



Special Update, July 2010

Dear Family and Friends,

We trust that the grace of God is continuing to sustain you all as you pursue the advance of the gospel, the good of the world, and the glory of God. In the midst of a hectic past few days, we would like to update you on the status of Sukey and our twin girls.

The Past Few Days

Thursday evening, July 15 Sukey started to experience some further complications in monitoring the status of the girls. She had been placed on complete bed rest and a continuous monitoring to trace the heart rate of each child.



If any heart rate would begin to decelerate it would be a likely sign of distress from cord entanglement. That Thursday evening, the heart rates began

to decelerate unlike what we had experienced before—the nurses and doctors highly considered doing an emergency c-section late that evening.



By the grace of God, the heart rate regained its baseline beat and we proceeded with a restless and sleepless night filled with great anxiety at the slightest sound of the monitor's alarm.

Friday morning, July 16, our specialist analyzed the pattern of heart rates from the last night

For Those Who Labor:

Praise God...

- for the delivery of Leila Raenee and Abigail Joanne
- for the speedy recovery of Sukey
- for the timely alertness of nurses and doctors to the twins distress
- the love of the community of God

Pray...

- for the healthy development of the girls' lungs, brains, and eyes
- for Sukey as she recovers and cares for the girls, both of which live in two places
- that the village meeting this week will be insightful and profitable
- for the return of Christ and repentance of many

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and suggested that this pattern of deceleration would be a probable occurrence in the future.

The risk to wait for our thirty-two week planned c-section would be unwise since some dangerous amount of cord entanglement must have already happened. Sukey was then prepared for an emergent-planned c-section.

That Friday, July 16, at 9:36 a.m. Leila Raene Lynskey (3lb 1oz at 16 inches) and Abigail Joanne Lynskey (3lb 3oz at 16 inches) were born. That day the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) doctors and nurses worked on our girls from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. until their status was stabilized. Sukey, initially after surgery, was able to be rolled in the NICU to see the girls and then headed to begin recovering.



The past two days, Saturday and Sunday, we have been learning an entirely new life. First, we have been attempting to learn about the statuses, issues, and complications of our twins in their prematurity. Second, in-between Sukey's recovering and the girls stabilizing, we have attempted to spend the few moments we had with them. Third, we introduced our family to our two beautiful daughters.

Status and Examination

So, how are the twins doing? Initially, both Leila and Abigail needed to be placed on ventilator support. After birth, they began to breath on their own, but soon could not sustain their own respiratory needs. After one day of ventilator support, yesterday the doctors attempted to see how they would breath without respiratory ventilation.



Abigail did fairly well in terms of her blood levels; however, Leila had some difficulties. She, fairly soon after birth, had to receive a blood transfusion to increase her red blood cell count. She has improved thus far with those levels, but still has a low platelet count that the doctors are closely observing.

Thus far there are three major issues that need to be observed closely. First, the doctors will continue to watch the breathing capabilities of the girls. The biggest and most immediate issue for prematurity is lung development. The respiratory development will continue to be examined daily.



Second, the girls will be examined for the development of their eyes. At thirty weeks gestation, their eyes had not had sufficient time in the womb to develop. This repeated examination will continue to be done over the next weeks.

Lastly, the doctors have some neurological concerns. Within the first seven days of a premature birth, neurological bleeding can occur. This bleeding in the brain has many developmental issues attached to it. This exam will be done this Friday, July 23.

So, What About Our Insides: New Life?

To be honest, it is difficult to sort through all the emotions that have collided together in the past few days. (For this we appreciate your incredible patience in terms of giving a written update on our lives.) Perhaps instead of trying to provide an *explanation* of what is marinating inside of us we will just offer you a paired *confession* of the true state of our souls. We hope that this mixed confession will give some insight into our life.



We celebrate two living, breathing, and intact baby girls (they are so gorgeous); however, we are pained that, as of present, we cannot hold

them.

We rejoice in Sukey's speedy recovery; nevertheless, we dread having to be discharged and leave our children in a hospital.



We revel in staring and touching our beautiful daughters; yet, to see them attached to myriads of wiring and tubing breaks our hearts.

We exult that we have completed a five-week hospital stay (all the while receiving the endless love and affection from family, friends and church); yet, we bemoan having to live in two separate places from our daughters.

We unequivocally affirm God's gracious providence in everything that He alone orchestrated to bring us (all four of us) here today; nonetheless, our new life (and lives) leave us in a mist of uncertainty of what will be and what should be.

“Please let our petition come before you, and pray for us to the Lord your God, that is for all this remnant; because we are left but a few out of many...that the Lord your God may tell us the way in which we should walk and the thing that we should do...Whether it be pleasant or unpleasant, we will listen to the voice of the Lord our God” (Jeremiah 42:2-3, 6).

~ Matt with Sukey, Leila, and Abigail