

## Report for IMC for 2017



It has been a full and busy year for IMC and we continue to be hugely grateful to all our supporters and the particular support and close relationship we have with churches in Petersfield.

We have continued furthering the aims of the charity which are to raise funds to send to IMiC – the foundation in Colombia that carries out direct work with vulnerable children and families. The workers in Colombia provide holistic support to children and families by helping financially, with nutrition, education, parenting, emotional help, and sharing the gospel.

Here in the UK, we try to keep the monthly transfers at a stable amount to enable the Colombian team to budget and plan. Thanks to administrative support provided voluntarily by Sandra Coombes and the life church office, overheads are minimal and around 95% of donations go directly out to Colombia. As well as the essential regular donations, we rely on one off events, many of which are Petersfield based. June saw the annual “fun day” in Rams Walk which would not be possible without the faithful volunteers most of which are from Life Church Petersfield, so huge thanks to them. Other events included a brass concert in St Peter’s in June, fabulous BBQ generously hosted by Robin & Lesina Ashfield in Steep (July), two separate sponsored fitness events by individuals in September, and recently a ‘sponsored slim’!

In April the first trustees visit to Colombia for some years took place when Leo and Leah Guzman-Aldana went out and were able to visit all the projects in the Bogotá area and in La Guajira. It has been wonderful to hear first hand from them about the projects. Part of their visit was to scope out a potential summer team for summer 2018 or 2019.

In Colombia, the two feeding programmes or “community dining rooms” in Fusagaluga (near Bogotá), and the project in central Bogotá continues to thrive providing a safe place for children experiencing poverty and difficult family circumstances to come daily after school for a hot meal, help with studies and spiritual and emotional support. IMiC workers come alongside families at greatest need to support them materially, financially, emotionally and spiritually. Outreach events such as parenting workshops and camps at La Granja Peniel farm take place regularly. The essential support from IMiC workers enables families to stay together and survive.

A couple of years ago our partners in Colombia spoke to us about the plight of the indigenous Wayuu people in the La Guajira region, in the north of the country on the coast. The indigenous Wayuu people suffer extreme poverty and chronic malnutrition. Off the government radar, they lack even basic services and severe drought in recent years has left them desperate. Focusing on a particular settlement called El Brasil, IMiC has been providing food parcels and 2018 will see work starting on a new school building (the previous one was destroyed in the civil war). The work is estimated to cost around £20 000. Fundraising for this has got off to a great start thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of a cladding company in Essex called A20 whose employees raised over £4000 in sponsorship for a ‘mud run’ and the bosses of

the company than match funded the amount so we were able to send £8000 to Colombia specifically for the school project.

Looking to the year ahead – we are immensely grateful for an offer to help to redesign our website, something which is much needed and overdue so watch this space for the relaunch!

We are excited about taking forward the fundraising campaign for the El Brasil school project and are going to be set up with Just Giving to enable current and new supporters to use this popular online giving platform if they wish. A key challenge is going to be raising additional funds for the school project whilst maintaining funding commitments for the existing projects in the Bogotá area.

*We thank you all for your faithful support of IMC. Please pray for us that in the year ahead that we will place God at the centre of all we do, that as the board we will have wisdom and discernment, and that God will provide the opportunities, individuals and funds to enable the work to continue in accordance with His will.*

Laura Hauer  
On behalf of the board of trustees

