



## newsletter 63

june 2011

**“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19**

The apostle Paul confidently wrote these words to the church at Philippi because they, out of their love and concern for him, had made gift after gift to support him in his work.

Now for the news of what your gifts have been achieving in Colombia.

### The New Minibus

At last some news about the minibus for Lucy’s “Return to Life” home. We have only recently received these pictures of the new vehicle.



The pictures came with a big thank you from Lucy and all the children.



### Round up of News

When thinking about the amount of things that Nancy, as director in Colombia, has to attend to and manage it just makes one’s head spin. It is little wonder that sometimes the news that she puts in her prayer letters is brief and to the point. So from the latest letter:

“Warm greetings and blessings to you all and to your families. May God bless and prosper you for all you do. Thank you for your faithfulness and prayers for the ministry and for the children of Colombia. We thank God for his blessings in the midst of difficulties and for allowing us to continue taking his gospel to the needy.”

### At the Farm

The new greenhouse we reported on last time has started to produce fruit. The children have been planting seeds (some from the UK too), and caring for the plants and a crop of healthy greens has resulted. Some new rabbits, goats and chickens have been acquired and are





providing food and opportunities for the children to learn.



The boys at the farm whose mothers are in prison are no longer able to see them. Their mothers have been moved from Bogotá prisons to other cities.

Einer's family are doing much better now and so he has returned to be with them and continue his studies.

Pastor Henry from the local church is visiting the farm and wants the all the church members to come and get to know more about the work and encourages them to support more.

### **“Return to Life” Home**

Leide, one of the girls, turned 15 recently and went to visit her family to celebrate her birthday. The very same day her uncle was murdered. We have no other details at this time.

### **Feeding Programme**

The Comedor as it is known in Colombia or “The Dining Room” as we would call it continues to flourish under the guidance of Carlos. They are planning a fundraising event on 25<sup>th</sup> June with evangelistic drama and traditional dances by the children.

### **First Charity Shop?**

Popping into your local charity shop, either to drop off surplus items, or to pick up something

on the cheap is nothing new. Every High Street has different charities vying for trade.

Here that may well be true but in Colombia?

Such a venture is a new concept for Colombia, where the idea of charity shops has not been seen before — until now! IMC's partner “Return to Life” programme in Fusa has opened the first charity shop in the town (and perhaps in the whole of Colombia!), just off the town square.

This serves both IMC and the community. For the community, this ‘boutique’ provides inexpensive clothing for people who cannot afford high street prices. For IMC, this brings in some income to offset the rent of the property. The shop uses two salons which open onto the street, but behind this the house serves as a residence for seven children and a day centre for thirty, from toddlers to teens.



Next time you pop into or pass a charity shop, remember what a blessing it can be and pray for the success of the one in Colombia.

### **First trip to Colombia**

“In early March this year I made my first visit to Colombia to see the IMC programmes first hand and to help to strengthen the dialogue with the Colombian team about current needs and future plans. Meeting Nancy and the team was fantastic — I was so encouraged to see the professionalism and dedication of all of the people working on the ground for the children. Amongst many great moments, I will particularly remember the trip for two things.

“Firstly I was able to meet William — the boy (now a young man) that my wife and I have



sponsored through IMC for about 10 years. I had a couple of days at Peniel Farm and I was able to spend a bit of time digging a vegetable patch alongside him as well as having a good chat (with fellow trustee Paul Stockley translating of course!). I was so inspired and moved when, unprompted, William produced all of the letters and photos that we had sent to him over the years — it struck me just how much these children and teenagers really appreciate the connection and support that we can offer.

“Secondly, I joined a visit to Bosa — a small district at the southwest extreme of the sprawling city of Bogotá. The IMiC Colombia team have established strong connections in this area, including holding Christmas events for some of the local children in past years. We were taken into an informal settlement of extreme poverty where a community of recyclers live in makeshift housing and try to scratch out a living to feed their families. We met just one mother with her three year old daughter — and it is estimated that there are about 400 children from 100 families living in this marginalised community. IMiC could make an enormous difference to the lives of these children and families and the team is preparing to set up a Dining Room programme, modelled on the successful ‘Comedor’ in Fusa, once sufficient resources are in place.”

