



newsletter 66

march 2012

“God defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing”

Deuteronomy 10:18

The above verse of Scripture from the reference Nancy included in her February newsletter reminds us of God’s concern but these things are delivered by human hands. So we are thankful for all of you who share in the delivery of help and support to the children of Colombia.

News from Nancy

There haven’t been many news and prayer letters from Nancy since the last issue of the newsletter which must indicate she has been very busy. One arrived in February and was clearly written in haste with all the important things but not quite enough to get the whole picture. Note the number of times Nancy asks for prayers please add yours to hers for these things in particular:

Hello, dear Friends and Sisters and Brothers,

Deuteronomy 10:12–18

We send our greetings and thanks for your prayers and for remaining faithful in the work, and to our Almighty God for his mercy, because the end of the year was a great blessing for the children. They received many gifts from friends of the churches and businesses who know and support the social work. We were visited by the employees and manager of Lasso Laboratory who were very generous, shared with the children talks,

games, gifts, took lunch, recreation and were highly motivated to continue supporting the foundation. This is an answer to many prayers.



Children in Fusa

On the farm this year we have only 15 children, who came with fresh courage, and began their classes in school. We have two little brothers: 3 year old Joseph for whom we found a kindergarten to attend, and Jerson, 5 years, who is beginning in the school which follows on from La Piñuela kindergarten. Camilo Gomez and William are older siblings and are developing well in their role in the home, supporting the tasks of the little ones. Egson is dedicated to the work of the farm, milking cows and working the land, and is very conscientious.

We are praying for the arrival of other children for whom we are looking at their problems, and also for volunteer workers who have a true calling.





We are praying hard for the children of Fusa, and welcome any who support us because we are seeing a very worrying trend in recent years. The problem of the sale and consumption of drugs is increasing in young adults and has brought dire consequences, for the murders and assaults that have occurred. Last year an underage girl was assaulted and murdered, and last month an infant boy of just 18 months age was killed. He was the little brother of two children at our Dining Room, who are very distressed. He died in a very cruel way and in the presence of other children. We are also seeing a lot of suicides and violence, more poverty and fear of insecurity. The lack of God in their lives allows evil to grow. We pray for churches to become more involved in the message of salvation. Pray for Carlos and Sofia to be kept safe.

Pray for Lucy and the Return to Life programme: this year we have 30 children under 10 years, including a boy with disabilities. Workers are needed, and growth of the charity shop to keep sustaining the programme. Also pray for Lucia and her son Juan Miguel who underwent emergency surgery with complications, that God will heal him soon.

Pray for the projects and the board members, for wisdom to make good decisions.

Greetings and blessings to the whole board, and all the friends that make this work possible, with the power of the Almighty.

With much love in Christ Jesus. Nancy.

Please pray giving thanks for the support of businesses and churches in Colombia. In addition to the requests made by Nancy in the letter please pray for Nancy herself that she will be kept strong both physically and spiritually in the testing times she experiences from day to day.

Workshop Blog

Grant Bye recently sent an email to let us know that the internet blog he writes about activities at the Farm workshop has been updated with the news for October, November and December. You can read about it all at penielworkshop.blogspot.com

If you are not internet connected here are some of the highlights:

Some repairs and strengthening were made to the ping-pong table that was suffering from wear and tear.

The boys made a range of wooden goods for sale at the open day at the farm held at the end of November. There were cars, Christmas trees and house plaques for hanging house keys which required a number of skills and different machines to complete. What an opportunity to learn and develop skills with some great results.



Jerson with a tree ready for finishing

They have repaired and refinished some desks for the local school that the children at the farm



attend and made some shelving for the IMiC office.

Please pray giving thanks for Grant and the work he does with the boys in the workshop. Pray that the boys will learn good skills and enjoyment in work that will serve them well in the future.

IMC Annual Meeting

It's that time of year again and the official AGM is needed to complete a minimum of formal business as legally required for us as a charity. This will be held on Monday April 30th at 7:30 p.m. at the Methodist Church, Station Road, Petersfield, GU32 3EB.

