

# Colombia Family Testimony

## The McMenemy Family

When I think back over our adoption, the most important thing we did was to pray and be sure it was what the Lord wanted our family to do. Well-meaning people said things to encourage and discourage, but we really stood firm only on what the Lord wanted us to do. The Lord started this journey for us in 2009 when someone prayed for us and asked if we were going to have any more kids. The Lord then led us to pursue adoption, choose an international program, and then choose our agency and the country from where we would adopt. When we first saw the pictures of the boys who are now our sons, we both fell in love with them. However, we wanted to pray. We have two older girls and did not want to put them at risk by having two older boys in the home. A friend reminded me that this would be the type of situation that would require us to trust the Lord for our protection.

After praying, I overwhelmingly heard, "Yes, and amen." After that, it didn't really matter what people said; what paperwork said; how they acted after we met them; what problems they had; or what situations we faced when we got to Colombia or got home. The Lord had put these boys in our lives for a reason. We had to trust that He would help us through any situation we faced. As it says in the Bible, nothing is impossible with God who gives us strength. We would be able to raise these boys only because we knew that He would be sufficient for each and every situation we faced, and, thus far, He has been. There were many signs that the Lord was with us all throughout the adoption process, but when we walked out of the Embassy with the boys' visas on the day we were to leave Bogota, there was a double rainbow. It was moments like this that let us know we were doing what the Lord wanted us to do.

The journey has not always been easy. The boys have significant delays in almost all areas and are not fond of authority. One is missing limbs, and the other has some significant behavioral issues. However, it is good and continues to get better. We have only been home a few months, and I feel like the Lord has brought some peace to our home. I usually say that now we have moments that are hard, but most of our days are good. I couldn't have said that in Bogota. A few things really made a big difference when we got home. First, I quit trying to do everything myself. I enlisted our girls to help out and accepted any help that people offered. By encouraging the kids to interact, they figured out how to play with the boys at the boys' level, and now they have a friendship with both of the boys. We home school our girls, but we realized quickly that one of our sons needed to be schooled outside the home. We had initially looked into public schools, but they could not place him in a positive setting until testing could be done. We held off until the Lord provided a better place, and He did.

We found a Montessori setting where he could work at his level and pace. This allowed him to thrive and be successful. He loves it and talks about having friends. We did start the testing for public school placement. The public school employees showed understanding for the boys' situation and were willing to grant all of our requests. We will ramp up to full day this year. They will attend an ESL camp this summer, and we will be ready for next year with a good plan in place. We are also looking into our county's developmental disabilities services as well as funding for any services they need.

The second big difference is that the Lord led us to a therapy program called Brain Balance. This program helps put a lot of the development back in place that both boys missed. We have seen them make great strides in learning skills. The younger is more calm, able to sit for longer periods of time and can complete harder tasks. Third, we took them for prayer. People have helped us pray through some of their issues they had. We have seen the Lord work in their lives from day one, but it seemed like after these times of prayer, the changes were great. Lastly, the Lord taught me to sing "Jesus Loves Me" to our youngest. I started rocking him and singing it to him in the mornings, and it has dramatically changed him. Initially, he asked me to sing it to him throughout the day when he needed to be close and reassured. It has been a nice routine for us and has helped us bond, which hasn't been easy. The older child started asking for it as well, so I added him to the morning routine too. Sometimes the older asks me to sing it over and over to him, which tells me he needed it as much as the younger one.

This adoption has taught us to rely on the Lord more, and I think that has been His purpose for us all along. We received very little information on the boys and the information we did receive was not always accurate. We had to hear from the Lord and trust Him. Because of that, our faith and relationship with Him has grown. We also believe that God's plan is to transform, and we feel that He will continue the good work He has started in the boys and bring it to completion.