

The babies have arrived!

On Saturday, September 5, 1992 at 5:54 p.m. and 5:55p.m. God answered our prayers and brought us two very healthy and very large identical twin girls.

Two years ago, our Sunday school class did a series on "Parenting perfect children." The presenters of this class were half a dozen couples who had already been through the trials of parenting. Each Sunday, one couple shared from their perspective, the things that had contributed to the well being of their family. One couple who spoke shared how they began to pray for their children before they were born. Not only that, they continued to pray regularly for their children's friends, and even their spouses to be - unknown at the time.

This lesson hit home. I have seen the power of prayer work miracles in my own life and in the lives of others who call upon the Lord. Kathy and I decided that we would begin to pray for a child - even though we knew that the time would be far off. During these times in prayer together, we found that we had both had a desire to have twins - something that we had each desired since early days and yet never discussed between us. The bible says "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." PSALM 37:4. Believing this desire to be sincere, we decided to express these desires in our time of prayer.

Keep in mind that there are no twins in either of our families for at least 4-5 generations that we know of. The instances of twinning are very low. They are hereditary or can be the result of advanced aged (38+) or fertility drugs taken at the time of conception. Neither of these were the case for us.

By the time of our second pre-natal visit to the doctor, Kathy's womb had already grown quite large. We shared with our doctor that we had been praying for twins and that we expected that Kathy had twins. Our doctor expected that we had mis-calculated the date of conception. An ultrasound examination quickly resolved the issue - identical twins! Identical twins are NOT hereditary but are the result of one fertilized egg that splits during the early weeks. Our babies shared the same sac and a common placenta - which is extremely rare (1 in 30,000 births) and often very dangerous.

By Kathy's 5th month of pregnancy, she was approaching the size of a full term singleton birth! Our doctors became very concerned about the health of the twins. We began a routine of examinations which would bring us to the hospital once a week and 3 times a week in the last stages of pregnancy. Although the babies were expected to arrive a month short of their calculated due date of Labor Day (no pun intended), the babies held out until Saturday, September 5th. Meanwhile Kathy kept growing and growing and growing... Fortunately, the babies remained in good health and both remained in the head down position thus allowing us to plan for a normal childbirth.

Early Saturday morning, I took Kathy to the hospital. She immediately went into active labor. They brought in all of the equipment and staff and everything stopped. After several procedures and another 10 hours of difficult labor, the decision was made to perform an unscheduled C-section.

Twin births are already classified as high risk pregnancies. With a C-section now things really got hopping. The staff at St. Joseph's Medical Center were terrific. Within minutes, a medical team of 9 people were assembled and ready. Moments later, our two daughters, Baby "A" 7 lbs. 4 oz. and Baby "B" 7 lbs. 2 oz. were born. Our prayers for healthy twins had been answered! Their official names are:

BABY A: Wendy Anne Mack

BABY B: Amy Elizabeth Mack

Born on Saturday, September 5th at 5:54 and 5:55 p.m.

Kathy is greatly relieved to no longer be carrying such large babies. The hospital staff were also quite amazed at the large size - quite uncommon in twins. The girls are identical. We can't tell them apart. If I don't return one baby to the same crib from which I took her - forget it, I'm lost!

Kathy and the girls will remain at the hospital for the next few days. Then the real excitement begins.

Kathy and I want to thank you for your friendship, your encouragement, and your support.

Sincerely yours,

Eric (Proud Papa), Kathy, Wendy, and Amy