Refreshments will be available from 7:00 p.m. and you will be welcome if you can come and join us. However if you are unable to come then there are plans for us to come and see you (see below).

Please pray and give thanks that in the UK charities like IMC can be registered and supported by the government through the tax system. Please pray that this will continue. Give thanks for the UK board and the office staff who give of their time voluntarily and pray for wisdom in managing IMC affairs.

Roadshow 2012

The aim of the Roadshow 2012 is to bring presentations of the work of IMC to you. There will be news stories, personal testimonies, video clips, photos, and more.

To get the Roadshow to visit you all you need to do is provide a venue and agree a date with us, and we'll do the rest!

You can email info@inministrytochildren.org with the subject line "roadshow 2012", and we'll get back to you to arrange it or you can contact the IMC office.

Please pray that the Roadshow visits will be good times for sharing in the work of IMC and for stimulating interest and support for the children in Colombia.

Reminders

Just a couple of reminders to help us with efficient "housekeeping".

Would you like to receive the newsletter by email and save the cost of printing and postage? All you need to do is send an email with "subscribe" in the subject line to news@inministrytochildren.org and we will add you to the list for future newsletters.

(Don't forget to include your name, not just your email address! — so we can take you off the postal list for newsletters.)

Cheques. This one is important. When writing a cheque for the work of IMC please make it payable to **Links International (IMC)**.

Is the Jar Half Full or Half Empty?

No. It was full to overflowing!



Marcia Bunday (pictured left), a circuit coach, at Curves Petersfield (a fitness centre for women) did a sponsored 24 hour fast a year or so ago for IMC. In December she was leaving Curves to move on to pastures new and as a final challenge to members asked them to donate their small change to fill a Demijohn jar for IMC.

The members of Curves were unswerving in their efforts and filled the jar to overflowing and raised £106.60 to help keep IMC finances in shape.

Thank you to Marcia and all at Curves and we wish Marcia best wishes in her new pastures.



Recycling

Over a year ago, we sent out jewellery recycling envelopes, and our thanks go to everyone who used them.

You can only recycle jewellery once, but every office and most homes have print consumables, inkjet cartridges and toners. Many people also have an old mobile phone which they no longer use, having bought a newer model. So with this newsletter we are sending out some envelopes for you to recycle these items. If you've nothing to recycle, please pass the envelopes on to someone who has. You could ask around your friends and collect all their items for return and become a mini recycling centre on behalf of IMC.

A portion of the item's value will come to us as a charity. Check out recycle4charity.co.uk for more information.

Fund Raising

We are always thankful and amazed by the efforts put in by people to raise funds. There are no doubt fund raising activities that take place that we do not actually hear about but the resulting donation is made to IMC. It would be good to hear more of your efforts so we can highlight them in newsletters. If you have some photos and provide us with the details of your event then the editor can probably turn them into an article.

The scale of the activity is not important or the amount that is raised. Whether great and small they are an encouragement to us all. There are fundraisers who are looking for new ideas and perhaps yours may be the one they are looking for so let us know via the IMC office.

Also if you have something planned or would like some help or guidance to get a fund raising activity going let us know and we will do what we can to be of assistance.

Please pray and give thanks for all those who support the work of IMC through giving and fund raising.

And Finally...

A thought on gifts and givers.

Some years ago when we were buying the farm we were paying for it in instalments. On approaching one deadline for payment we were a considerable amount short. In the last week we received a cheque for a very large amount but not enough to complete the payment. We then received a gift that was little more than small change but was sufficient to make up the difference. It was a powerful lesson about the value of a gift and giver.

The need was to make payment for the land. If we had just received the large gift the need could not be met. If we had just received the small gift the need could not be met. So in terms of meeting the need the size of a single gift made no difference, but together they completely met the requirements. Despite the large difference in the size of the gifts the value of each to the achievement of the goal was identical.

The critical factor was that each giver had the heart desire to give and that reflects the heart of God as seen in the opening text.

So as Nancy says in her letter "Greetings and blessings to... all the friends that make this work possible, with the power of the Almighty."

Thank you to each one of you for your much valued support, love and prayers for the children of Colombia.

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