



newsletter 70

march 2013

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Jesus Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Greetings from Nancy

“Greetings and blessings from the children and workers of IMiC. We pray that our all powerful God is keeping you and your families well, in good health, and that you and your families are enjoying living under God’s blessing...”



We thank God for His purpose in the lives of each of the children, may it come to be and may they be won for his Kingdom.”

Children’s News from the Farm

The children have all returned to school after the holidays. Some children spend the holidays with their families and this can have uncertain outcomes. For some children it can be a positive time of building relationships but for others it can be difficult. Some stay with

families from the local church who take them so the workers at the farm can have a break.

Santiago returned after the holidays with injuries to his head, inflicted by his grandmother, his mother is still in prison.

Jerson is showing signs of malnutrition and the holidays with his mother affected him very much. The family were given some food at the end of the year but still he wasn’t fed well due to the large numbers of brothers and sisters he has.

Nancy says “we are praying for God to help us find friendly homes for these children during the holidays and weekends for these and other children whose families pose a risk to their wellbeing.”

The children at the farm were assessed a few weeks ago by the nutritionist and all are a good height and weight.

Raul, the chairman of the Fundación IMiC board and pastor of a local church, has included IMC in the official work of the church and much support has been received from the congregation. The doctors in the congregation are very committed to IMC and have given school equipment for the children on the farm.

Please pray for the children and their families that relationships improve and the workers as they encourage and assist the families to care for one another. Pray for the children who do not have families that their time at the farm and with the families that take them in will help them as they grow up and have families of their own.





Older Boys News

John Egson continues with his studies even though he hasn't passed all his exams yet. William Gomez is working in a Pizzeria as he was not successful in getting into the Navy — he is re-thinking what he wants to do and is thinking of studying for a professional career. Camilo Castro wants to study medicine or Physical Education but at the moment he is looking for a job.

Please pray that God blesses these young men and helps them to overcome the challenges they face.

Meet Oscar



Oscar arrives on the farm

Oscar, aged 9, came to the farm recently.

His father died in an accident and he was left an orphan at the age of 2.

Please pray that he will soon adapt to life on the farm with the other boys.

Fusa “Dining Room” News

The feeding programme in Fusa has had some new children join who are in particular need because of malnutrition.

Nancy also reports “Our challenge is to try and get financial aid from the government to strengthen this work.”

Please pray for a positive response from the government. Please pray for Carlos who runs the programme and the children and families he deals with each day.

Football Outreach

On Saturday 1st February the children were invited to watch a South Korean team play football, who were promoting an evangelistic outreach for children being cared for by churches and programmes such as IMC. Some of the boys from the farm and from Fusa went and had a great time.



Arriving early before...



...the football begins.

Please pray giving thanks for this outreach and all the children who went to the football match. Pray that the influence of this work will have a long lasting effect on many children's lives and thus have a wider influence in Colombia.



Practical Matters

On the farm the 2013 projects have been started. Improvements to the chicken house and a pen for the goats are planned.

The goats gave birth to 9 male and 2 female kids last year, which was a little disappointing as more females would have been more economically valuable. Two calves were also born last year.

The Guzman family who live in the little house on the farm will be leaving in a couple of months. Yolanda, who is widowed, is employed as a cook and daughters Angie and Alejandra help around the farm (as did her son Leonardo, before he moved to the UK).

They have worked at the farm for a number of years and contributed greatly to its running. Nancy had allowed them to have a portion of the land on which they could raise their own herd of goats and sell milk and yoghurts.



the Guzman family

They now wish to get a smallholding of their own. Their financial situation has improved since they came to the farm: "in fact" says Nancy, "the farm is a place of blessing for all those who live and work there."

This means that there is a need for a couple who can help with the farm and with maintenance of the buildings, and also for a new cook.

Please pray for the Guzman family as they plan their future that they will be able to find a suitable smallholding and give thanks for all the work they have done at the farm.

Want to Go to Colombia?

There are opportunities to visit the programmes at the farm and in Fusa and do some really useful support work in 2013 and 2014.

There are two group leaders ready and waiting for team members to volunteer for this fulfilling time to make a contribution in the lives of the children and encourage the workers in Colombia.

If you are able to join **Team 2013** that was highlighted in the December news then please apply to the IMC office before the end of March.

However if this was too short notice for you how about considering going on **Team 2014**. It's not too early to apply or enquire about that so again, please contact the office.

Even if you are unsure whether this is for you please get in touch and we will put you in touch with one of the team leaders who will be able to explain more about what is involved and help you make a decision.

Please pray for the team leaders as they prepare and plan. Pray for volunteers to come forward to share in the work.

Knit and Knatter



Sandra, Anna and Joan

Not an unintentional spelling mistake but the name of Sandra Coombes' "Knit and Knatter" group who recently had a talk from Joan Thraves about the work of IMC. Some knitted



hearts and chicks with crème eggs were sold with the help of Joan's grand-daughter Anna.

Sandra rounded off the event with a talk on how the group initially got involved with fundraising for IMC.

The group gave a donation of £40 for which we thank them very much.

**In Ministry to Children
Annual General Meeting
Monday April 15th, 7 p.m.
Bulmer House,
Petersfield, Hampshire.**

Last Minute News

Paul Stockley, IMC trustee, has been in Colombia recently and was able to give us some last minute news to report for this newsletter.

William has started a course in training to become a sub-officer in the army, and Joshua and Deivi are doing military service. **Please pray for their safety.**

In April an IMiC Colombia "Marathon" for needy children is being organised. Children from the farm, the Dining Room and the community in Fusa, and at El Rosal, together with children from the school will be running. The purpose is to raise awareness, and in June a marathon for adults to raise funds and raise awareness in society will be hosted. **Please pray for the success of these events.**

Boys from the farm did very well during the last quarter at school, and received high marks, and are also encouraged in learning the farm work. **Please pray for continued success in education and the opportunities it brings.**

Oscar, Andrés-Felipe, and the new boys have adapted to living at the farm. There are still conflicts between them but this is very normal in living together. **Please pray for these new boys to continue to feel at home at the farm and develop in their relationships.**

Please pray for Nancy and the staff at each of the programmes, for wisdom in dealing with the children and the challenges of making decisions in difficult situations.

Pray of the trustees of IMiC (Colombia) and IMC (UK) as they seek to manage the affairs of their respective organisations for the benefit of the children.

And Finally...

You have probably noticed that the verse quoted at the beginning is the same as the one on the last newsletter. It seemed appropriate for the first in a new year even though we are a few months into it.

Joy is something that we experience at a deeper level than happiness. It is something that we can have even in unhappy circumstances. It comes from a sense of security and hope for the future.

Security and hope are two things that many children and families in Colombia do not experience. IMC is able to provide this for some through your generosity and prayerful support. For this we thank you on their behalf and as Nancy said in her latest letter,

"We give God the glory for all, and send you our thanks for your support and prayers. May God continue to bless you."

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