



## newsletter 59

june 2010

**‘...the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice... How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you... Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”**

from Isaiah 30:18-21

### Nancy’s Annual Letter

Each year Nancy Centeno, Director of our partner organisation Fundació n IMiC in Colombia, sends a letter to the Annual General Meeting of IMC-UK. This year it was read out by Seren Boyd at the meeting held in April at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Four Marks, Hampshire.

We know that things in Colombia are never straightforward and Nancy faces many challenging situations and decisions and at times she struggles with the intensity of the responsibility she carries. Yet her letters are positive and focus on the great things that have been and are being achieved. So here it is in full.

“Dear friends, brothers and sisters,

We thank God and give all the glory to Him for yet another year that has allowed us to see His faithfulness towards us, and your own faithfulness as you stand side by side with us in this endeavour. I send you all greetings, with much love and blessings for each one of you. Thank you for your prayers, for the encouragement you give us, for all that you

have sown into the lives of so many children and their families. We are very grateful to God for choosing your country and you especially, to bless children in Colombia.

This year is the tenth anniversary of the feeding programme in Fusa, which we call the Centre for Integral Formation or CIF, which supports children with food and in their schooling and transforms lives through the Word of God.

We will be celebrating this anniversary on May 1st, thanking God through the children, with drama, worship, a series of cultural activities, food and a big ‘garage sale’ for the whole community.



Celebrations in Fusa

Many children have passed through the centre, and many are now grown up and have been able to overcome their circumstances and complete their secondary education. Some have even gone to university: others are working and studying, now safe from the threat of drugs and delinquency. Ricardo Forero, one of the children who went through the feeding





programme, is now at Altamira, helping other children. Thanks to God and to you, these children now have healthy lives. According to the statistics, three children under the age of five die of hunger every day in Colombia. Through the work we're doing, we're helping to lower these statistics and we're helping to build the peace in this country, spreading the Gospel in these marginalised areas.



Children at Fusa

We're very grateful to God for what He is doing in the life of each child who comes to IMiC, healing their wounds, strengthening their character, helping them to grow up in His purposes, safeguarding them from evil. Children like Neider and Einer arrived here with a great deal of pain in their hearts after the death of their father and other relatives. Today, they are young men who radiate peace and joy, and they have goals they want to achieve in life. Neider wants to be an army officer — Andrés and Camilo want to be doctors and professional footballers. They all have their dreams and hopes because they have been given a second chance to live in a different world. Peniel Farm and Altamira are havens of peace for them, where they are not only educated but where they are also raised, have their basic needs met and, most importantly, where they meet God and find love. It gives us great joy to see Diego, Norberto, Maicol, Carlos Moreno and many others who have moved on to lead a good, respectable life in society.

We thank God Almighty and you for the support you've given and your faithfulness — because, through it, we've been able to restore these lives and support more and more children at risk. This year, we are looking after 27 children at Altamira and 22 at Peniel. As Paul says in Galatians 6:9:

*'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.'*

Thanks to all of you who have supported farming projects at Peniel — you have been a huge blessing to IMiC. Now, we have cows, goats, rabbits, hens and ducks, and our kitchen garden is starting to yield crops again. What we sell best is our milk and eggs. That's why we'd like to extend those projects.

This last year has been a difficult year in terms of our finances, but God is good and faithful because this allows us to grow stronger in Him. He was faithful in meeting the needs of the children and of the workers and their families. We managed to keep our heads above water, keep the programmes going, help some families and help seven children from the feeding programme graduate from secondary school.



Boys at Peniel Farm

There are many more things to thank God for. We continue to dream of winning more children for Christ — and our goal gets more ambitious every day.

Thank you again for your friendship, for the love that we receive from you, for the strength that you give us, for the vital role you play in this ministry. Without you and your prayers, we wouldn't be seeing these results. We are impacting lives and that's being reflected in Colombian society. Your financial donations are earning you interest in heaven because these little ones and their families are souls that together we're winning for Christ. I'll leave you with this verse from 2 Corinthians 9:12:



*'This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.'*

Have a great day. God bless you.

