



newsletter 77

december 2014

**‘God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.’ 2 Corinthians 9:8**

### Fusa news

Parts of Colombia have been experiencing heavy rainfall and landslides have occurred in a number of areas, including Fusa. Recently, two streams overflowed, causing a landslide to flow through the town.



**Landslide debris in Fusa**

One person was killed and a number injured; many have lost their homes. Nancy says: ‘Praise God the children [in the Dining Room], their families and the workers were ok, apart from one family who were affected.’ There are fears that there may be more such events as the heavy rains this season continue.

Following on from the campaign about child protection in Fusa, Nancy reports positive results in raising awareness in the community.

Meanwhile, also in Fusa, IMiC organised a fair on 22 November with the help of child protection police officers, who provided puppets and activities. Local officials supplied the venues and the mayor’s office provided bouncy castles. Children from the Dining Room gave a presentation with the help of [IMiC volunteer] Tabitha, who played the guitar.



**Entertainment at the fair**

The fair was a fundraiser, with a jumble sale and food made by friends of IMiC. A Christmas celebration is scheduled for 13 December.

**Please pray for protection for the children and families in Fusa. Pray that God will provide for families who have lost their homes. Pray also for the celebration to be a time of encouragement and joy.**

\* IMiC will also be holding a Christmas celebration for families in Bosa, a slum in south-east Bogota, on 14 December. **Please pray for the children and families reached through this Bosa Christmas celebration.**





## Bogota news

Since the boys from Granja Peniel have been back with their families, regular meetings and workshops have been held with the families. This allows IMiC to reaffirm principles and values, and get to know the problems that are occurring and help find solutions.

The families are continuing to be helped financially and the children have finished the year's schooling with good grades. Unfortunately, however, Santiago and Edwar didn't pass their exams, possibly because they have moved to a new area. Nancy indicates that Esteban is having some difficulties.

On Saturday 29 November, a thanksgiving dinner was held for all the children who were previously at Granja Peniel and their families. The children were given presents and Joshua offered to cook the dinner as he's studying gastronomy. Nancy said, 'Joshua wanted to surprise us with his talents, and he pulled that off because he prepared a wonderful meal. It was a great pleasure to see him serving it up to the children.'

Joshua is a good example of the amazing work that God has done through the Granja Peniel.

Joshua was found on the beaches on the north coast of the country. He was a street child until IMiC supporter Pastor Raul met him and brought him to IMiC. Joshua spent part of his childhood and his teenage years at the farm until recently when he went back to live with Raul's parents-in-law, with whom he still lives. Joshua is a happy boy with good prospects in life. Nancy remarks: 'We're grateful for your prayers for him and all the boys who've gone through the farm. May God continue to guide their steps with his light.'

Through a contact of Raul, who leads a Messianic Church, Israeli Embassy staff have arranged to visit IMiC on December 15. They want to hear more about the ministry and to come to the farm to give the children refreshments, presents and fun activities.

A separate, special thanksgiving celebration with the children was held on 7 December.

**Please pray for all the children and their families, for continued protection from the temptations and difficulties that surround them. Pray for Esteban and his mother to build good relationships and make positive choices for their lives.**

## A potential new project

In the last newsletter Nancy highlighted the plight of children in La Guajira, a region in the north of Colombia. It is a remote rural area where drought, malnutrition and child mortality are serious problems.

Nancy says: 'God put a very strong feeling in our hearts to help this cause.'

At the beginning of October, Nancy was able to visit the Iglesia Biblica Misionera Aposento Alto (The Upper Room Missionary Bible Church) to see the situation, meet the local pastor, Fabian Gonzalez, and explore whether it is something that IMiC could support.

The contact was made through, Alex Celis, who is a missionary in Riohacha Guajira.

Nancy reports: 'We visited a village where Rogelio, a leader of the community, and his family live. He had six girls: one died due to malnutrition and the other five are suffering with malnutrition.'

