



newsletter

june 2008

See, I am doing a new thing!

I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:19)

With the launch of the new style newsletter the words of this text sprung to mind. Although they are a little out of context with the passage in Isaiah they are none the less true of what God is doing in Colombia through IMC in the lives of children.

Children whose lives physically, materially, emotionally and spiritually, like a wasteland have been trackless and dry are receiving what they need to gain direction and flourish because of your love and support for them.

Letters from Colombia

The Annual General Meeting of IMC-UK took place in Newick, Sussex in April. As usual Nancy Centeno, IMiC director, sent a letter to all of you. This year we also had letters from Carlos, who runs the Fusa Feeding Programme and Luis and Kelly the new house parents at Peniel Farm. We reproduce them here in full so if you didn't make it to the AGM you will not miss out.

From Nancy

Deuteronomy 7:9 "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, he is the faithful God keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands."

Dear friends, brothers and sisters in Christ,

May the love of God and His peace be with you and your families. In the name of all the children and the whole team of workers at IMiC, we send you greetings and thank you with much love. We are very grateful to God and you for your faithfulness and your great support in the mission work that we do.

Thank you for your prayers to the Almighty, which has allowed us to accomplish a lot of goals in our ministry, especially concerning our heartfelt vision of rescuing the lives of these little ones who lived in darkness, some close to death because of abandonment, hunger and misery.



Nancy at work in Bosa

2 Corinthians 4:18 says, "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal". It is our purpose to reach more children for Christ, so we continue to work in the marginal areas like Bosa.





Another goal we have achieved was to begin holistic projects with families focusing not just on social needs but spiritual and practical too through micro-enterprise. It has not been easy, but we continue to see this area of our work develop.

On the farm God answered our prayers in bringing Luis and Kelly in to work with the younger children. They have been a real blessing since they started in January of this year. Gonzalo and Aminta continue to work with the older boys who have been going through a lot of changes, but we thank God because they are emotionally stable and growing spiritually as well as physically. They are wonderful children and they are happy because of the change they have experienced in their lives. They are good students and have many gifts and talents.



Young children's first visit to a park

We have been able to develop some cultivation on the farm and have seen God's blessings in many ways. We have three cows which we bought last year, and this year they will multiply by three because all three of them are going to have calves! The milk is used partly for the children, and the rest is being sold. We also have chickens which lay eggs also partly for the farm and the rest being sold in our church.

At Altamira we continue to be very grateful for the blessings we have received, for being able to fix the van, and buy vehicles for the farm, bunk beds and other items we have bought to equip the houses and the dining room.

We thank God for Altamira because we have been able to increase the team of workers and improve conditions for the children. We have chickens here too which lay eggs for the program and also produce enough for us to be able to sell some. Our purpose is to grow in these projects which help to sustain the ministry. Lucy and the whole team at Altamira send their greetings and thanks for all your support.

The development of the feeding programme work has been limited by the budget we have available: it has been a difficult year because of the devaluation of the dollar, but the Lord is faithful.

Maicol is now back with his mother in Fusa. God willing he will graduate from school this year. Norberto is in his second semester at University studying Graphic Design and works in a restaurant. Diego is also working and thinking of continuing his studies next semester.

Again I want to thank Terry, Joan and the Board and all you brothers and sisters who support us because without the Lord's help and yours none of this would be possible. Your support and your prayers are very important to us, because you are our companions in the battle.

God bless you and greatly multiply his blessings upon you.

With much love,

Nancy Centeno.

From Carlos

May God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ pour out his blessings and peace upon you. We always thank God for each and everyone of you, for your hearts full of love for this ministry.

Many children have received great benefits and there have been a lot of achievements in Fusagasuga thanks to the ministry of IMiC. The feeding programme in Fusa has been established in a place where the children can hear the Gospel and grow spiritually through the teaching of God's Word, and they also receive support for their education which is a great blessing.



The children now have a sense of belonging within the foundation so that they support all the work that we do.

It is a great blessing to serve the Lord in a ministry like this one, in which we are helping people who have so many needs in our country.



Carlos, manager of Fusa feeding programme

We pray that the Lord would continue to bless this ministry and that it will grow more and more; we pray for our brothers and sisters in the UK and for each and every person who contributes to the ministry for Colombian children.

