

TANNERS 2 MISSIONARY ACRES

Serving Respected Heroes of the Faith!



Hello,

Thursday, February 15, 2024 was Angelman Syndrome Awareness Day -- and since we've had so many prayer requests lately about our oldest son who has this rare condition -- we thought we'd devote some space in this month's newsletter to Owen.

We know that many of you are faithfully praying for Owen, and we are so thankful for that. Our goal here is to simply provide you with a bit more information about him and his unique challenges.

Angelman Syndrome is a genetic condition that primarily affects the central nervous system. For many people, including Owen, this disorder is caused by a deletion on the 15th chromosome. One of the genes he's missing is known as the UBE3A gene. It manufactures a protein called ubiquitin protein ligase E3A. Without this protein, his brain and his body don't communicate with each other well.

As a result, Owen is non-verbal and has global developmental delays. He learned how to walk when he was 7, and though he can walk, he has poor balance and walking tires him out easily. Thus, when we're out and about, he uses a wheelchair.

Due to the Angelman Syndrome, Owen has severe epilepsy. Though his seizures are somewhat controlled with his current medication and a VNS, he still has a few breakthrough episodes, especially when he's sick.

Owen also has Pica. He's been eating foreign objects since he was three, and has had to have several things removed surgically. Thankfully, God seems to have given Owen a stronger-than-normal digestive system, as he's eaten screws, zippers, balloons, and other objects that should have punctured his intestines, and so far that hasn't happened.

While he will attempt to eat practically anything he can get his hands on, his favorite is socks. Over the years, despite our attempts at preventing it, he's eaten dozens of his younger siblings' socks.

As you can imagine, this leads to frequent struggles with constipation and belly pain. His Pica remains one of the biggest struggles for Owen and is a big prayer request for him. It's hard to take him places, as we never know what he might try to eat, and no matter how many different doctors we ask, we've never gotten a recommendation about treatment options that could help.

Despite the challenges that come with raising a child with a severe disability, Owen has helped our entire family grow closer to God. He, like all of our other kids, is a blessing.

Praises

- The kitchen cupboards and countertops were successfully installed at the Lot 29 remodel project.
- Lisa's Dad is recovering well from his procedure for his Parkinson's disease.
- The family is feeling better after our extended illness last month.
- We made it to Tennessee and back safely.
- A medication that's been found promising in the treatment of Angelman Syndrome was recently approved in Europe. We're praying that some day in the near future, it'd be approved in the US as well.
- God added another supporting church to our team.
- Beautiful weather for February!

Prayer Requests

- Salvation for our children who are not yet saved.
- Owen's health and that the guardianship process would go smoothly this spring.
- The health and safety of the residents and staff at Missionary Acres -- the bug that's going around is lasting a long time!
- The Raines family, who are currently on deputation.
- For volunteer groups coming down in 2024 (and beyond!)
- Lisa and the kids will be attempting a larger garden this year. We're still learning how to grow things in MO.

Bryan & Lisa Tanner

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Serving at Missionary Acres

missionaryacres.com



Current Support Level: 64.0%

Let's Keep In Touch



Missionary Acres Update

We're so thankful that the kitchen was successfully installed at Lot 29, our current remodel project. That really made a difference in the state of things, and it's starting to look like a "real home" once again.

There's still a lot of work to be done, especially in one of the bathrooms, but we're praying that the couple who have been waiting so patiently would be able to move in before too many more months pass.

The Missionary Acres residents had their annual Valentine's banquet in Poplar Bluff this week. Due to previously scheduled appointments, our family wasn't able to join them. However, Jeffrey and Ellie were invited to go along. They had a good time of fellowship with everyone.

Another neat, recurring event here at the Acres is called "Around the World in 80." Each time, one family shares pictures and information about their time on the mission field or in the pastorate.

The whole family always looks forward to these events, so we're thankful that the next one is coming up. It's a joy to hear about how God has worked in the lives of these dear saints we have the honor of serving.

Tanner Family Update

We recently enjoyed a quick trip to eastern Tennessee to share Missionary Acres with two churches in Athens. Bryan gave a quick overview of our ministry and preached in the Sunday School hour of one church, and did the same during the evening service at another. After spending most of January under the weather, we're so thankful that we recovered in time to take this trip.

This month, we are studying the Oregon Trail in our homeschool. It's a route our family is very familiar with, since we've made the trek from Washington to Missouri so many times, so it's been fun to dive deep into this topic. It didn't take the kids long to realize what a blessing cars are. They're all thankful we didn't have to travel that far in a covered wagon and walk most of the way.

One of the residents here volunteered to help the kids with some crafts to accompany their studies. She came over last week and helped them turn a box into a model of a covered wagon. Then they colored a quilt to put inside, along with some other items. It was such a blessing!



Thank you for your prayers, Bryan & Lisa Tanner & Family