



newsletter 65

december 2011

“Jesus said: let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

Matt 19:14

It was with this verse that Nancy started her October newsletter. The November letter arrived just in time to include its news in this newsletter so here combined and edited is the latest news with some quotations.

Nancy's Letters

“Dear friends, sisters and brothers,

“Warm greetings and blessings to you, and thanks from everyone here for your prayers and great support which gives us strength and courage every day, and the power of God which encourages us to continue forward with this ministry.”

On the Farm

The school visits to the farm have meant that many children and adults have not only been able to see the animals and learn about God's creation but have also seen what is being done for the children who are part of IMiC's ministry.

Nancy says “We are praying that next year we might be able to take this project to lots of schools with the primary aim of making known the Author of creation, our all powerful God.”

In November there was an open day at the farm and about 120 people from different churches came. All the produce they had available was sold and one of the cows had

gone for slaughter and so they had roast beef for lunch and some of the meat went to the Fusa programmes and some was sold.



School visit to the farm

Also at the end of November there was a Christmas party for the children at the farm as some of them will be staying with their families during the holidays. Gifts for the children were provided through the generosity of the “Ladies of the United Nations”.

Gonzalo and Aminta retired on 30 November after a number of years as house parents to the older boys. They have a farm that they bought some while ago and have plans for it with their families. Nancy wrote “We give gratitude to God for their lives and ask that He will grant them all their desires.”

Haider and David have been able to return to their families as their mothers were released from prison recently. Nancy asks us to pray for work for their mothers.

Please pray for Andres Castro. He came to IMiC at age 4 and on 23rd September he turned





18 which means that his time at the farm must come to an end. (This is a requirement of the Colombian authorities.) Unfortunately he did not graduate from High School. He fell in love with a girl at the school and this seemed to have been a distraction for him despite encouragement from his teachers and everyone at the farm. He is hoping to live with his uncle whilst he waits to hear about his required military service. Pray that God would show him what is best for him.

Egson achieved ninth grade graduate from high school and got good grades. Last year he was very discouraged and didn't want to study, so give thanks to God for this boy and his achievements this year.

The Government Secretariat sent two children who were under provisional protection in a foster home because of abuse by the father with drug problems. Their mother and her five other children were also at risk and were referred to other institutions. On 17th November Joseph (3 years) and Kherson (7 years) came to the farm and are very happy because everyone gave them a good reception.

Nancy says "We appreciate your prayers for them and the other boys who are on vacation with their families and those at friend's homes."

At Fusa

A fair was held in Fusa with the sale of the clothes, used items, a bake sale and lunch. The children in the foundation gave a presentation with traditional dances, and a children's tango school gave their show.

Nancy reports "Everything was very nice, but it rained a lot and we couldn't go too, but we raised some funds."

On 10 December the Christmas party for children in the Dining Room and Return to Life home with Lucy was held. "We thank God because two companies have committed to give us gifts, which we hope will reach everyone." and "we thank God for Lucy whose health is now much better".

The programmes in Fusa need some more workers as one of the helpers, William, is leaving in the New Year.



Traditional Dancing

Other News

Ruben Moreno returned from Argentina where he had been studying for his Professional Chef Qualifications. Please pray for work for him, especially a role teaching in a cookery school or college.

(Ruben was one of the first boys with IMC and tells of his experiences on the IMC DVD)

Nancy concludes her October letter...

"Thanks for all your prayer for the ministry and for my health, I am much better.

"With love and greetings to all our friends.

"With love and blessings"

Nancy.



In Remembrance

Since we told you of the sad news about Rusbel, Nancy sent a photo taken some years ago of Rusbel and his sisters.



Please continue to pray for Rusbel's family as they come to terms with his untimely death and the children and IMC staff that knew him.

Bye Ways

Since 1998 Grant and Kathleen Bye's highway has been in Colombia where they have been helping IMiC develop.

One of their lesser travelled pathways was to the UK recently at the invitation of IMC-UK. Jeremy Burdett (trustee) reports...

