



Mark 10:16

Since 1991

**The Next Generation**

# Open Arms Foundation

Summer Newsletter

June 30, 2022

## A Word From Bill

Greetings Friends and Family,

As many of you know, Wanda and I and many other brothers and sisters in Christ have been praying 13 years for Clara's adoption. The process officially started when Clara was 5 years old. When Clara was 12 we finally went before the federal judge to what we thought would be the answer to our prayers for so many years Clara's adoption. To our disbelief, the federal judge denied Clara's adoption because we opted for a private adoption process and not for a government one. The Government themselves were the ones who advised us to take the private adoption route assuring us it would be faster, but it turned out to be a slow and hard defeat.

Despondent, we went back to the child welfare office to pick up the pieces and to determine the next course of action. They told us it was best to wait a year for the dust to settle and then try again. After taking a year off from Clara's adoption process we were ready to try again with renewed spirits, but then another storm came into our lives, Covid. The pandemic hit and the adoption system was inoperative for more than a year. During that time we were able to hire a new lawyer to guide us with the case after the pandemic. As we discussed Clara's options with the law-

yer, a new idea came into the mix which was a strategy to just wait 4 more years until Clara turned 18 at this time she could officially change her name and then we would just apply for her US citizenship. We thought this would be a good option given our previous experience. However, God had other plans.

The longer you pray for something your faith can sometimes begin to wane and your prayers for the matter don't seem as urgent or frequent as the familiarity of the situation can make it feel like the norm. In Luke 18 there is a teaching which reminds us to keep praying and never give up. The parable mentions a poor woman without position or power who wrestled with an indifferent judicial system.



**Bill, Wanda, and Clara Perrow**

I must confess we did not continue to bring forth this petition to the Lord as often as the years passed by but God is faithful and in his mercy he has granted us justice. We recently received word that a federal judge has given Clara a legal victory granting her adoption. Now the case goes back to the child welfare for them to finalize the process. We held little hope in the system ,but the Lord gave us a huge victory which was completely a surprise. We praise his Holy Name and forget not His benefits! We ask that you continue to pray that the process can be legalized swiftly through the child welfare office.

## Update from the Boy's

The boys at the farm are especially happy at this time of the year as they have officially started their summer vacation. The Robledo church recently conducted a spiritual retreat and summer camp with the children at the farm. Pastor Carlos hoped that the retreat would not only help the boys to grow in Christ but also help to forge relationships between the boys and the church members. The pastor is planning to continue conducting more retreats with the boys and the Robledo church.



Fun with the Slip and Slide!



The Boys participating in activities at the summer camp

There have been many children grow up on the farm as the years have passed. Some boys finished well, departing at a good time and are now living fruitful lives. Others left prematurely or did not wish to change and were lost to the world and the environment we tried to rescue them from. When I see the faces of the boys we have now, having fun, playing soccer, eating healthy, and knowing they are able to grow up in a safe environment it is easy to get emotional. Just knowing the situations we are rescuing them from and allowing them a place where they can heal from the pain and trauma they have had to experience in their short lives. It is such a privilege to be able to care for these young boys and we want to thank you for being part of it. Thank you for praying and donating and helping to give these boys an opportunity for a different life, an opportunity to learn about the gospel and if they desire to make a life with Jesus.