'The death rate of minors is alarming, and for this reason we ask for prayer and pray to our God in his mercy that this work can be a reality. We want to help the church in the work of evangelising and also to open up a project that will help to decrease the malnutrition and the health problems of the children and expectant mothers.'

**Pray that God will be particularly close to the IMiC board as they continue to seek him for his wisdom on the future direction of IMiC.**

**Pray that, as they look to develop existing projects and consider expanding into new areas, God will guide them and prepare a path for them. Thank God that he has prepared in advance work for IMiC to do.**



## Euro stars

Janet, Elias and Joshua Storm challenged themselves to cycle from Fleet in Hampshire to Paris and raise funds for IMC.



The distance of 237 miles was successfully completed in fine weather. They thanked their church for the sponsorship that raised £1,500 which was gift matched by Elias's employer.

Thank you, Storm family, for your efforts and the £3,000 raised. Clearly a storming success! *(Editor: couldn't resist a pun.)*

If anyone is thinking of doing some fundraising but is unsure, here's some encouragement from Janet: 'Do something you enjoy and push yourself a little out of your comfort zone. If anyone knows a company/business that would be prepared to match-give (ie whatever the amount raised, the company/business would give the same amount), ask them, as companies do like to help out if they can.'

Janet continues: 'Never feel intimidated by how much someone else has raised. As they say, every penny counts and it's the pennies that make pounds. When asking for sponsorship from friends, family, neighbours etc, remember the saying 'No is what you get if you don't ask'. So don't be afraid: you will be surprised how many people want to help in any way they can.'

## Thinking Farr ahead



Charles Farr heard about the children in Colombia from Alfredo (former president of IMiC) who was visiting Petersfield. Charles had the idea of using his large allotment in the town to raise some funds to support the work. He now supplies four families, as well as his own, with seasonal produce. He also sells veg at church and aims to raise about £10 per week for IMC. He's also an IMC board member, of course. Thank you, Charles...!

## Prayer requests

### Hernan

Hernan (one of the Colombia board members), who has cancer, has had chemotherapy and surgery. **Please pray for Hernan and ask God to heal him completely.**

### Insecurity

Insecurity and the threat of being robbed is particularly high in Bogota at the moment. Drug abuse is growing, and so is youth delinquency, despite progress in curbing drug trafficking. 'Bogota is now one of the most dangerous cities on earth to be a woman,' says Nancy. She feels that the root of the problem is partly the lack of training and educational opportunities open to young people.

This means it's not safe to walk alone at night and Nancy now worries about going to Fusa. She never drives alone, as the risk of hold-ups is high, but she still goes to Fusa every fortnight, always in male company.

**Please pray for security and safety for Nancy and those she travels with.**



### Now there's an idea...

If you are planning some fundraising or just sharing with someone about the work of IMC, it sometimes helps to be able to give some idea of what a gift or sponsorship actually achieves.

So here's an idea: to provide a meal for a child at the Fusa Dining Room costs about £1 per day, or £5 for the week.

Also, if you need any publicity materials to support your fundraising, please get in touch with the office. (And just a reminder that when sending cheques, please make them payable to 'Links International IMC'. Many thanks.)

### And finally...

Christmas is approaching and the number of charity mailings dropping on the doormat is increasing. The Apostle Paul's advice in the verse that precedes the one at the start of this newsletter comes to mind.

**'Each... should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'**  
**2 Corinthians 9:8**

So at the end of what has been a difficult year for IMiC in Colombia, we thank you so much for your generosity throughout the year and for your concern and prayers for the children of Colombia.



And the final word goes to Nancy: 'We're so grateful to Almighty God for the blessings we've received and for your lives which bless the ministry so much. You have been so faithful, so loving: thank you for your prayers

and all your support. May he reward you for everything you do.'



**Wishing you all a  
happy and peaceful Christmas!**



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