



The

Spyglass

A season of JOY

Winter 2010-2011

We welcome Ellis Jane!

On October 13, 2010 I went to the hospital for a scheduled c-section to deliver the precious baby that I had gotten to know for the past nine months. Nerves were high as I had no idea what to expect in a third world hospital...

My nerves dissipated when I stepped into the room. It looked like a hospital in the United States, and the staff was thorough and professional. I put on my gown and tried not to think of the upcoming surgery. I had had a c-section before I knew what I was in for.

The doctor came in and told us the c-section was to be delayed because of an emergency. More waiting. Why did I pray for patience just a week ago? As I looked around the room I was comforted when I saw a picture of Jesus right above my bed. It reminded me that He is with me everywhere I go.



Thank you Lord for giving us the comfort of your Holy Spirit.

Before we knew it, I was being wheeled into the operating room. The doctors were so gentle and caring, and the pediatrician was there! I was thrilled about that. So while things were similar to my experience in the states, they were also very different. Kind of like parallel worlds.

After much tugging and pulling I heard that beautiful cry. The cry a mom prays to hear. I saw her and the miracle of birth hit me all over again. She was beautiful, perfect, and tiny, weighing in at 6 lbs. 6 oz and 20.5 inches long. We named her Ellis Jane. Ellis means "My God Is the Lord" and Jane means "My God is faithful." A fitting name, we think, for the difficult yet blessed year we have had.

When I first held her I thought, "She is so beautiful," and then I thought "Oh my, I am now the mother of two very young children." Evangeline had a difficult time adjusting to her new baby sister, but she is adoring her more and more with each new day. I am praying that they will great friends just like my sisters and I are.

We are now parents of two beautiful and active baby girls. At times things get crazy busy, but I can't imagine life any differently.

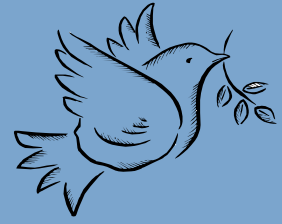


"My God is the Lord, and He is faithful."

We praise the Lord for his faithfulness in our lives. He has blessed us twice. Thank you, Lord!

Jesus promised the disciples three things - that they would be completely fearless, absurdly happy and in constant trouble

~ G.K. Chesterton



Storms and stones and travels home

God provides and protects through a season of uncertainty and difficulty

"It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." This first line from "A Tale of Two Cities" is an apt description of our last three months.

We were overjoyed at the birth of our daughter and were recovering from the craziness that comes along with that. It was a week and a half after the baby had been born. My mom had just left and we were all ready to spend the next two weeks resting and preparing to return to our regular ministries. Alas, it wasn't to be.

Very suddenly Hurricane Richard was approaching, and it was apparent that we needed to evacuate. We scrambled around the apartment trying to throw everything up on top of the furniture, packed everything for the girls and piled in the van and headed for San Ignacio. There we met a missionary who kindly opened her house to us and allowed us to stay the night. We listened to the wind howl through the night and were increasingly thankful for a safe place to weather the storm. The next day we discovered that it had made landfall almost directly at the mission base with 90 mph winds.

We decided that we'd better get back to our apartment as soon as possible, just in case some water had gotten in our apartment. I kept assuring Mel that it certainly couldn't have been more than 12 inches, if anything. Man were we surprised to open the door and find that there'd been almost four feet of water in our apartment. Nearly everything in the apartment was completely destroyed. We were shocked, discouraged, and questioning why this would happen (as if the hurricane was sent personally for us).

It's easy to say you shouldn't question God, but when you're standing in the street, homeless, with a two week old, another baby, and a wife recovering



from surgery and twelve bucks in your pocket... It also will drive you to the point where you have absolutely nothing to do but cry, "God, help!" I can certainly give testimony to the fact that God takes care of His children. In our case, He provided exceedingly above all that we could ask or think. From our landlady offering us rooms in her house and feeding us, to the generous response of our friends and supporting churches, to the groups that came and offered us encouragement and support, our every need was met. I can't say it was easy, but our faith is increased.

You would think that we would have hit our faith-increasing trial quota for a while, but shortly after that Mel began to have high fevers and kidney pain on a daily basis. We knew that she had a

large stone in her left kidney that could not be treated until after the baby was born. What we didn't know was that there was also a stone too big to pass in her right kidney that was causing the pain. One of these was also causing an infection that was extremely difficult to kill.

Over the next month she had to take three different courses of antibiotic including intravenous ones. Finally the doctor in Belize advised us that they couldn't properly treat Mel there and recommended a trip home. Again, we were at a place where we didn't have the resources to make that happen, but we figured God would take care of us. He has, and we have had just enough at each step of our journey. Mel has gotten treatment and is feeling much better.

We praise God and give him glory for his provision! He truly takes good care of his children.

The Prayer Chest

- * Please be in prayer for us as we balance family life, team life, base life, and village life.***
- * Pray that God will give us strength and wisdom as we face each day.***
- * Pray that villagers' lives will be touched for Christ as we continue our ministries and as the teams minister.***

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

- John 16:33

"But my God shall supply all your needs ..."
- Phil 4:19