



newsletter 82

march 2016

'I thank my God every time I remember you... because of your partnership... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion...'

Philippians 1:1-6

¡Feliz año nuevo, 2016!

Happy New Year! It's very late to be saying it but this is our first opportunity to greet you in 2016. As Carlos says in his newsletter, may it be for you 'a year of rest in a trustworthy God'.

With that in mind, we encourage you to pray for Colombia as a whole. It has been through more than 50 years of war and suffered huge turmoil. The peace negotiations that started in 2012 are moving slowly and there are many difficulties to overcome, not least the acceptance of the outcome by the people of Colombia.

Droughts in parts of the country in the summer caused severe fires which have affected crops. Other areas, around Bogotá and Boyaca, have had heavy frosts that have damaged crops. As a result, food prices have risen and farmers and rural communities have suffered badly.

Please pray for a lasting peace throughout Colombia. Pray for rain and better weather for crop growing, and for all initiatives that help rural communities.

Wrapping up 2015

Huge thanks to those who sent special gifts to help IMC Colombia make Christmas and the end-of-year celebrations special for the children and families in each project.

The Bogotá families met at the Farm for a day of games and fun. Thanks to you, every child went home with a gift.



Water shortages have become severe



Family day at the Farm





Meanwhile, in Fusa, the Independencia and Galán programmes held a joint celebration at the Alliance Church. Some 180 people attended and gifts were distributed to 110 children.



Carlos with one of the families

The day included a time of praise and thanksgiving, with Pastor Fernando leading the service.

In La Guajira, IMC supported a Christmas celebration for the Wayuu community, led by the pastor of the Upper Room Church. Gifts were provided for the children and food hampers were given to families.



Looking back, looking forward

The staff team met up at the Farm in January to make an evaluation of 2015 and to set out plans for the different programmes during the New Year. They considered the needs of the families involved in each programme: people's spiritual, recreational and employment needs were identified as the prime areas needing input. The ongoing need for training, education, nutrition and social development was also reflected in the plans.

Please pray for the staff as they put the plans into action, that they have the energy required to continue the work and the wisdom to meet the needs of those they help.

Independencia dining room, Fusa



The dining room in Independencia

Activities began again on 13 January after the Christmas break with a welcome for the children and a meeting with their parents and guardians.

The children are back at school now and IMC Colombia will be continuing to support families with school uniforms and materials. The children will get help with their school work at the dining room, which also doubles as their library for study and homework.

Praise God that IMC has able to give out more than 80 'school packs' to children in both Fusa dining rooms this term.



Please pray for the children and families, for protection from the influence of the drug culture and violence in their neighbourhood and that the work of IMC Colombia will have a lasting and reforming effect on the community.

Galán neighbourhood, Fusa

The first meeting of the year with the families in the Galán neighbourhood was held on 27th January. The families expressed great appreciation for the help they are receiving from IMC Colombia. The plan for this year is to continue to provide care and family development education and to share the Gospel with them.

Please pray for the work in the Galán neighbourhood, that as lives are transformed, IMC's influence will spread in the community. Pray also for protection for the children and families through this year.

La Guajira

The new project in Riohacha in La Guajira which was being investigated and planned last year is being developed further in 2016. A distribution of much needed shoes has been made to the children recently. The search is on for a suitable location to establish a dining room. The need is urgent: IMC Colombia Director Nancy says that the situation is worsening as hunger deepens and malnutrition spreads.

Please pray for the resources needed to expand this project and the development of a partnership with the local community. Continue to pray for La Guajira, and particularly for an end to the drought.



New shoes for La Guajira children

Fundraising champions: small is fruitful...

John Studd from Petersfield has been foraging in the hedgerows and making jam which he is selling at £1 a jar (and a bit more if people so wish) for IMC. John's jams and jellies have proved very popular and John's wife, Liz, has joined in this sweet success by making some lemon marmalade. The sale of a pot of jam raises enough to pay for a meal for a child. This small enterprise and fruitful activity have thus far raised £300.



Thank you, John and Liz

... and recycling pays dividends

Sally Smith had an enterprising way of raising money for IMC for 11 years. Sally held a regular bric-a-brac stall at what is now Life Church in Petersfield, accepting anything that folk were prepared to donate. Anything that didn't sell was taken to a charity shop. As a result of Sally's commitment, the dividend for IMC was



£3,500 raised through the stall and £130 raised through the onward sale of donated clothes.

Could you do something similar to Sally or the Studds? £1 pays for a child to have a meal at one of our dining rooms. Every penny counts in Colombia!



Thank you, Sally, for all your efforts

Encourage us, inspire others

If you have been doing some fundraising for us, please send us a picture and a short account so we can put it in the newsletter. It might inspire someone else and it will certainly encourage us. Thank you!

If you've got a fundraising idea and aren't sure how to get started, let us know and we can probably put you in touch with someone who has done something similar and who can offer advice.

IMC AGM

The IMC annual general meeting will be held in Petersfield, Hampshire, at 7.30pm on Monday 23rd May at the Methodist Church in Station Road, GU32 3EB, with refreshments from 7pm. Please join us!

... And finally

From the beginning, In Ministry to Children has been a partnership and there are partnerships at every level of its activity. IMC Colombia builds partnerships with the children and families to improve their situation. IMC UK is in partnership with IMC Colombia to give support and raise the resources for the work. And you are a partner with us in giving and praying.

Thank you for partnering with us and the children and families in Colombia. None of this would be possible without your generosity and faithful support.

We'll leave the last word to Nancy, IMC Colombia's director.

'Dear Friends,

Receive our greetings and many blessings in 2016 from our great all-powerful God. Thank you for your prayers and your great help for the children and families IMC Colombia works with. We wish you health and may the Lord grant all your dreams and goals for this year... May God help us to complete all the projects for this year and be in accordance with His purposes.

Hugs and blessings, with lots of love.

Nancy'

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