"We invited Grant and Kathleen, as we have many Colombians over the years, to spend some time with us in the UK. There are always two main reasons for this kind of visit; the first is for IMC supporters to meet those on the coal face in Bogotá and to get a better idea of the realities out there. The second is to say a big thank you to them for all that they do and the sacrifices they make.

"Grant and Kathleen arrived on 31st September and were with IMC hosts until 11th October when they went to spend a few days with friends before returning to USA on the 16th. They started at Four Marks in Hampshire with David and Marian Comley where they took part in several well attended church meetings. They went on to Petersfield and stayed with Liz and

John Studd, again taking part in many meetings the last of which was a gathering of all the Trustees followed by a meal. After that they went to stay with Phil and Ann Moore in East Molesey.

"They then came to us to meet supporters from Newick for a few days and enjoy the Sussex countryside. We met up with local supporters who found it very rewarding to meet with people who they had read about and prayed for years. Grant and Kathleen were very good ambassadors for the work and brought us all up to date with the latest goings on in Colombia. We spent an exciting day walking along the Seven Sisters, 7 chalk cliffs in East Sussex, walking into a gusting wind which had sent a lot of people back as it was too strong for them. Not so for Kathleen, it was a personal challenge for her to bend into the wind and set off at a pace which the rest of us had to work hard to keep up with.

"All in all we were glad to hear all they had to say, and to share a few days with this amazing couple."



Grant and Kathleen have been key figures in the development of important aspects of the IMC programmes.

Just Deserts?

When the Sahara is mentioned we often think of just desert but for Josephine Smith and Pete Fletcher from Shilling Communication it was much more than that...



After two months of intense training and fundraising, Josephine and Pete set out to cross 108km of the Sahara desert to raise money for IMC. The trek covered vast stretches of parched desert, volcanic hills and sand dunes! They spent the chilly nights in Bedouin-style tents, before setting off each day to walk in temperatures of 26°C and higher.

Pete reflects on his experience, "From start to finish, this event has really given me more than I ever thought possible. From the early fundraising, including conquering my immense fear of doing Karaoke, right through to having feet covered in blisters, which were 'repaired' morning and night just to be able to continue walking the next day — I wouldn't change a thing. Through it all two things have remained constant, the unbelievable generosity of people and the amazing friendships which have begun every step of the way. Added to this personal wealth is the knowledge that we have been able to contribute to the great work IMC do."

Josephine adds, "Crossing the Sahara was an amazing experience! The scenery was so unexpected — you expect sand dunes, but we walked over dry river beds and through a volcanic region, as well as dunes. I'm so pleased to have taken part in the trek. Not only was it an exciting experience, I've also had the chance to be useful and I know that the money we've raised will be used wisely by IMC."



Josephine and Pete raised almost £2,500

Thank you both for a fantastic effort. In addition to your support for the children it is good to know that it also reaped rewards for you

personally. So in addition to deserts there were some just desserts too!

(You can find out more about their training and trek on the Shilling Communications website www.shilling.co.uk)

Getting the Ball Rolling

Carole and Chris Fry got a new fundraising venture underway by organising a summer ball and introducing IMC to a different kind of supporter.

The fundraiser was held in great style at the Elvetham Hotel in the middle of the late summer Hampshire countryside. Most of the people there you would describe as young professionals who entered well into the spirit of the evening by bidding for donated items and dancing the night away.

The effect on them was such that Carole has had several requests to go and speak to different groups and we are eagerly awaiting feedback from the first two meetings.

And Finally...

Just enough room to convey greetings from all the UK trustees and thanks for your faithful support and prayers through another year.

Have a very happy Christmas and may the New Year bring peace and fulfilment to you all.

In Ministry to Children

c/o Life Church
62 Station Road,
Petersfield,
GU32 3ES

p: 01730 231400
e: info@inministrytochildren.org

inministrytochildren.org

uk registered charity no. 1064690