

Smith Soundings April 2009

"Upon You I have leaned from before my birth; You are He who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of You." Psalm 71:6

We apologize for the lateness of this month's update; we hope you will understand. We have wonderful news! As we write to you this month, we are full of praise to the Lord for the safe arrival of our little baby boy! Our little Judah Andrew was born on Good Friday, April 10th at 4:34 in the morning. He was born via C-section since he was still in the breach position when I went into labor. He was 6 lbs and 18.5 inches long at birth. He came to us early, at 36 weeks gestational age. But all the doctor's reports say that he is healthy as can be! Praise the Lord! (For those of you wondering, I lasted 9 days off of bedrest before Judah was born!)

We chose the name Judah because of its wonderful meaning. The name Judah means "Praise the Lord." From the beginning of this pregnancy, we decided that whatever happened, the Lord is worthy of praise. No matter how things turned out with our baby, we knew that we wanted to praise God through it all. Well, we've come out on the other side, and as we hold our little Judah, we certainly PRAISE THE LORD for his safe arrival! The verse printed above is the verse that we have chosen as Judah's verse in honor of his name and his safe arrival. Thank you all for your prayers over Judah for the past months! God is so good!

Judah had to spend a couple of extra days in the hospital because he was born premature. The doctors were watching him for some jaundice and they also wanted to see him start gaining weight. That meant that Elizabeth was discharged before Judah. We started to wonder where we would stay to be close to Judah while he was in the hospital—the hospital is 45 minutes from our home. The Lord answered our prayers of concern by revealing to us that the hospital has the policy of letting moms and dads stay in the hospital as guests if their babies haven't been discharged from the nursery yet. We were able to stay in the same recovery room that we were placed in originally at no extra charge! That was such a blessing to have someplace close to Judah for feedings and cuddling too! The extra days in the hospital proved to be somewhat of a blessing as it gave us extra time with the nurses to work on feedings and baby care.

You can pray for Judah and for us as parents as we work with him on gaining weight. He struggles with nursing because as a premature baby, he lacks the strength to nurse for entire feedings. We both wake him up every 3 hours day or night to have him try to nurse and we have a special feeding tube that helps make nursing easier for him. When he's worn out from that, we supplement with formula from a bottle. This feeding schedule is exhausting for both of us, so please pray for us as we adjust to this new schedule. Please pray for Judah to continue to gain weight and to gain strength so that nursing will be easier for him. He has a doctor appointment next Friday to see how his weight gain is coming.

We don't have much to keep us busy right now with missions obligations, which is honestly a blessing for us as we are very busy with learning to be parents and spending time with our son. We won't start up with meetings again until June 14th. You can start praying now for our transition into living in our trailer this June. We are moving into the trailer temporarily in order to accommodate some good friends and fellow missionaries to have a place to stay while they are home on furlough. We will let them stay in our home (the church parsonage) while we live in our trailer at a nearby campground. We are excited to do this as it will help us get some experience on life in a trailer before we go out East in July. We will take our trailer with us this summer when we travel for meetings out East (July through November). When we get back to Iowa in

November, we will move back into the parsonage. That is the plan for now, depending on how the Lord works in our support level. We are currently at 72% of our financial need. We praise the Lord for the supporters He has added to our team this month!

Thank you again for your prayers over our family. We are so glad to welcome Judah into our lives and to hold and love him! We will be posting pictures of Judah on our website under the "Family Photos" tab: <http://www.andyandelizabethsmith.com/>.

With thankful hearts,



Andy, Elizabeth & Judah Smith

