



## newsletter 76

**‘Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.’**

James 1:2–4

### Latest from Nancy

The Bible reference above is how Nancy opens her latest letter. While it is encouraging in the face of adversity, it is, no doubt, indicative of the difficulties that they are experiencing in Colombia.

Nancy highlights the drought that is affecting many parts of Colombia and particularly the plight of children living in a region on the northern coast, Guajira and Choco. In this area, more than 4,000 children have died from illness related to lack of food over the last six years, and more than 37,000 children are malnourished and do not have access to schooling and basic services.

At Peniel Farm there is a lack of grass and, if the situation does not improve, decisions will need to be made about the cows.

**Please pray for rain in Colombia and for those living in the areas worst affected by drought.**

Now that there are no children at the farm, it is crucial that some new project is found that may generate income to support the other areas of the work. A hoped-for link with a school has

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not materialised and so the focus is on the eco-tourism projects for schools and promoting the facilities for camps and retreats.

**Please pray for a productive use of Peniel Farm and wisdom for the Colombian board in seeking the right project.**

The children from the farm are now with their families in Bogotá. Monthly meetings and workshops are being held with them and their families to build relationships and to continue to monitor and meet their needs. A camp for these families is being organised for this month.



Children and staff at the farm

(Picture from Grant and Kathleen Bye's newsletter)

**Please pray for the children and their families; pray particularly that better housing can be found for them.**

Increasing numbers of children are coming to the feeding programme in Fusa. The team have been addressing new cases of malnutrition and improving the condition of many children.

The programme staff have also been doing some good work with the help of the local social services (Bienestar Familiar), promoting





good values and holding workshops to prevent the abuse of children.

A campaign, *Good Treatment*, has also been started with the launch of a booklet about preventing abuse, whose publication was sponsored by the Live Network. Tabitha, a German missionary, has been offering her support and has been a real blessing to the children.

The Mayor of Fusa recently delivered some play park equipment that had been promised to the children because of the lack of places for recreation.



A place to play in Fusa

**Please pray for the staff in Fusa as they work with the children and their families in a community that has problems with drugs, crime and violence. Pray that the work with the children will transform their lives and their community.**

The outreach project in Bosa, a poor area of Bogotá, continues and Nancy asks specifically for prayer for wisdom and strategies to reach this community which has serious problems with drugs and crime.

Meanwhile, two of IMC's young men, Egson and William, still have some military service to complete and Camilo has started studying at university and is also working.

**Please pray for protection for all of these young men and encouragement in their work and studies.**

Nancy sends greetings and thanks to you all. She says: 'Greetings and thanks to all for your support, your faithfulness in your prayers and for being warriors in the work; even with the distance, you are firm and with God's help make possible the restoration of many lives.'

## In it for the long haul

Regular support reaps results. Here's an account of just what sort of dividends your giving can produce in children's lives.

We hear first from faithful supporters Debbie and Hovan Catchatoor, who have long sponsored Dario (formerly known as Ruben), then we'll hear from Dario himself.

### Debbie and Hovan:

'What can I say? From seeing the first photo of Dario (Ruben as he was called then) with his wide smile and direct expression, it has been an amazing journey for us over 17 years and a privilege to be a part of Dario's life and to pray for him through the good times and the tough times.'



Sometimes Colombia has felt so distant and news has come in snippets, but prayer has been the bridge that linked our hearts to him, spanning the miles as God guided Dario's steps.

And it has been God's work.

After all the ups and downs it is wonderful to read Dario's testimony of where he is now, of God's faithfulness in his life and his dreams of becoming a bridge to help others in the future.'



### A dividend for Dario

'Write about my life! I'd need a lot of pages, to be sure. But I'd like to share some good parts when God has shown his mercy to me.

Just over 20 years ago, God saved me from the streets of Bogotá in Colombia and took me to share my life with other children who, like me, had been ill-treated and abandoned by their families. God, through the Ministry and through his love, gave me everything that perhaps I never thought I'd have: a life of dignity and full of dreams and, most importantly, full of hope.

