



Mark 10:16

Since 1991

The Next Generation

Open Arms Foundation

Quarter 1 Newsletter

March 25, 2022

Dear friends and family, what a beginning of a year we are having this 2022. Inflation has reached a 40 year high, gas prices are going up, and a major war is raging between Ukraine and Russia. Just as we have come out of one storm it seems as if the world has been thrust right into the next one. It is easy to become distraught and lose hope as we see the conditions and circumstances around our world currently. When the disciples were on the lake with Jesus, they were on the boat with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords yet they focused on the storm, the waves, and the circumstances surrounding them saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!". How quickly one can lose hope as the world continues to grow darker, but we have the greatest hope ever in Jesus Christ who has promised us in Matthew 28 to be with us always, to the very end of the age. So as every generation has faced dark days lets us not ask why, but let us strengthen ourselves in Jesus Christ and have faith as we move forward in our race letting our lights shine ever more brightly always keeping our eyes on Jesus and not on the storms that are certain to come in our lives.

New Leadership

The Open Arms Foundation now has a new international missionary couple, pastor Carlos and his wife Natalia. Carlos will be replacing Enoc as the pastoral leader of the Open Arms Churches. Now that Colombia is moving into a new post covid norm he has a goal to increase and coordinate church ministry to the children at the farm and with the Open Arms Boys program staff.

Natalia has exceptional administrative skills and will help the Foundation with administrative reporting and with communications. The first need of missionary support for Carlos and Natalia will be funding their health insurance at (\$1,200 per year). Please prayerfully consider helping this special couple as they start their missionary ministry with Open Arms Foundation. Daniel will replace Cristina's work to manage the dairy farm project until he receives his Visa to travel to the USA with his wife Rebekah.



**Pastor Carlos and his wife Natalia
pictured on the left.**



Premature Baby Cow Crystal

Update On The Farm

We have had many prayers answered at the dairy. The first prayer the Lord answered is that we have received a much needed increase in the amount which is paid for our milk. This boost has helped us tremendously.

The second prayer which was answered was that the cow Chapola would not abort and that prayer was answered thanks to the Lord.

The third answer to your prayers was for the premature and breach birth of Crystal. We were concerned we were going to lose her. She was having difficulties breathing and was very weak. She would also not feed well, but thanks the Lord she has survived and is doing well. She is so uniquely beautiful that we are already getting offers to buy her. We thank everyone who helped make our renovated dairy barn a success and a reality. Through your prayers and donations we now have a functioning dairy farm producing! Please pray we can purchase milk sterilizing equipment which will be a massive upgrade to the dairy parlor project and will cost \$8,500.

Summer Renovation Plan

Several years ago before we began renovating the buildings at the farm that had fallen into disrepair we received this verse in faith that our ruins would be renovated. Isaiah 58:12 "And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in". This verse we received has been a driving force in renovating the farm and we have seen it coming to pass. The Casa Grande where the teams stay was renovated, the house where Rebekah and Daniel live in was renovated and we were on track to renovate the fisher building pictured below until the pandemic hit. The central farm where the children live and where the milking parlor is located has been registered for years as a dairy farm, therefore, we must pay the commercial rate for utilities which is \$550 per month. We have made several petitions to city hall asking them to lower our rates because we are a nonprofit. All of our petitions have been rejected unfortunately. The Fisher farm has a much lower rate of \$75 per month for utilities. An innovative change that would save money each month is to move the boys to the Fisher farm house. This move would require the renovation of the existing structure. The plan would be to renovate the 1,800 square foot first floor

Current State of Fisher Farm House



for the house parents and this would include a kitchen, dining area ,and a common living/study area. The second story would be a dormitory area for the boys and a dorm parent. We are expecting to begin this project with the short term mission teams this summer. Please prayerfully consider bringing a team to Colombia to help us build this new home for the boys.

Update on the Boys

Luisa Fernanda ,the boys program director, has made a decision to reduce the amount of weekend home visits the boys do based upon several negative home and neighborhood reports of threatening situations during home visits. Due to a threat from a violent environment one boy has decided for now not to return for visits to his neighborhood of origin. This means that we will be paying 20% more in groceries and by faith we also gave the staff a cost-of-living pay increase.

Please pray for increase in provisions for these increases.

Pastor Carlos is working to incorporate the boys at the farm with the Open Arms Church. Last Sunday he declared to the church that the boys at the farm is our mission. He and his wife Natalia recently brought a load of donated food to the boys and afterward they enjoyed a game of soccer at the farm.

Child Highlight

Sebastián, is 12 years old and in the third grade at the Tambo elementary school. During his brief time attending he had established a reputation as a troublemaker. He was constantly fighting with his classmates, undisciplined in class ,and displayed disruptive behavior which was a distraction for the other students as well as the teacher. Recently, however, Sebastian has had a

change of heart. Instead of disobedience and rebelliousness he has decided to apply himself to advancing and learning.

His change of attitude did not go unrewarded. Thank the Lord due to his good behavior and dedication to learning Sebastian has been promoted to the fifth-grade level in math, science and spanish. It never ceases to amaze us how these young boys transform after living at the farm. Their young lives have not been easy and many are filled with the scars of rejection, abuse, malnutrition, and neglect. Through the help of the Lord we have been able to snatch these children from a hopeless situation in life. You have been a part of that as well. Every work that is undertaken is done that we may better reach out to the least of these and show them the love of Jesus and hopefully they choose to be a disciple of Christ. Thank you for being a part of changing the life of Sebastian and several like him.



Pastor Carlos and House Parent Jose playing soccer with boys



Sebastian is 12 years old

How can you pray?

The Foundation has need of a more reliable mode of transportation. The Foundation has been using the Perrow family car for the last 5 years to haul kids, cattle feed, 100 pound bags of fertilizer, to pick up donations around the metro area ,and to take Clara back and forth to school. The vehicle has been a blessing for everyone ,but unfortunately the vehicle has gone through its life cycle and is breaking down often which makes it costly to operate. Please pray for the acquisition of a vehicle for the ministry.

The Foundation is still owed money for the last payment of a piece of property that was sold 2 years ago. Thank the Lord the buyer has agreed to start paying in portions the amount still owed to the Foundation. Please pray that he would soon pay the remaining amount and complete the agreement made in the contract.

- 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 as he is doing with Sebastian.

How to Donate?

In order to donate please click the **Give** link on our website 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.

William E. Perrow—Executive Director
Michael Perrow —USA Office Coordinator

P O Box 7542 , Charleston, WV 25313

Phone: 304-561-7793

Email: Foundationopenarms@gmail.com

Webpage: www.openarmsfoundation.com

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
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 - Where Most Needed
- \$30 \$50 \$_____

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