

Report for PACT AGM

15th January 2020



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 by 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 and other fundraising. July 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 fabulous BBQ generously hosted by Robin & Lesina Ashfield in Steep for the 3rd year running (September), a Latin dance evening in Bristol, and a Christmas shopping event in the Winchester area. Regular schemes such as jam selling and card selling have continued to raise funds and we are extremely grateful to those individuals and their customers!

2019 also saw the relaunch of our new website, which was in much need of a revamp. Please do check it out (www.inministrytochildren.org)

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, dental clinics and camps at La Granja Peniel farm take place regularly. The essential support from IMiC workers enables families to stay together and survive.

IMiC has also continued to work in the La Guajira region, in the north of the country on the coast, which is a newer area of work for us, starting around 4 years ago. The indigenous Wayuu people who live there 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 last year work was completed on a new school building (the previous one was destroyed in the civil war). IMiC raised funds for this primarily through a partnership with Essex based roofing company A2O. It has been so fabulous to see photos of the children smiling in their brand new school room when previously they were using a very basic shelter which was not fit for purpose – see our website for before and after photos.

Thank you all for your faithful support of IMC. Please pray for us that we will have 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