



## newsletter 62

march 2011

**“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”**

**Jeremiah 29:11**

This message was given to the prophet Jeremiah for the people of Israel who were captives in Babylon. The captivity lasted seventy years so there were children born in captivity to parents who had not known anything other than captivity in their lives also.

Children in Colombia are born into the captivity of their circumstances, poverty, lack of education and health care, and the cultural and social problems that thrive in such circumstances.

### **In Need of Hope and a Future**

Nancy’s February newsletter tells us that seven new boys came to Peniel Farm each with a sad story.

Three brothers were found in a very poor condition living in a container from an abandoned lorry. They were displaced because of violence in their home town. The oldest, Julian aged 9, is severely malnourished which has affected his growth and development. His brothers are Joel, 8, and Juan aged 7.

Another two boys, Jordan and Jaguar aged 9 and 6 have a mother who is in prison as does David aged 5. David’s mother went to prison soon after he was born. The seventh child is Andrés whose parents are drug addicts and involved in crime. He is 7 years old.



**The New Boys**

(Apologies for not being able to match names) Felix and Vicky are the house parents for these boys.

**Please pray for each of these boys as they settle in at Peniel Farm and for Felix and Vicky as they get to know them and for the wisdom to care for them as their needs demand.**

### **Updates**

Neider has safely completed his military service and has returned to live with his family and plans to continue studying and working with his family. As Nancy says, “this is one success story for IMiC thanks to God” and she continues “we also thank God for Diego who has gone to Medellin to be with his brother and will continue working and studying at university there.”

In Fusa Lucy’s programme “Return to Life Home” now has 33 enrolled with 6 living in and





the rest only coming during the day. This new way of working is enabling the families to retain greater responsibility for their children.



### Lucy with children in her programme

Nancy has spent time and prayed with Lucy to identify projects which can generate income. At the end of last year a second hand shop for clothes and goods was opened, and there is a plan to open an internet cafe very soon in the new house.

**Please pray that God would bless these businesses and cause them to prosper. Pray for the team and children in Lucy's programme that the new way of working will build stronger families. Give thanks for the successes of Neider and Diego.**

### Peniel Farm

It has been good to receive a copy of the Bye's (Kathleen and Grant from USA) newsletter as it adds another bit to the mix of information that we get from Colombia.

Grant has been involved in the design and build of a new greenhouse at the farm. There have previously been two greenhouses both of which have succumbed to the ravages of the weather. Part of a donation from a North American missionary couple in Bogotá has been used to buy materials for steel and concrete footings for the new structure so hopefully this one will be more durable than the others.

Also some Eucalyptus timber has been donated by the United Church of Bogotá and is being prepared in the workshop. The boys at the farm are involved in the construction and learning new skills.

**Please pray for the Bye's in their partnership with IMiC, giving thanks for their input to the lives of the boys and the connections they have locally and in USA which result in blessings at the farm.**



Alex and Duvan

(Picture from Byes' newsletter)

### Leah's perspective of Colombia

Leah Payne has been in Colombia for a few months now as a short term volunteer.

We were privileged to receive a copy of her newsletter just before Christmas and in it she writes about Colombia as she has seen and experienced it.

Here are some extracts from it.

"Another ongoing issue in Colombia is the lack of jobs available. So many people, both experienced and inexperienced are seeking work and are unable to find anything. Many people are struggling to find the money to buy food for their families. I met a family this week who have been unable to pay rent for 6 months and who just this week were set upon violently by the landlord who quite understandably



wants them out. My friend, who is an American missionary working with a Church here in Colombia, introduced me to this family and today we did a Bible study in the park with three of the children from this building, one of whom became a Christian on camp last week. These children only get a slice of bread in the mornings and a meal at a centre for lunch. The longer I am here, the more I am being exposed to how people are living in poverty and I am being more and more shocked at what I see. It is one thing seeing it on television or in the paper but something else completely to be in the room with them.

