



newsletter 73

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.” Isaiah 9:6–7.

Nancy’s November News

Nancy has been in the UK recently and you can read about that later in this newsletter but first the news about the children.

As we highlighted last time military service is a factor in young men’s lives as they reach 18 years and two more of the boys who have been at the farm have reached this milestone.

William G. and Egson have just been to their “swearing in ceremony” and as yet we do not know where they are going to be posted. Please pray that they will be kept safe and continue to pray for those still serving, Over, Joshua and Deivi, and also Gabriel who has just completed his service.

Anita and Benjamin, sister and brother who came to the farm last November suffering from cruelty and malnutrition have recovered well but are in need of a stable home. Please pray for a family to take them in. Also continue to pray for the boys whose mothers are in prison, Nicholas and Julian, and Alberto and Santiago.

Edward is an orphan who came to the farm with a lot of behavioural problems and lack of affection. Give thanks because he is now a stable, intelligent and loving boy. A family has been found for him that has welcomed him with

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much love: he stays with them at weekends and during the holidays and he has developed a good relationship with them.

On 17th November a fair was held at the farm where produce was sold, lunches were offered along with walks and the children put on a drama. The aim was to raise some needed money but please pray that it will have been effective in raising local awareness of the work that is being done amongst the children.



Art at the Farm

In Fusa the Dining Room has continued to help many children and on 29th November Ivan completed his High School Diploma. He is a hardworking and intelligent boy and has won prizes for being a good student. Please pray that he may be able to get a scholarship to go to university or that funding can be found to support him.

Please pray for all the children at the farm and in Fusa that they may continue to grow physically, emotionally and spiritually through the dedicated work of all the staff and helpers. Pray too for strength and wisdom for all who care for the children.





Nancy Centeno Visits the UK

Each year, if we are able, we invite someone involved in the work in Colombia to come and visit us here in the UK for a couple of weeks, partly to learn more and share with churches and supporters how the work is going, but also as a thank you and a blessing for all the hard work, commitment and dedication of that individual. Without them IMC would not exist. This year, as Nancy heads towards retirement some time in the near future, we decided to invite her to visit for two weeks in October.

While in the UK Nancy was able to spend time with most of the UK Trustees plus some of our long serving and much appreciated supporters and friends of IMC. She began her time with a few days staying with Seren (Trustee) and her family in Storrington, a relaxing few days catching up with good friends including Jeremy Burdett (former Chair of the UK Board). From here she moved on to Petersfield where she spent time with Patrons and Founders of IMC Terry and Joan, shared at Life Church Petersfield and spent time with Leo and Leah Guzman (who met while Leah was volunteering on Peniel Farm and are now married and living in Southampton).



Nancy with Leo, Leah and John Callaghan at Life Church Petersfield

Her whirlwind tour then took her to Croydon in South London, during which time Paul (Trustee) took her to visit the beautiful (if cold, wet and very windy) south coast. I then spent just one day with Nancy, mainly *en route* to Gloucester where she stayed for a few days with old friend Rutie, before heading back to Bogotá.

Whenever I have had the privilege of spending time with Nancy, I am struck by her incredible love for the children, her unshakable faith and trust in God, and the many sacrifices she has made in order to follow the calling of God on her life. Nancy had a good, secure job as an Auditor based in Bogotá and was on the Colombian Board of IMC when the time came for James Beaunax to leave Colombia. Nancy responded to the call of God on her life, taking on the role of Director — with half the pay, many more hours and significantly less security! This was some 12 years ago, and since then Nancy has worked tirelessly to develop the work, to work with Social Services and to reach more children and families living in extremely poor conditions with the good news of the gospel.

Although a calling, the role has not been an easy one: it has brought far more than its fair share of challenges, pressures and disappointments. Through all of this Nancy has remained faithful to the work and unfaltering in her trust in God. She has experienced children and young men and women who she and the IMC Team loved and cared for, lose their lives in terrible and tragic circumstances. She has faced unfounded lies and accusations with grace, and has worked to comply with the (sometimes apparently unreasonable) demands of Social Services and local authorities. If ever there was an example of persistence and of love in action, this is it.

