



newsletter 94

spring 2019

'The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.' Isaiah 40:28-31

A changed life

It is always encouraging to hear news of an IMC child who is now grown up. Leidy's transformation is particularly powerful, as IMC founder and patron Terry Thraves explains...

'Some years ago, in about 1998, my wife Joan and I were visiting Colombia when we found ourselves in the IMiC Office in Bogotá, waiting for Nancy to take us on a visit to Fusa, where we were expecting to visit the various IMiC centres. This included the home run by Lucy Leal, where IMiC paid for some siblings of the boys in Altamira to be homed, fed and generally cared for. While we waited for Nancy, a visitor called at the office to drop off another child for Lucy's programme.

Our recollections are a bit faded now but we duly included the child with us in the trip down to Fusa. We thought the child was a boy: the child had cropped hair and a generally untidy appearance, but we were told that it was a girl

with the name of Leidy. Her father was not around – a typical situation – her mother was in prison and the visitor who brought her into the office was her grandmother who was no longer able to cope with childcare. Leidy had just a single plastic bag containing a few personal possessions.

When we arrived at Lucy's programme Leidy was shown to her bunkbed where she sat bewildered and forlorn, as the picture below shows all too well. Our hearts went out to her.



Leidy at Lucy Leal's home in Fusa

As the years went by we visited Colombia and Fusa quite often, usually once a year, and we always looked out for Leidy to see how she was getting on and formed an ongoing relationship.

Nowadays, Joan often communicates with these Colombian children by Facebook so imagine our delight when Leidy, who now calls herself Stephani, shared with us some of her more recent story.





Stephani is now living in Switzerland and recently married Sebastian whom she met when he was in Bogotá. Stephani is currently volunteering in a local kindergarten as she does not yet have a visa that covers 'work'. Sebastian is a local social worker. And they are clearly very happy!



Stephani and Sebastian

From very humble beginnings and with more than a little help from IMiC, Stephani now has a new life very different from what she knew in Colombia. Praise God for this rescued life!

Please pray for Stefani and Sebastian as they start to build their life together. Please pray that Stephani will get a work visa so she can receive a reward for the work she does. Give thanks for a life transformed through IMiC/IMC.

Starting out in 2019

As the new year gets under way, meetings have been held with the parents and carers of the children in the various IMiC programmes to explain the plans and aims for the year. The purpose is to encourage the families to make a commitment to support the children and pledge to care for their wellbeing.

Gaining the full support of the parents and carers means the values, guidance and training the children receive can be integrated into family life.



Parents' meeting

IMiC continues to establish connections with other like-minded organisations to benefit the poorest children. A recent connection has been made with an educational institution called the Politécnico, whose directors and students held a fun day for children of the Fusa Dining Room and gave gifts of clothing. This organisation is very interested in continuing to provide ongoing support, especially to the children of La Guajira.

Making these connections, as well as having the immediate benefit of their support, also provides opportunities for IMiC to become more widely known. To maintain the work of IMiC and continue it into the future, the work needs to reach new people who will catch the vision and want to carry it on.

Healthcare has been provided for the children in Fusa, this time supported by staff of the San Rafael de Fusagasugá Hospital. The children in the Dining Room received oral hygiene care and a talk on how to care for their teeth. These services are much needed as there is little in the way of subsidised healthcare in Colombia. What is available is often poor and not easily accessed.

Please pray for the families, that they will remain steadfast in their commitment to the aims for this year and that as the year progresses they will see the benefits in a stronger family life. Give thanks for the organisations and the people who have shared with IMiC and pray that these relationships will continue and blossom.



Reaching out to those in need

Nancy recently shared with us the situations of four young people whom IMiC is supporting. Zuly (below), from Bogotá, became a teenage mother and had to abandon her education as a result. Thanks to the support she and her family have received from IMiC, she has been able to complete her secondary education and graduate from high school.



Zuly on graduation day

We thank God for saving the life of Daniel Camacho (top, right) whose family in Bogotá IMiC supports. The little boy accidentally swallowed adult medication, and was unconscious in hospital for several days. But, thank God, he survived and is now fit and well. Karol and Javier (right) are looking forward to their father being released from prison soon. Nancy understands that he was jailed for a crime he committed in desperation, to try to support his family.

Please pray that God will continue to watch over these precious young people and that they will know that their lives matter.



Daniel Camacho, now fit and well



Karol and Javier

La Guajira

Looking back over the last couple of years, we have achieved a great deal already for the Wayuu community. Thanks to our generous supporters, a well has been dug, the school refurbished and cooking facilities installed. The government is now supporting the community with a teacher's salary. Thirty families have received food, school uniforms and shoes for the children. We still want to build another classroom: there are more children in need of education than the school building can accommodate and some still receive their lessons in a shelter without walls.

Please pray for the Wayuu people that through IMiC's support and encouragement, they can build a sustainable community.



Unrest and insecurity in Colombia

The peace deal between the government and the FARC guerrillas has ended some of the organised violence that has afflicted so many communities, but violence and crime have increased. Other smaller politically motivated groups that were not part of the peace agreement are still active in Colombia. In January one such group detonated a car bomb close to a police training centre in Bogotá and caused numerous deaths and injuries. Likewise, the problems in neighbouring Venezuela, which seem to be getting worse, continue to create difficulties in Colombia as many people try to cross the border to find a better life.

Please pray for the political leaders in Colombia, that they will deliver honest and fair government and seek ways to continue to reduce the violence and crime across the country. Pray for community leaders, that they will set a good example and have the courage to represent the needs of the people to those in higher authority. Pray for the people of Colombia that they will soon see positive change and lasting peace.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

We look forward to seeing you at our AGM on Monday 3 June 2019, this year at a new venue

Salvation Army Hall,
Swan Street
Petersfield, GU32 3AD
starting at 7pm for 7.30pm

Car parks in Swan Street & Charles Street

Could you be an IMC trustee?

IMC UK is overseen and managed by a board of trustees who meet in person or by Skype about every two months. Their role is to oversee the business of IMC as a charity, support and encourage the team in Colombia, encourage fundraising in the UK and ensure proper governance of the charity's finances.

We are now looking for new trustees to join our current board – and would welcome the opportunity to talk further with anyone interested in knowing more. Please get in touch through the office and one of our existing trustees will be pleased to talk to you about what's involved.

Printing money for IMC

When your printer ink runs out you can recycle the empty cartridge and raise funds for IMC through Recycle4Charity. Check out the Recycle4charity.co.uk website and see whether your printer's cartridges can be recycled for a donation to IMC. If so, then why not register and start printing money with your empty cartridges?

And finally...

Nancy, Carlos and their team must often feel overwhelmed by the scale of the need. Yet, their letters always reflect their hope in God and his transformative power in the lives of those they serve. What encourages them too is the support you give, for which they regularly give thanks. So we'd like to pass on their thanks – and ours – and we trust that you will be encouraged that your prayers and generosity are helping to transform lives in Colombia.

In Ministry to Children

c/o Life Church Centre
16D Chapel Street,
Petersfield,
GU32 3DZ

p: 01730 231400
e: info@inministrytochildren.org

inministrytochildren.org

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