We pray that the Lord would touch the lives of these children and that they would belong to Christ some day as I believe that a child at risk is one that does not have Jesus in his heart.

In the name of the children of the programme in Fusa and in my name I want to express our gratefulness for your great love and for your hearts which enable a child to smile and have a better life in a world where they face many difficulties and hardships.

Please continue to pray for the ministry and all the children, especially for their salvation.

May the Lord bless you — with love,

Carlos Arturo Forero.

From Luis and Kelly

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It's of great joy to share with you the experiences God has allowed us to live in IMiC. It's been almost three months since we arrived at the farm to work with children aged 5 to 13. It has been a big challenge for us since we haven't had our own children yet and because

we are working with these little lives that have suffered very much and have deep wounds in their hearts that only God can heal.

During this time we have seen God's work in each one of the kids in spite of the little time some of them have been in the foundation. Some of the kids were very rebellious and misbehaved, but we can see changes in their lives as they have more respect and become more obedient. Some of them did not find it easy to receive or give love but we can say this has changed gradually. The Lord has been working in their lives day after day.



Luis and Kelly (far left) on children's day out

For the last two months we had been studying "the Lamb", a book for kids, which talks about God's salvation plan for humanity in a chronological order. Last night we were reviewing Jesus' life and his purpose here on earth and we invited them to go to their rooms to think about what they had heard, and if they wanted to receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour they could come back to our room and we would pray with them.

Marlon, the youngest one, came back two minutes later and opened the door and said "profe", which means tutor, "I believe in Christ" and after him came along the others who told us that they wanted to believe in Christ as their Saviour. This filled our hearts with great joy!

The time we have been working with the kids has been a great blessing for us. We are deeply thankful with our Heavenly Father for giving us this opportunity to serve him.

God bless you all,

Luis and Kelly Trujillo.



View from the Chair

Here in the UK we are making changes. You may have noticed some already! Our newsletter and promotional material have been relaunched, and our new website is up and running! Our previous website and printed matter have served us very well, but after ten years we felt the time had come to inject some fresh energy and harmonise the two.

We were fortunate to be introduced to Adept Design, who create material of the highest professional standard, but are used to working with charities and so do not charge commercial rates for their work. For a modest cost they helped us to simplify our approach, so that the key message of IMC comes across sharper and clearer!

Our sponsorship scheme is being reworked. Sue Hall now has the help of Carole Fry, who is providing a direct link with Luz-Dary, the social worker in Colombia. Getting up-to-date information and photos has always been a challenge. Now this process should be much smoother. It will take a while to revise the information on all the children who are sponsored, but expect to see some positive moves in the coming months.

We are also looking at how we can tap into contacts we have in the workplace, where the public sector and businesses are often willing to invest in charitable work, or to fund specific projects. Chris Fry is doing the groundwork on this (...see following article).

This last month we ran a funding appeal letter (our first in ten years!). We do not intend to do this regularly! However, we are looking to significantly increase our regular income, to enable us (and our partners in Colombia) to plan more effectively. Our new design, sponsor scheme review, and workplace initiatives are all helping us to refocus on this.

Please continue with us in prayer for all the workers in the IMC projects, and for the children and their families.

Paul Stockley (Chair).

Connecting with workplaces

Do you have opportunities to establish new connections with IMC through your workplace

in the UK? Whether you work for or have other contacts with a large company, a small business, a local council, school or hospital, the challenges in Colombia may be of interest. Some organisations have a structured approach to giving to a selection of charities on an ongoing basis and receive tax relief for donations. Other organisations may be inspired by particular IMC initiatives from educational resources for the children to agricultural projects.

So why not talk to your employer or your colleagues to see what the possibilities might be? If you need advice to get things moving then please get in touch with us via email info@childrenofcolombia.org or by post at the address below. We will call you back to see how we can help.

Chris Fry.

...and Finally

With just enough space to return to our initial thoughts. We continue to trust that God will do new things in the lives of the children we care for but there are new children yet to be reached. To do this we are challenged to do new things or find new ways of operating.

New resources will be required and that means new people to catch the vision to transform these children's lives.

We ask you our faithful supporters to join with us to pray particularly for these new things and people in the coming months.

Thank you.

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