*Chris Fry, IMC–UK Trustee*



## Looking into the Future...

“We enjoyed meeting with the Colombian board (over coffee and cake, of course!) during

our recent visit to Bogotá. As we talked we began to explore together the future hopes for the work. For a long time there has been an earnest desire to replicate elsewhere the model for neighbourhood outreach that IMiC have developed over the years. This multi-faceted approach begins with a healthy meal each day for the children, alongside spiritual nurture, and support for education with provision of school books, uniforms and other necessities. In addition, tutoring is offered when needed, health checks are made annually, and some families are given parenting support.

“Bosa, with its high rate of malnourishment and illiteracy is a prime location for a new centre.

“While IMiC in Colombia certainly have the right contacts and expertise, and we in the UK can provide start-up funding, the key to launching anything sustainable is to have the active involvement of local churches, and investment from local businesses willing to help their community. These are big challenges!

“In two years time we’d love to see a well established ‘Dining Room’ outreach serving this needy neighbourhood. But to be ‘well established’ for the long term, local funding is crucial. Please pray for a breakthrough in identifying the right sources.”

*Paul Stockley, IMC–UK Trustee*

## Colombia Floods

Colombia has been experiencing extremely high rainfall for a number of months associated with the so called “La Niña” current changes in the Pacific Ocean. This is on top of the usual rainy season that the country experiences. It comes only a few months after the end of a period of high rainfall experienced in 2010. It is estimated that 3 million people have been affected and with thousands losing their homes and livelihoods. Mud slides have been reported in a number of towns and cities including Bogotá. Reports indicate that 28 of the countries 32 provinces have been affected.

Nancy writes “We thank God for keeping us safe from the floods and mud slides occurring



in Colombia at the moment due to the severe winter we are experiencing. What is happening is very sad, many families have lost everything and we are praying for the rain to stop because the situation is very serious, motorways are damaged and food cannot be transported which is increasing the cost of living and poverty, the dollar is still falling but in spite of all this we give thanks to our God who has not abandoned us and who always gives us what we need through you, the guardian angels he has given us.”

## Honorary Patrons

At this year's Annual General Meeting in Petersfield, our two founder members Terry and Joan Thraves, stepped down from their roles on the Board. Aware that their compassion for the children and passion as ambassadors for the work has not diminished, they have accepted the title of Patrons of the charity.

They will continue to enjoy the fellowship of the Trustees for as long as they choose, but without the legal responsibilities.

We wish to say, “Terry and Joan, we very much value you as friends and colleagues, and hope this new title will rightly honour you for your many years of selfless dedication. You are a blessing to many.”

## Roadshow

We're in the process of putting together a roadshow bringing news of what's happening with the children, families and staff of IMiC in Colombia to a venue near you! We will publicise the four locations as soon as they are finalised.

## Other ways to Support

**Ethic Trade** now have a wider variety of goods available, there is now a brand new children's clothing range by Piccalilly. Plenty of ideas too for summer season anniversaries. Take a look!

Link to: [inministrytochildren.ethictrade.com](http://inministrytochildren.ethictrade.com)

## Gem of an Idea!

It sparkles, but it has been boxed up in the attic for some years as it may have been in vogue during an earlier era, but it is just not your style! Well, now is the chance to put all that unworn-by-you jewellery to a good cause.

Selling it yourself can be a hassle, so why not donate it to charity? It doesn't matter if it is broken or imperfect, or has a stone missing, as the good gems and the metals are reclaimed and used in new jewellery.

With this newsletter you will receive an envelope. Just put your jewellery items in it, and pop it in the post. Why not ask your friends and neighbours too? Extra envelopes are available on request from our Petersfield office 01730 231400.

More info: [jewelleryrecycling.org](http://jewelleryrecycling.org)

### Important Reminder

When writing cheques to support the work of IMC please make them payable to

**Links International (IMC)**

## And Finally...

Just enough space to thank you once again for your continuing love and support for the children and workers in Colombia and to echo Nancy's words, “we give thanks to our God who has not abandoned us and who always gives us what we need through you, the guardian angels he has given us.”

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