



## newsletter 68

september 2012

**“Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.” Proverbs 17:6**

The family when functioning as it should is the best framework for the wellbeing of humankind. Families as probably most if not all of us have experienced are not perfect but few who have had families would wish not to be part of one.

Family dysfunction is one of the problems faced by the children in Colombia with whom IMC works. This dysfunction may come from breakdowns of relationships or it may be the result of poverty and the pressures this puts on parents. Whatever the underlying cause, with your help IMC is making a difference for some children; so here is...

### The News

We have received the usual monthly letters from Nancy and also “Byelines from Bogotá” the newsletter of Grant and Kathleen Bye.

### The Children

The mothers of three boys at the farm, Kevin, Santiago and Alberto, are in prison. It would be better for the boys if their mothers could be moved to prisons in Bogotá so the boys could visit them. It would also be good if the sentences could be reduced.

Sebastian returned to his family in July. His father has always been supportive and Sebastian would benefit from his personal attention.

Camilo, William G. and Egson finish secondary school this year. Camilo wants to go on to study medicine and William and Egson want to enrol in the Armed Forces to study further and work in the Navy.

Deivi has been helped to complete his studies and he finally graduated secondary school in July. His brother Alex is being helped to complete secondary school so they can both pursue a course in technology.



Farm Friends

(Sorry no identities available)

Juan Sebastian and Jordan are spending some time with their family during the holidays.

Arley and his three brothers have been able to return to live with their mother as she now has a job and a home. They came to the farm in 2009 when they were living in the corner of a





recycling warehouse without cooking facilities or any other conveniences.

Julian, Juan Felipe and Joel have been taken from the farm by their mother and taken to live with their father. (We are not sure of the circumstances of this arrangement but the inference from Nancy's letter is that the situation may not be ideal).

There were four new boys arriving at the farm in July whose families are in prison.

William, the son of Flor from Fusa is very ill and in hospital. According to the doctors it seems he has leukaemia.

Andrés who had left the farm because he is over 18 (the Colombian authorities restrict the age of children being cared for at the farm) has been suffering from depression. This is probably brought on as he has been unable to find employment and his family has no contact with him making him feel isolated. He has been receiving continuing support to complete his studies. Arrangements were made for him to see a psychiatrist and he is receiving treatment. He has been given the opportunity to work in the IMiC office which he is enjoying.

In July a camp was held at the farm and around 100 children came from Fusa to join the boys at the farm. Pastor Oliverio was leading the ministry. (Hopefully we may have some more details and pictures of this next time.)

**Please pray for these boys and their needs and circumstances. Also please pray for the children in the "Return to Life" and feeding programmes in Fusa for protection in their communities from the influences around them and for their development through these programmes.**

### The Workers

Luz Dary (Social Worker) has had a healthy baby boy (20<sup>th</sup> March) and both are doing well. Luz returned to work recently.

Lucia Leal (Psychologist) has been committed and dedicated to the work of the ministry over the last 8 years. She moved on from her work with IMiC at the end of May to work for the

government as a counsellor for children in schools.

Since Gonzalo and Aminta retired last year a great deal of responsibility for the boys at the farm has fallen on Felix and Vicky. They are helped by a rotating team made up of the other workers.

There are other volunteer helpers too whose names we do not know.

**Please pray for each of those mentioned above giving thanks for all they do and have done. Also pray for the volunteers and the team at "Return to Life" and the feeding programme at Fusa that, as Nancy asks, that "God would grant them wisdom, joy and strength".**

### Other Activities

The school visits to the farm have continued and Nancy reports, "Last week the children and teachers of Rafael Pombo Infant School came to the farm.



Starting the Ecology Trail

"The visit was very special because some of the children had never been to a farm or had any contact with animals, and they were delighted with our mascot "Lola the Cow", which is a way for us to teach them what they need to know about this animal and its produce. It was fun, and we used lots of other things on the farm and during the walk to inform the children about caring for the planet and, most importantly, about knowing its creator, and in this way we have been able to



sow the word of God into the lives of many children.”

Grant has been busy with the boys in the workshop. The boys' bicycles get quite a hammering and running repairs are seemingly a never ending job. Grant reports that a donation was received from a short term mission team working near Bogotá to do the repairs. It was decided to repaint the six bicycles that were in the worst condition including the pink one which Grant says “was somewhat an embarrassment for the assigned boy to ride”.