Nancy is an incredibly gracious and caring person with a huge heart. This in itself challenges me hugely in my comfortable life here in Surrey. I give thanks to God for this amazing, godly woman every day, and pray that I might have something of her love, compassion and selfless attitude in my life.

Sharon Unwin

Chair — IMC Board of Trustees

Please pray continually for Nancy for strength, encouragement and wisdom as she faces the many challenges from day to day.



Art Exchange

An impromptu visit by IMiC director Nancy Centeno to a West Sussex school has prompted an art exchange with Peniel Farm.

Nancy visited Rydon Community College in Storrington during her recent visit to the UK — and found herself taking part in an art workshop.

She struck up a conversation with the art teacher, and the idea was born that Rydon year six students would send out some artwork to 'brighten the walls' of Peniel Farm and to show the Colombian children they have friends overseas.

A few days later, a bundle of beautiful drawings were delivered to Nancy to take back to Colombia. And, by chance, Nancy had brought over some drawings by the Peniel children for UK supporters that Rydon students were able to see.



Art from Colombia

Nancy said the Peniel Farm children 'really loved the pictures and felt really proud'.

Rydon students are now considering ways in which they can keep this cultural exchange alive.

Seren Boyd — IMC Trustee

A post script to this story... In Nancy's newsletter she asks for prayer for more doors to open like this because it has a real impact on the children and says "the children could not believe that children in UK would see their

drawings and be interested in replying, and knowing that they want to help."

Super Market

Friends in Spain who meet at the church in Madremanya have committed themselves to supporting the children for a year. As part of that they held an auction of garden produce at their Harvest Festival in September.



A growing enterprise

Thank you all for your fruitful efforts and the €76 you raised.

Knatterers Knitting Again

The Knit and Knatter group from Petersfield have been at work again and selling some of their creations for IMC.





It looks like there was a lot more knitting than nattering and so far £65 has been raised. Thank you.

Remember Colombia at Christmas

Thanks to your amazing generosity, we have weathered the recession remarkably well for a small charity — but money is tight just now.

With funds running low at the moment we are unable to send out the usual monthly amount to Colombia. This is putting additional pressure on an already stretched team.

We are so grateful for your support, through regular gifts or one-off donations and we don't take you for granted and appreciate that even in UK there have been economic pressures.

But could you consider making a *special gift* to help some of the most vulnerable children in Colombia this Christmas?



An extra cash boost just now will help see IMiC through to the New Year when the team plan and budget for the year ahead — and ensure that the children can enjoy Christmas.

Whatever you can give will be valued in Colombia, as every pound makes a huge difference.

Go to everyclick.com/inministrytochildren to give online or send a cheque made payable to 'Links International (IMC)' to our office: In Ministry to Children, 62 Station Road, Petersfield, GU32 3ES.

Thank you!

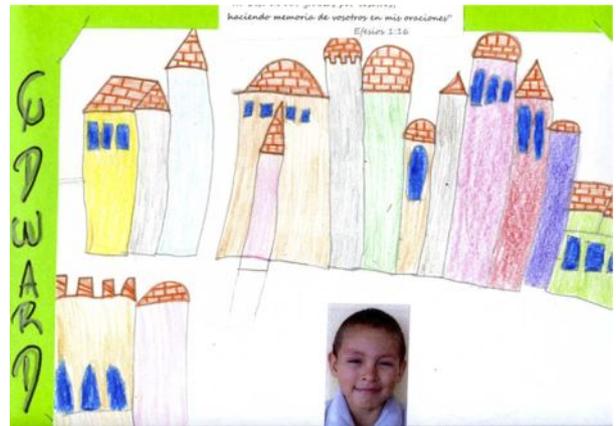
...And Finally

Our opening text speaks of a child who was born with a destiny as described and also a purpose as Jesus himself said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

Many children in Colombia are born with an unknown destiny into circumstances that seem to have little purpose. However by trusting in God and with the commitment of the workers and the love and support you bring children are being given a destiny and purpose in their lives.

Nancy brought drawings that the children had made as a thank you for the support you give.

Here is Edward's picture of Bethlehem.



The text on it is from Ephesians 1:16...

"I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers."

Have a Happy Christmas.

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