**“Please pray that something will be done so that more people can find work. There is very little here in the way of helping those without jobs (unlike the UK where we have jobseekers allowance). Please pray that people will have enough food to feed their families and to pay rent so that they are not out on the streets.**

“When you drive along the streets in Bogotá, there are so many people selling things at the traffic lights who go along the cars when they are stopped. You also see many children and teenagers doing acrobatic tricks or juggling to try and get some money from the people in the cars. I mentioned before to some of you about people sending their children out at night to sweep bridges or sell bin bags for money for nappies for younger siblings. This is so dangerous. **Please pray for protection for these children.**”

Leah has also helped out at a camp for children aged 7 to 11 which some of the boys from the farm attended.

Leah writes, “The format of the camp was very similar to that I am used to in England so it felt strangely familiar despite everything being in a different language. The actual site of the camp was just beautiful. We are up very high above sea level and pretty much wherever you are you can see the mountains in the distance, but on this camp we were right next to them! It was the first time that some of these children had been outside Bogotá! This would be like a child living in London their entire life and never going

to another city. I don't think we in England quite appreciate how big these camps are for the children, as often it is the only holiday they will get.



**If this is home then a camp must seem like heaven!**

“A lot of the children come from very difficult backgrounds so the dormitory leaders have a very important role in looking after them. Thank God for the wonderful workers who volunteer to help out on these camps! Everyone worked really hard and it really paid off because the children had such a great time.”

By the time you read this Leah will be back in the UK so please pray for her as she readjusts to life here.

And just to add what Nancy said in her newsletter “We thank God for Leah who has been a great support with the younger boys, she works very hard.”

## Visiting Colombia

Paul Stockley and Chris Fry have been in Colombia during the last week of February and the beginning of March as a follow up to Terry's and Seren's visit that we reported last time.

They had a massive schedule of tasks to accomplish as well as the very important job of building relationships with all the staff and meeting the children.



There is much for the IMC–UK board to discuss as a result and we will bring you an update of things in the near future.

**Please pray for both the Colombian and UK boards as they consider how best to progress the work. Pray for wisdom and unity between the boards in their decisions.**

## Not quite Finally...

But returning as we often do to our opening quotation and the part that says, “For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord.’ Plans, even God’s, need people who are willing to be part of the action.

Looking back through past editions of the newsletter and some of the other pictures and notes on the computer it is quite amazing to see the number of people who have been involved. Some span the history of IMC, others have shared with us for a short period of time. Hundreds of children’s lives have been touched positively in some way but only some have been named or had their picture in the newsletter.

There are times during editing the news or a picture I stop and wonder what it must be like for a child in Colombia to know there are people thousands of miles away that care about them. That and Nancy’s invariable and grateful comment that none of this is possible without you make me pause and think of you too.

It is amazing, so many people in so many diverse places mostly unknown to each other but connected by concern for children through the work of IMC. Each being vital to the whole and part of the plan to prosper, bring hope and provide for a future to children who would otherwise remain captives to their circumstances.

So with Nancy “We send greetings, blessings and thanks to all our friends, for your faithfulness, support and prayers which keep us strong in the work.”

(and now finally...)

## On the Road...

### Invitation to annual general meeting

Monday April 4th, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Methodist Church, Petersfield, Hampshire.

Dear Friends,

For this year our “official” annual meeting will be slimmed down as we join with the Petersfield prayer and support group on the evening of Monday, April 4th. However, don’t feel you’ll miss out, as we intend to bring the same informative presentation on a roadshow to several venues over the coming months. We hope this will enable us to reach many more people with news of what the charity is doing, as relatively few people are usually able to attend our annual meeting.

If you’d like to join us on that evening, we’ll be at the Methodist Church, Station Road, Petersfield, for 7:30 meeting, with light refreshments available from 7:00 p.m. If you’d like the roadshow to visit your local area, please leave your contact details with our office, and we’ll get in touch to arrange it. We can also email copies of the annual report and accounts to all who request it.

Thank you for your support over the year. Your faithfulness is much appreciated.

Paul Stockley (on behalf of the Trustees)

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