Joel, looking forward to having a bicycle some other colour than PINK

(picture and caption from Grant's workshop blog [penielworkshop.blogspot.com](http://penielworkshop.blogspot.com))

**Please pray for the children and school teachers that visit the farm that what they see and hear will not only have an impact on their lives but be communicated to their families and friends. Pray for Grant in all he does with the boys that his care and concern for them will be a lasting influence on their lives.**

## Changes

We have noted a number of times over the last year or so that the economic situation in Colombia and the poor exchange rates have placed pressures on the programmes. The outcome of these pressures has meant that the Colombian board have changed the strategy at the farm to make the most of available

resources. When Gonzalo and Aminta retired last year they were not replaced. Also Henry who worked as a labourer, minibus driver and relief care provider at the farm has left and not been replaced. Fewer fulltime workers has meant that the number of boys at the farm has had to be reduced and care targeted on those at most risk and support others in families wherever possible.

There are now 15 boys at the farm, the ten younger ones being cared for by Felix and Vicky in the main house and the older five by the rotating team of staff and volunteers.

The aim at the moment is to intervene in the life of a child at risk and their family for a period of up to three years to improve their condition and circumstances. In most cases, reports Grant, this is working, although there are extreme cases where this cannot be met.

**Please pray for the Colombian board as they have to make tough decisions, for the wisdom to make the right choices. Pray for the provision of more resources in Colombia and here at home to support the work.**

## Gospel Cards

Not only cards! Please browse the enclosed mini-catalogue or take a look online at [gospelcardsetc.com](http://gospelcardsetc.com) for a selection of cards, calendars and other gifts (including some good books to send to your friends). Highly recommended, they have some great designs of Christmas cards that are excellent value for money.

Plus the added bonus for us is that your favourite charity gets to benefit from each purchase (up to 20% of the net price). In the last two years together we have received more than £600 in royalties from Gospel Cards. Please don't forget to mention "IMC" on your order!

## Gentle Reminder

When making gifts by cheque please make them payable to “Links International (IMC)”



We are still receiving some cheques with the old payee entry which makes extra administration for the office and delays the gift being available for use. Thank you.

## Young Supporters

Over the years we have been able to report on the efforts of numerous young people who have fund raised or supported IMC in one way or another.

Two young people from Hampshire are supporting in different ways.

Joe Booley (16) is a musician and has recorded five original tracks on CD at a local studio.



Joe with IMC founders Terry and Joan

Joe says, "Due to believing that music is my gift from God I wanted to bless others with a third of the proceeds of this CD. Myself and my family have been prayerfully supporting IMC since I was 5 years old and more specifically a boy called Willie Gomez. So I have chosen to donate this money to the work of IMC to be used for the glory of God."

Harrison Merriman (14) does a paper round starting at 6am sorting and collecting the papers at the newsagents before his 5 mile round. He finishes at around 7am and then gets ready for school. Harrison said, "Soon after starting my job I decided to tithe, I felt this was the right thing to do as I thought that God told me to do this, and ever since that point I have been giving 10% of my pay a month to my chosen charity."

Thank you Joe and Harrison for your support and for sharing your thoughts with us; it gives us great encouragement.

Our thanks goes to all the young people who support and have fund raised for the children of Colombia.

**Please pray giving thanks for all who support the ministry and especially the young people.**

## And Finally...

Just as the final words were being considered for this newsletter Nancy's latest news arrived. This will have to wait till next time but one item to report is that there are some new house parents, Juan Carlos Patino and Diana Perez, just starting work at the farm. So please pray for them as they settle in.

Returning to our opening thought, family is fundamental to children's security and development.

IMC's aim is to support children in families and where none exists to be family to them. Children who have been cared for and grown up with the ministry have said that In Ministry to Children is their family.

As Nancy often reminds us, without your help this would not happen.

Thank you once again.

### In Ministry to Children

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

p: 01730 231400  
e: [info@inministrytochildren.org](mailto:info@inministrytochildren.org)

[inministrytochildren.org](http://inministrytochildren.org)

uk registered charity no. 1064690