With much love, Nancy Centeno”

## Hernan

We have mentioned Hernan Linares in previous newsletters as he has given time to teaching cooking to the children at Altamira. He was involved in the activities at the Fusa celebration preparing food with the help of the children. But not only has he dedicated himself to teaching the children at Altamira and the feeding programme he also helps with the other IMiC activities and sells goods in church and in Bogotá to raise funds and encourages others to do the same.



Hernan at Altamira

Hernan has joined the Board of IMiC taking the place of Luis Jaime Garcia who had to step down due to many other commitments.

**Please pray for Hernan in his role on the IMiC board and for others to be infected by his enthusiasm for the work with the children.**

## Children's News

Part of the ministry is to keep families together and help them build better relationships and conditions so when circumstances are

improved children can return to live at home after a period of stay at Peniel Farm or Altamira. Four boys Deivi and his brother Alex, Javier, and Gabriel are back with their families and this time can be difficult without the structure of life they experienced at the farm.



Deivi, Javier, Gabriel and Alex

The good news is they are all continuing with their education and it would be good if they continue attending church too. Gabriel and his brother Over's family have a lot of problems and they are not doing so well.

**Please pray for these boys that their lives will be protected and they will hold on to the positive things they learnt and experienced while at the farm.**

Luisa and her brother were taken into care at Altamira because their mother wants them to go out begging on the streets.



The Social Services have been informed about their situation for follow up.

**Please pray for Luisa and her brother and a change of heart for their mother.**

Yordi, Cristian and Rodriguez are going through a difficult phase as they struggle with the things that need sorting out in their lives.

**Please pray for them and for those that care for them.**



## Where there's a Will there's a Way

Or perhaps it should be where there are wheels there's a way of getting children to school. Transport for children at Altamira is a rickety old estate car where they sit three deep, on each others laps, in the back. The minibus fund raising project is under way. Doing something to raise funds doesn't have to be hard work, just chatting about it to people you know can lead to some surprising new fund raising opportunities.

If you need some publicity material to give to potential supporters or could use the DVD to raise awareness of the need in Colombia and the work of IMC please contact the office.

### Shop and Help Children

These businesses donate to IMC

EthicTrade — Quality goods traded fairly for you, your family and home — great gifts too.

<http://inministrytochildren.ethictrade.com/>

Pictures from Scotland — Quality hand finished greetings cards.

<http://www.plowprints.co.uk/>

Gospel Cards — Cards, calendars and more, great gifts for all the family.

<http://www.gospelcardsetc.com/>

## Altamira Future

We have noted in previous newsletters that the future of the home at Altamira has been uncertain. It has been on rent free loan from Action International and there was a possibility that they would sell the property. The agreement for the use of the property runs out at the end of the year, and Nancy reports that IMiC have been in talks with Action International to try to reach an agreement about the future of the ranch.

**Please pray for Nancy and the board in Colombia who must make the decisions about Altamira that they would hear God's**

**voice behind them saying "this is the way walk in it".**

## Forward Together

The UK board keep in good contact with Nancy and Alfredo in Colombia, as well as with some of the staff members. However, there is a limit to what can be achieved at a distance. Hence, as we look ahead into an uncertain future, we are making some plans for a face to face meeting between representatives of each board later this year. We need to explore God's purposes as we work together towards serving the needs of children experiencing violence, abuse and neglect, and to encourage each other in this task.

**Please pray for wisdom and insight for the UK board, and for clear communication with Nancy and Alfredo in Colombia.**

## ...and Finally

It is worth repeating what Nancy said in her letter to the AGM and to all of you,

"Thank you again for your friendship, for the love that we receive from you, for the strength that you give us, for the vital role you play in this ministry. Without you and your prayers, we wouldn't be seeing these results. We are impacting lives and that's being reflected in Colombian society."

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