

History of the Colombian Project

After Pastor Ken and Alcyon Fleck had begun the projects in Guatemala and the Dominican Republic, their minds traveled to still other countries where they had lived and worked, countries where there were orphaned or abandoned children needing a loving, Christian home. One of these countries was Colombia.

Due to the revolts against the government and civil wars, the people of Colombia were left with a very difficult economy, and very grave poverty. There was a lack of medical care and governmental programs to help take care of the country's population. These factors combined gave birth to many orphaned and abandoned children who needed loving care.

In 1986 Ken and Alcyon Fleck began an organization for the orphaned and abandoned children of Colombia called "Refugio El Nino De Belen" or the Refuge from the Child of Bethlehem. They found a couple who accepted the challenge of operating the program in Colombia. They rented a big house in Bogota and began receiving children from the government.

The program grew to have anywhere from 30 to 50 children. And after about three years it became apparent a children's village was greatly needed where the children could run and play and have their own family and home. They began the search for land and found something they thought would work well. The village would be modeled after the one in Guatemala. But due to methodology differences between ICC and the Colombian government, the Flecks decided it would be better not to continue with the plans for the village project.

It was in August of 1989 that Rosibel Garcia de Sosa began to operate the project. And a collective decision was made to find Colombian families where the children could live and receive the loving care they needed. Some of the children were able to go to extended family members. Other children were sent to Christian homes that would care for them. So to help these families with the extra financial burden, ICC continues to sponsor the children and follow their progress.