

The Smith Soundings

MARCH 2009

Dear prayer and financial partners,

Well, it's that time of year again—my favorite time of year! Spring is in the air! Every year I remember the first day that I step outside into warmth instead of frigid temperatures, and I just thank God for His goodness in bringing back the sun! This year, that first introduction to spring has looked a little different for me. Instead of stepping out into the warmth, I simply turned over in my bed one day as Andy opened the window for me to feel the warm breeze. I haven't been able to take my walks or be outside as much this year—YET! But, I still praise God for the warmer temperatures and the sights and sounds of spring!

As I write this, I am completing 33 weeks of pregnancy, and included in that, nine weeks of complete bedrest. My life during the last nine weeks has been anything but easy. The emotional strain and physical pain of being in bed for so long is exhausting! It is easy to constantly worry about our baby boy and analyze everything down to each little baby hiccup I feel! There's nothing else to distract me from giving over my thought life to those worries and concerns! So, during this time the Lord has taught me to literally rest in Him and the peace that He brings. He has graciously brought me to this point in the pregnancy, and for that I am so thankful!

For some of you, this is the first update you have received from us since December, so you may be saying, "Wait a second! What happened? Why is Elizabeth on bedrest?" Well, the short story is that I was admitted to the hospital on January 16th for premature labor. After three weeks in the hospital, my contractions were stopped and I was stabilized enough to go home to continue bedrest.

I've been laying around here at home ever since, and I only have two weeks left of complete bedrest! On April 1st (when I am 35 weeks) I get to wake up and stand at the toaster to make toast, stand in the shower, stand to brush my teeth and even take a short walk if I feel ambitious enough! I look forward to that day, but I'm sure it will take a minute to retrain my brain to know that it's okay to stand up for more than a minute at a time!

Thank you to all of you who have been praying for our baby boy, Andy and me during this time! We also appreciate all the notes or emails that you have sent to encourage us! Now that we are further along in the pregnancy, we like to think about our baby's arrival and how we will welcome him home. His original due date was May 6th. Here are some specific ways you can pray from now until baby's arrival:

- Physical comfort for my aching back, shoulders, legs and head since I am laying down all day.
- Continued health for the baby. He is doing well and growing big!
- Our baby is in the breech position, so this likely means a C-section for me. I am nervous about this, so please pray for me and for a good recovery from the surgery if it is needed.
- Pray for Andy as he is doing everything around the house to get ready for our baby's arrival. He is also traveling each weekend for meetings in churches still, so pray for his safety and comfort on the road.

For those of you who still may not be aware, we have a ministry blog that we have been updating weekly, especially during this time. Please feel free to view it or subscribe to it to receive email notification each time it is updated: <http://blog.andyandelizabethsmith.com>.

In other news, the Lord has increased our support level recently! We now have 71% of our need. We praise the Lord for this encouragement to us! This recent increase is due to 3-4 churches who already support us increasing their monthly giving toward our support. What a blessing! With just \$700 more per month, we would be at 85%, which would put us on the mission field fulltime! We already have our truck and trailer to live in, so we just wait on the Lord to provide the needed finances! Our goal is to have 85%, if not 100%, of our need by the end of this year.

In an effort to be completely honest with you, we had anticipated some new churches taking us on for support in this new year, but none have. We praise the Lord for working to increase our support in other ways, but at times it is difficult for us to not see our support goals met the way we hope they will. We feel like we have poured out our lives and hearts to all that is involved with deputation for the last three years. The people we meet are wonderful and we praise God for working in each meeting, but it is easy to get discouraged when our support expectations are not met. We wonder when God will reveal to us that it is time for us to be on the mission field fulltime. However, it is best for us to wait on His timing and not get anxious or discouraged. There is such a huge lesson to be learned in the “waiting time”. Please pray for us as we continue presenting to churches and sharing our ministry as we start year #4 of deputation in April!

Please remember us in prayer for these things:

1. Praise the Lord for stopping Elizabeth’s labor, and for bringing our baby boy to 33 weeks gestation!
2. Praise the Lord for the increase in our support! Please continue to pray that we will reach our goal of 85%!
3. Praise the Lord for the meetings He is supplying for us. We are thankful for each opportunity to stand before the Church and tell how God is working and what He is leading us to do.
4. Pray for follow up from our meetings so far. We pray that the Lord would continue to keep us on the hearts and minds of those we met, and that they would be stirred to support us in prayer and financial support.
5. Please pray for Andy as he continues to schedule meetings for this year. He would like to schedule six more meetings this year on Sundays. Pray that God would lead us to the right churches where we can be used!
6. Pray for a safe and healthy delivery of our baby, hopefully in April at the earliest.
7. Please pray for continued safety on the road as Andy finishes out this month of meetings.
8. Please pray for God to continually mature us and that we would be open to His leading and teaching.

Please pray for our upcoming meetings for next quarter:

- March 22: Cornerstone Baptist Church, Montevideo, MN.
- March 29: CBM plant site in Danville, IA.

We will be breaking from meetings in April in May in anticipation of our son’s arrival. You can pray during those months for a healthy baby and for our acclimation to parenthood!

Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer and financial giving to this ministry! We are so blessed by your partnership!

With love,



P.S. If you happen to be cruising the web, don’t forget to check out our website:

www.andyandelizabethsmith.com! You can find our recent updates, pictures, meeting schedule, project updates, contact information, letters from Bill Jenkin, the president of CBM, and much more!!