'liking' our Facebook page [facebook.com/inministrytochildren](https://www.facebook.com/inministrytochildren)

And finally...

Without you, none of the good things reported here would be possible. Your gifts, prayers and concern for the children and families in Colombia and your support for the staff is appreciated so much more than we can express in a few words. As Carlos said in a recent letter: 'We thank you for your prayers and your great support. God bless the work of your hands. God bless you.'

We send you our very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year, and our huge gratitude on behalf of everyone in Colombia.

We'll leave the last word to seven-year-old Angie from Fusa, one of the many children you've helped this year. She says: 'Greetings to everyone in England. Many blessings and thank you for your help. I love you very much.'



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