



## newsletter 86

march 2017

**‘Jesus said, “When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind, and you will be blessed.”’ Luke 14:13**

### Gifts in La Guajira

**A huge thank you to everyone who responded to our Christmas appeal in support of families in the Wayuu communities of La Guajira. Distributing in December the gifts you helped fund was a special time, as IMiC Programme Director Carlos reports:**

‘It is a great blessing to be able to reach different communities and support the most needy families in our country. That is why during this year we were very pleased to have contributed to the families in the *rancherías* (small villages) of the Wayuu community that we have been supporting in La Guajira.



Wayuu children with their gifts

Part of the IMiC team, Nancy, Jennifer and Isabel, travelled to La Guajira for a celebration of thanksgiving with the families of this community on December 17<sup>th</sup>. The families received food and the children received gifts.

We were also able to support other children of limited means who attend the Upper Room Church in Riohacha [whom IMiC works with] so they too received a gift this Christmas. On December 18<sup>th</sup> the team visited the charity Recycling with Love in Riohacha, to share with families in that community and give gifts to children there too.’



A family supported by Recycling with Love

**Please pray for hope for the families with whom IMiC is working, that they will believe they can make a better future for themselves. Continue to pray for the rains to return to this region and that officials will do more to support Wayuu people.**





## Important links

In the last edition of our newsletter, we reported on the construction of a well in a village in La Guajira. Joe Gisbey, the Community and Partnership Manager at Links International, gives some useful background information on this project in an article in Links International's magazine (used with permission):

'Joe Gisbey, his wife and their four children, along with a team from Arun Community Church (in partnership with Links International), travelled to Colombia to visit projects in Bogotá and Fusa and review the work being done in La Guajira...

The Wayuu are desperately poor and exploited by the government. They have no help in the way of education or water/electricity supply. IMC has been working over the last year and a half with a Wayuu church, who have also started up two schools and planted churches amongst the tribe. There is a massive need for water projects, both wells and water filter systems, land irrigation etc. One of the communities we visited was able to build a well which provides clean water for 80 families. We were able to help the tribe set up water filters, which make the water completely bacteria-free. We also spent time visiting the fields and training them with many of the agricultural lessons we have learnt from our experiences in Africa.

We were able to facilitate a day of leadership development with the main church base in Riohacha, which is the capital city of La Guajira. The pastor had brought in leaders from his network and we also had a number of business leaders. We were also able to lead through Sunday meetings and we saw God move really powerfully, touching people and bringing refreshing and healing. In 2015 Carolina Gisbey raised money from her sky-dive [reported in our newsletter September 2015] to set up a feeding project/after school club which is connected with this church. It was amazing to see this now up and running.'

IMC's association with Links International is long-standing and remains strong.

**Let's give thanks for the support of Links International and the churches in the UK and Colombia working together for the communities in La Guajira.**

## Thanksgiving for 2016

In Fusa, families from our two Dining Rooms (*comedores*) in the Galán and La Independencia districts came together for a thanksgiving celebration at Iglesia Alianza (Alliance Church). More than 200 people attended.



Thanksgiving

A group of young people from a church in Bogotá helped with the activities and gifts for the children. Their support, together with that of IMiC, meant that the 140 children received Christmas gifts.



Presents for the children



## Helping hand at Christmas

At each of the Fusa centres, a special lunch was held to conclude the activities undertaken during the year and to provide food supplies to the families for Christmas and the New Year period.



Carlos with one of the families supported

The seven families in the Bogotá programme met together for a time of thanksgiving at Granja Peniel and gifts were distributed to the children.

**Please pray for the workers and families in Bogotá and Fusa, for continuing safety, strong faith and hope for their future. Pray the positive influence of this ministry will continue to spread throughout their communities.**

## IMC Annual General Meeting

We'd be delighted if you could join us at our AGM on Monday 22 May at Petersfield Methodist Church, Station Road, GU32 3EB.

Refreshments will be served from 7pm and the meeting will begin at 7.30pm. Come celebrate with us all that God's been doing this year!



IMIc trustee Isabel hands out presents

## Fundraisers' round-up

**It is always encouraging to hear of the things you have been doing to raise funds and awareness for IMC. We're so very grateful!**

In Hampshire, the Petersfield Area Churches Together (PACT) arts group held a debut exhibition of their work in November in aid of IMC, raising an amazing £1,500. It was held in Petersfield's Flora Twort Gallery.

Art tutor Belinda Shaw, who exhibited a range of artworks herself, explained that several members of the Christian Arts group exhibited. 'Carole Rendle had several items of ceramic crockery which she had painted with delicate designs. Shirley Gibson exhibited several pieces of her pottery, some of her fused glass and a wet felted picture. Vicki Burgess had a felted picture in the exhibition, and Susanne Irving exhibited several photos. Sally Smith and Jane Holloway made handmade cards and book marks, and Robert Doran's photos of birds were displayed.'

John and Liz Studd started making jams and jellies to sell to support IMC some time ago. Ingredients come from foraging the local



hedgerows and an arrangement with a local market trader. Also, a supermarket supplies fruit that has just reached its 'sell by' date and remains unsold. Over the year, all this fruitful activity has raised £1,300.



Jellies and jams to preserve hope

There are churches and groups of various kinds, from Southampton in the south to the Isle of Skye in the north, who have had special gift days. They include Sholing Baptist Church in Southampton who raised more than £800 with a special offering for our Christmas appeal for La Guajira. Our grateful thanks go to them and all the individuals who have supported the work.

### Good stewardship

Since the early days of IMC, it has been an aim to keep the cost of UK operations to an absolute minimum. IMC UK is run entirely by volunteers: we pay Links International an admin fee to handle our finances but otherwise admin costs are tiny. Good stewardship of your gifts is our priority.

We are delighted to send out this newsletter by post to those who are not on email or who prefer a hard copy of it. Sending out digital copies via email saves postage. **If you are happy to receive our newsletter via email rather than in the post**, please email [info@inministrytochildren.org](mailto:info@inministrytochildren.org) with 'IMC Newsletter' in the subject line, so your email address can be added to the mailing list.



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

### And finally...

In a world where there is such an interchange of information and trade, one would hope that there would be less to divide humanity. Sadly, that's far from the case, as the relative wealth of different nations makes only too clear.

We are often reminded that in Britain the gap between rich and poor is getting bigger. How easy it is in a prosperous country to lose sight of the plight of those who barely have the basics needed to sustain life itself.

So often we hear a wealthy traveller to a poor country tell of their surprise when the poorest so readily share with them the little they have. Perhaps in sharing their meagre means they appreciate the blessing, referred to in our opening Bible reference, much more than the wealthy to whom it was addressed.

We pray that you will be richly blessed in your giving and sharing with the children, families and workers in Colombia and we send, on their behalf, heartfelt thanks.

### In Ministry to Children

c/o Life Church  
62 Station Road,  
Petersfield,  
GU32 3ES

p: 01730 231400  
e: [info@inministrytochildren.org](mailto:info@inministrytochildren.org)

---

[inministrytochildren.org](http://inministrytochildren.org)

uk registered charity no. 1064690