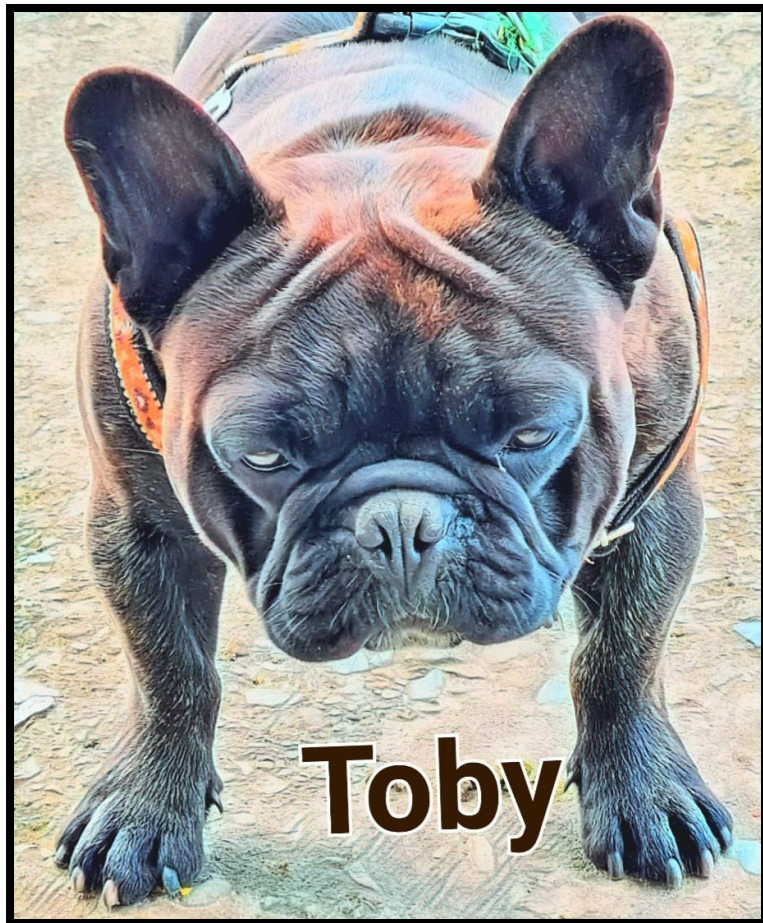
## Downtown Church Building

There is a construction project underway beside the building where the downtown Open Arms church has met for over 21 years. The construction has caused damage in a wall that is essential for the structural integrity of the main meeting hall in which the church meets. The Open Arms church and the neighbors went to city hall to make the builder fix the problem ,but

that has proved to be futile. It is up to Open Arms to fix the problem. We could sue the builder but they told us that they are going to fix the problem when they make the new structure. Open Arms needs to reinforce the interior of the structure in order to make the ceiling independently secure. A civil engineer is currently making structural plans in order to properly fix the structure.

During the period of structural insecurity, the church has not been able to meet in their meeting hall. They have been renting a nearby theater and they seem to like the place. Unfortunately the church leaders decided to leave the OAF downtown building and are going to continue renting the theater permanently. This was a bit of sad news, but we hope that the move will help the church reach more people for the Kingdom of God.

Now Open Arms not only needs to repair the wall but we need to fix the second-story roof as well. The builder who is to make the initial repairs has also informed us that the downtown property has great potential to be transformed into a multi dwelling structure which the Foundation could rent out in order to provide funds for taxes and provision for the boys at the farm. Please pray that God would give us wisdom and direction as we seek God's will as to what to use the property for in order to serve God's purposes.



**Toby Dog Looking Serious!**

## **Update from the Dairy Farm. A New Farm Mascot?**

All the dairy farms in the dairy region are suffering from high feed and fertilizer prices caused by inflation. To make matters worse we are suffering from extreme amounts of rain caused by the Nina. The abnormally large amounts of rainfall have caused many landslides resulting in property damage, road slides, and human suffering and economic loss throughout the country. One would think that lots and lots of rain for months would be good for the grazing pastures. Not so, the continual rain washes the fertilizer away before it can bring about the desired growth. The grass is not giving us the best results and the cattle have to move rapidly through the feed lots. The end result is low production. Please pray that the phenomenon of the Nina will go away and that we can enter into a normal summer season which means far less rain.

There is a French Bulldog on the farm called Toby and he belongs to Amanda and Jose, the couple in charge of the boys. They won him in lottery against hundreds of other applicants in Medellin to adopt him from a animal rescue. Sometimes I wonder if he has Labrador retriever in him because he will retrieve anything thrown by anyone. Toby, however, is not like a lab in the sense that he is quite macho and does not search for affection from humans. Maybe because he is full of confidence and charisma, or from the time he was a pup the boys at the farm always showered him with affection and he thinks that is how it works, he is just obliged to just accept it.