Over all these years, I've managed to rebuild my life although it's really not been easy and I had a lot of wounds that needed healing and things that needed to be rebuilt. I think the Ministry became the foundation of my life and I will be eternally grateful to people like James Beauniaux, Joan and Terry, who stepped out of their comfort zone to bring the love of God to those of us who needed it most.

Today, I can say and show that I'm a free man, full of love and enjoying a full life. I've been living in Buenos Aires for more than four years. I came with a suitcase full of dreams and lots of things I wanted to do. Here, I qualified as a professional chef, studying in one of the best Gastronomy Schools in Latin America. It was really difficult. Long, tiring days working in restaurants as a cook and a waiter, but finally I reached my goal.

At the moment, I'm working as a chef in a chain of fish restaurants in Buenos Aires.

Every day I see and feel God's love for me in my life, in all that I do. I think that there should be many more ministries that help to transform the lives of those who need most help.

Among my future plans, I'd like to set up my own ministry to help young people coming out of other ministries, people with little chance of having a professional career; I'd like to create a bridge or support network linking other ministries and companies so that those young people have the opportunity to learn and have a career.

I'd also like to have my own restaurant where other young people can learn a profession and acquire knowledge to develop their own lives.

I'm grateful to everyone who is part of IMiC and who is playing a part in transforming many people, giving them a better future, those who'd otherwise have little opportunity. Thank you, God, for all the love that you show through the Ministry.'



**Please give thanks for the commitment of all who have supported Dario for the long haul and for the fruits that are so clear in his life. Pray for opportunities to share with others about the work of IMC and for more people to become regular supporters.**

### Gospel Cards - Christmas...

Once more, can we encourage you to use Gospel Cards this Christmas and support IMC along with a number of other charities? A catalogue is enclosed with this newsletter and, if you are reading this as an email, then you can go to [www.gospelcardsetc.com](http://www.gospelcardsetc.com) and don't forget to put 'In Ministry to Children' in the box after your details on the checkout pages.

### ... and more

Did you know that if you shop online then you can also give to IMC?

If you use the internet to buy from big brands such as Amazon, John Lewis, Boden, Debenhams, Ocado and many more, you can donate to IMC every time you shop without



spending anything extra! Companies will donate up to 2.5% of what you spend to your chosen charity if you go to their website via Give as You Live.

Visit <http://www.giveasyoulive.com/howitworks> and there's a short video that tells you how it works. You can register and select In Ministry to Children as your charity of choice. When you want to shop online, you simply go to your store of choice via the Give as You Live website and then shop as usual. You can also download an app to your iPhone, iPad or Android.

If you're having any trouble setting this up, contact IMC trustee Laura by email for some help: [laurahauer1000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:laurahauer1000@yahoo.co.uk)

## Another good outcome

Carlos Moreno was a boy who came to the Fusa feeding programme soon after it started. He now works as a teacher and we recently received a photo of him with some of his students. Considering his start in life, he must be a tremendous role model for his students.



Carlos, investing in the future of Colombia

## ... And finally

It has been a tough year thus far with the laying off of the staff at the farm and its closure because of financial pressures. Yet, we can give thanks that more children have been helped through the other IMC programmes. And God is moving...

Kathleen Bye, who with husband Grant, has been involved with IMC in Colombia for quite a few years, commented recently on Facebook:

'We're all a little depressed, of course, about the closing of the farm but spending time with John Alex or Maicol is very encouraging. They are working hard, supporting their wives, taking good care of their children. John Alex's wife has a daughter from a previous relationship; he's raising her like his own daughter. That's nothing short of miraculous in a country where men don't take care of their own kids, much less the children of others.

John Alex's wife is seven months pregnant with their baby girl and he's very excited about it. He's got a job, a house of his own. He's bright and smart and just as funny as ever: we could hardly eat our breakfast for all the laughing.

Where did he and Maicol (and others from IMC) get all of that responsibility after so many generations of failed relationships and abandonment? From IMC of course! Even if the Lord has seen fit for His own purposes to close the farm for a time or use it in a different way, the results of the work and investment go on and in fact increase with every generation.

John Alex prayed over our breakfast. He is a dear fellow whose life shows the years of investment made by many people, including all of you in the UK.'

**Thank you to each of you for your love and support over many years.**

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