



newsletter 57

december 2009

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life for evermore.”

Psalm 133

We may be half a world away from Colombia but we live together in unity of purpose with the workers out there in bringing new life and hope to poor children. As Christmas and the end of the year approaches and we report the recent news we can look back and see that despite the many ups and downs the Lord has blessed the lives of children. This is a testament to your unity with us and the folk in Colombia in praying and providing for them. We pray that you too will receive a blessing from the Lord.

My time in England

— What a blessing!

I was invited to come to England from the 28th September to 6th October, during which time I had the wonderful experience of getting to know this beautiful country whilst sharing with a large number of people. This visit was a great blessing to me. I visited two senior schools, a youth club, a junior school, three churches and shared in various groups in people's homes and in different locations. It was a great opportunity for me to share about the problems facing children in Colombia, especially the children we work with through IMC, and to talk about the work we do especially in the programme in Fusa where the families of the children we work with are coming along to the

new church we have started in the "Barrio de la Independencia" area of the town. I was able to share some stories of the lives of some of the children we are working with in Fusa in the hope that more people will be encouraged to support our work.

I am very grateful to God for allowing me to serve him in this work with children, and for giving me the opportunity during this visit to tell people in England about our experiences working with the children here in Colombia, something which I took very seriously as I love the work of IMC and its ministry to children.



Carlos on a day out at Hampton Court

I am very grateful to the members of the Board of IMC UK for inviting me and giving me this opportunity to receive the support and warm welcome of those people with whom I had the opportunity to spend some time sharing about IMC. I am particularly grateful to those who I stayed with and who looked after me while I was in England, and also to everyone who





supports the work in Colombia through constant prayer for the ministry, the children and for our work.

I would like to thank the churches who allowed me the time and opportunity to share about IMC in Colombia, thank you for your generosity and for your prayers for me personally.

May God continue to bless you abundantly.

Many thanks

Carlos Arturo Forero

IMC Colombia — Fusagasugá

In the email that accompanied his letter Carlos said, "I'm now back in Colombia working with and for the children, they have welcomed me back with open arms and have told me how much they missed me!"

That says so much about how he is appreciated by the children he serves and that in itself must have been a tremendous blessing for him too.

Please pray that the encouragement Carlos received from his visit and his return will continue with him as he deals with the difficulties of life in Colombia. Pray that he will see great blessings in the lives of the children and families with whom he works.

Making the Grade

Six young people who have come through the Fusa Feeding Programme graduated from school (equivalent to A Levels / Scottish Highers).



Tania, Juan, Paola, Ricardo, Sandra, Yerson

Nancy writes, "It's a real achievement for everyone, if it wasn't for the support from IMC

these young people would be following other, bad ways. We thank God because this is the fourth set of graduations we've had. We are happy because this is an achievement among the young people in the area. Many thanks for all your wonderful support which is changing young lives, you would not believe the impact this has in a society like Colombia. Your support is helping to ease the social problems which young people face here, especially lack of education and food."

Please pray giving thanks for the achievements of the children at Fusa and the impact the programme is having in the locality.

Altamira

The agreement for IMC's use of Altamira comes to an end next year and a meeting was held at the beginning of November with the owners Action International to discuss the situation. As yet we have not heard the details of this meeting.

It would be good if the outcome was for a long term use of the property ideally at little or no cost as this would provide some stability to permit consolidation and development of the programme there. But more importantly it would secure stability for the children whose lives have already had so much instability.



Something's cooking at Altamira

Please pray for the situation at Altamira that the discussions have gone well and the outcome will be in the best interests of the children and the work of IMC.



Letters from Children at Fusa

"Hello from Fusa

We would all like to thank you very much for your kind support for us.

We've now finished at school for this year and we are getting ready for our Christmas celebrations and for going home for the holidays.

We wish you a very happy Christmas and blessings for the New Year.

Your support for us is such a blessing. We pray that this love for the children of Colombia would remain in your hearts always.

May the Lord bless each and every one of you who support us. With best wishes"

Juan Alexander

Mayor of the Fusa Programme (each year the children elect a mayor).

"Dear friends

We would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year and may the Lord bless you. Christmas is the best time here in IMiC Colombia because we all get presents!

Thank you very much for all your support and for helping us get through this school year, and for supporting the programme here in Fusa. I'm just going into year 7 at school.

From all the children here at the feeding programme, thank you for your support and God bless!"

Jaime Alejandro

At the Farm

Projects are progressing well, rabbits are being reared and the goats will be giving birth soon. The hens are laying lots of eggs which are being sold locally and to the neighbours and to the members of the church.

At the end of October there was a celebration at Peniel farm for the "Day of the Bible". The boys sang and presented the message of the

Gospel with drama to about 30 children who live locally along the lane to the farm.



Gospel drama presentation

Also some local families came to study the Bible and attended the first service held by Pastor Alfredo at the farm. It is hoped that this interest will continue and a regular monthly meeting with these families can be developed.

While it is good to see local families coming to the farm for the services it must also be a reminder for the boys when they see these families together that their own families have abandoned them or take little interest in their welfare. Nancy recently highlighted William G, Egson and Oliver who are particularly feeling the effects of this lack of family concern.

Oliver's younger brother John (age 2) who is still living at the family home was found recently to be malnourished and badly treated. It is important to find some way of meeting this child's needs very soon.

Juan David has a heart problem and he may need surgery in the future.

Luis and Kely, house parents, have indicated that they would like to leave the farm in June next year. Parents will appreciate what they have contributed and how tough it must be as house parents to a dozen children when one or two of one's own can be a handful.

It will be a difficult time for the children as the day of their leaving approaches.

Six months may seem plenty of time for Nancy and the Colombian board to find replacements but it will pass quickly.



Please pray for the boys whose families have lost interest in them that links may be restored and relationships improved. Pray for those that have no families that they will be comforted in being part of the IMC family. Give thanks for the opportunity to make contact with local families and for Kely and Luis who have given their love to the boys. Pray for replacement house parents and the board as they make their appointment.

Summer Team 2010

Plans are currently underway for a team to visit Colombia in June 2010.

Visiting Colombia is a great way to see the difference that your support is making to so many lives, both children and families. Not only that but it also blesses and encourages the workers too and according to those who have been it is "an incredible experience."

If you would like to know more about the trip, please get in touch via the IMC office as soon as possible.

Fast Work

Marcia Bunday, an instructor at 'Curves' in Petersfield, watched the DVD of the work of IMC in Colombia 'The Disposable Ones' and felt compelled to do something.

She set about a 24 hour sponsored fast and thanks to the generosity of many 'Curves' members, Marcia raised over £200 for the children who attend the Fusa programme.

Well done Marcia! Thank you very much.

Annual General Meeting

Next year's AGM will be held at Four Marks, near Alton in Hampshire on **Saturday 24th April 2010**.

Please put the date in your diary, we would be delighted to see as many of you there as are able to come. More details nearer the time.

IMC Day of Prayer

Saturday 23rd January 2010: The Trustees are meeting together to seek God's will for the ministry in the coming years and would value your prayerful support wherever you are. At this time it is important to be sure of God's purposes for the development and strategy of IMC. If you want to get together in your local support group or to pray individually there will be some prayer guidelines available from the IMC office. Phone, write or email the office with your details and they will be sent out to you closer to the day.

And Finally...



That goes for all of us at IMC-UK too; bless you and thank you for your support and unity with the children and workers in Colombia.

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