From time-to-time Jose and Amanda take their leave of their farm duties and they leave Toby with Luis the farm caretaker. Toby really enjoys working by the side of Luis as he works with the dairy cattle. Toby is about 13 inches at the withers and he has to walk through dairy feed grass that is up to 22 -24 inches tall. He jumps around the tall grass like a short-eared Jack rabbit and he loves it. Toby seems to have a calming effect on the cattle. He doesn't try to herd them, he just likes to stand and gaze

at them like he is the CEO of the cattle dogs. Toby is the boss, he probably thinks he is a foot taller than any of our biggest girls out there. Hopefully if you come on a mission trip you will be able to know the boys favorite farm mascot, Toby.

## How can you pray?

- That all of the Foundation's needs will be met.
- Please pray that we have wisdom on how to be good stewards of God's ministry.
- Please pray for all the staff and missionaries at the Foundation that God will bless them and strengthen them in their labor.
- Please pray for the churches that they will be refreshed and strengthened in their ministry.
- Please pray for the boys at the farm that God can continue to transform their lives.
- Please pray that the remaining money owed to the Foundation by the Christian builder will be paid in full.
- Please pray the Foundation can be supplied a new vehicle to transport the children.
- Please pray for the structural wall situation with the Downtown Church
- Please pray for Clara's adoption process that it can be swiftly finalized
- Please pray for a hedge of protection around the boy's farm and that the children can learn their identity in Christ.

## How to Donate?

In order to donate please click the **Give** link on our website [www.openarmsfoundation.com](http://www.openarmsfoundation.com) or through our mobile app or send a check or money order to the following address.

**Open Arms Foundation**

**PO BOX 7542**

**Cross Lanes, WV 25313**

### Open Arms Foundation Contact Info.

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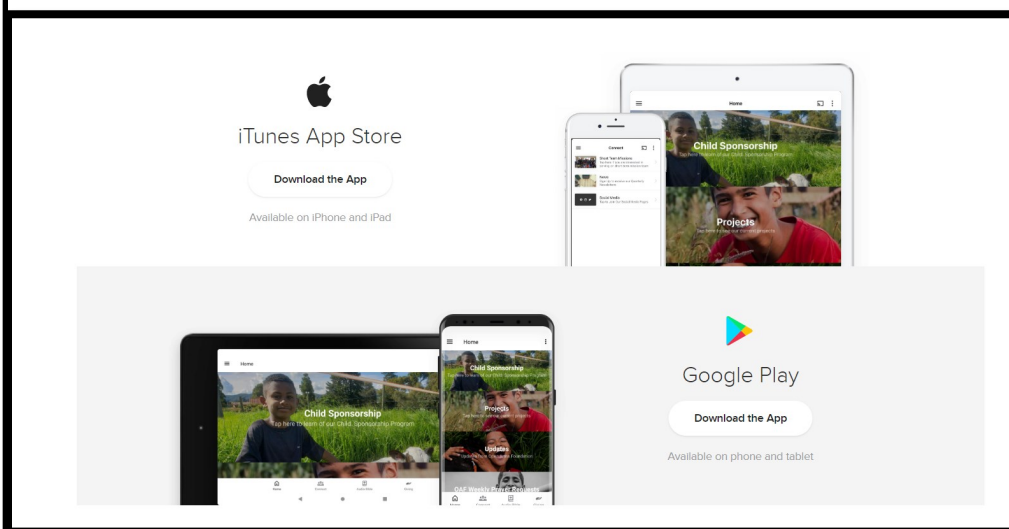
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## Our New App!

If you haven't yet please download our new app through the I tunes App Store or the Play Store. Here you can see pictures and watch videos of the farm and donate.



Thank you for your support!



Help us change Colombia one child at a time!

- I would like to pray for OAF.
- I am interested in going to Medellín with a missions team.
- I would like to support Open Arms Foundation in the following area:
  - Child Sponsorship
  - Capital Projects
  - Where Most Needed
- \$30     \$50     \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make all checks payable to:



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