



Headed to México

SEP 2015

Prospective Believer

Greetings to all who pray for us continually; your prayers are never in vain. It is one of our favorite things about deputation to constantly hear the words, "We are praying for you and your family." This month in our family devotion, we have been studying our way through the book of Esther. It is neat how in a book that does not mention God, without any Pentecostal-like occurrence, it is so blatantly clear that God was at work that any reader can see it. This month of September was much like that; God did not appear to us in a vision, but we could see Him working in every aspect of Viana's birth. She was "due" the 26th of August; we knew from family history to expect her to come much later. We had the blessing of finding some fabulous midwives to help us, at their birthing center here in Idaho. After a very disappointing experience in the hospital for Azelia's birth, we did our best to make sure things were different. However, this birth was not to be without its measure of drama! Idaho only allows midwives to deliver out-of-hospital from 37-42 weeks. As the final day approached, very many of you joined us in praying that labor would start...NOW! We serve a "last-minute" God, so we trusted and waited for that last-minute answer. The last minute came, and the last minute went. Our chance was gone. To throw something fun in the mix, an ultrasound tech from the hospital had told us just a couple days ago that we were really 38 weeks along! Wow! Four weeks off?!

We were scheduled to see the doctors the day after 42 weeks passed. They would do their own tests and tell us their plan of action. Our prayer was that they would realize our dates were not so far off and that SomeHow He would allow us to go back to the midwives: something unheard of. The ultrasound showed clearly

PRAISES:

God allowed me
(Rolando) to have another
birthday in September.

We had five churches take
us on since being in Idaho
- a 10% jump in support!

It was an easy birth for
mama and baby.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Hearts to be prepared in
Mexico

People to be challenged to
serve at home and abroad

Safe travels

Our daughters to adjust well to
all of the traveling

Our van to run well

that we were not 38 weeks, but we were probably not *quite* 42, though definitely "overdue." The doctors told us what they wanted to have us do but did allow us the option of three more days' chance with the midwives. We were thrilled, and the midwives were shocked! Friday and Saturday, we again encouraged my body to start labor but with no result. Sunday we rested, enjoying the church services. Monday was our last chance. We went in to the birthing center at 10am, NOT in labor, to give it one more shot. But God. He had me ready to go at the slightest provocation. We were in labor by 10:30, and we walked for hours to make sure it stayed! Rolando did a fantastic job of getting me through the discomfort as we waited and anticipated being there late into the night. Everyone was stunned when, after only seven hours of labor, my body started pushing! Only a few minutes passed before our lil Viana was out and cuddling close.

God gave us such an amazing experience: the wonderful care of the midwives, a natural and safer birth, a smooth and quick recovery, and so much joy! Unlike last time, I was up and (almost) running in only minutes: the way God designed. Our midwives made sure we were both well and allowed us freedom to leave after only a couple hours. We were back at the house just 12 hours after we had left that morning! All has gone well; even the first night was peaceful and restful.



For those who need the specs, Viana was 7lb10oz and 19½in, but in two weeks she made it to 8,8 and to 9,6 by three weeks! Thank YOU for your many prayers on our behalf. It is encouraging to us, and it really works! Yes, we serve a God who is sometimes a "last-minute" God, also a God who sometimes answers "no." We find ecstasy in the fact that He simply made a new "last minute" – just because He could! – even though we thought He had said "no."

But back to missionary news! We have immensely enjoyed our time in Idaho seeing again the marvelous churches we were with last year and meeting new ones. We have made a sudden jump to 35% as several churches have taken us on in September! How uplifting! God's people here in the Treasure Valley have been so good to us through their prayers, dear friendship, and generosity. We will really miss being here, but it's back east we go for fall meetings. There's a pretty good chance that as you read this, we are driving. We will be doing a jaunt to Iowa and staying there the weekend. After Sunday, we hope to see some nearby missionary friends for a couple hours Monday and get back on the road to North Carolina. Thank you for your prayers! They have helped us safely through many hours of travel!

Rolando, Hannah, Azelia and Viana