

Emails from John and Elizabeth Rodgers re the son Daniel

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July 31

Hi Everyone,

We thank you all for your continued prayers and help. Daniel appears to be doing very well. He gained 65 grams today which brings him to 915 grams (just over 2 pounds!). When he came he weighed 880 grams and went down to 705 grams and now look at him.

He is opening his little eyes and wiggling around. He actually moved his head from one direction to the other. He is done with his antibiotics and is drinking 13ml of milk every 3 hours. He will be going up to 20ml and staying there. He is handling food well. Bit by bit he is losing some of the things that were hooked up to him.

The main things left for him are: 1 to continue to gain weight and handle food well 2. His minor brain hemorrhage to absorb itself (we will see in about a week where that is at) 3. His eyes develop well without the intervention of laser surgery (he will be tested at 28 days old) 4. His hearing to develop. 5. That he doesn't contract more infections etc.

Financial Update

From the beginning of this whole ordeal we have been overwhelmed by the number of prayer groups and churches that have been praying for little Daniel. The results have been truly miraculous. We have heard from many people that we have never met. Even someone from Japan! We wish to thank you all for your involvement.

In the same way we are overwhelmed by the financial help that has come in to help pay the medical bills. As of now - between the pledges made and what has come in we have raised enough to cover about 2 months of care!!!! So many people have given different amounts as they were able to or felt led to give. There are many of you that have given and we don't know who you are yet. We wish to say thank you so much!!! We are very relieved and blessed by you all. If Daniel continues to do well we estimate that this should cover all the expenses!! In situations like these it is hard to know what will happen from day to day but it is looking good. We will keep you informed. We thank our God for all of you and pray for God to bless you for the kindness you have shown us.

Also, We are hearing reports that our story is going through Autlán through the doctor who helped Elizabeth give birth. People are marveling at the power of prayer made in faith. Pray with us that out of this situation many people who turn to God. Pray for us that we and our partners would be given the wisdom of how to make the most of this great opportunity.

John and Elizabeth Rodgers

July 29

Dear Friends and Family,

We apologize that some of our updates didn't make it to you. We found out that our service was not sending them because we were trying to send to too many people at once. I think it is fixed now.

It is with joy in our hearts that we share this GREAT NEWS!!!!!!! Daniel's heart responded to the medication and his heart valve closed!!! His vital signs are much better and the fluid is now gone from his lungs. Also it appears that his infection is gone. They also removed the catheter from his umbilical cord and put a smaller one in his arm. He is at 860 grams and today begins eating again. (He had to fast while taking the heart medicine.)

He had a brain scan today and the good news is that his grade one hemorrhage hasn't gotten worse. The bad news is that it is still there. They will do another scan within 10 days to see what has happened. So keep praying for that.

Thank you so much for your prayers. We see God's hand moving daily. Yesterday was our 8 year anniversary and with the news of Daniel's heart valve closing we felt like we could really celebrate.

May God Bless you all,
John and Elizabeth

July 22
Hi Everyone,

Here is the latest that we know about Daniel. He continues to eat more. Up to 8ml per feeding from yesterday's 5ml and is tolerating it well. His bowel and urinary functions are functioning very well. He weighs 10 more grams. He is comfortable and resting well. His skin looks better and better.

His heart and brain results came in. He has a minor hemorrhage in the left side of the brain (it is grade 1 out of 4 grades) the doctor said this is common and usually clears up by itself). He will be tested for that later to see how it is. Also, when a child is borne a certain valve in the heart automatically closes but in preemies it takes a while. So Daniel's valve is still open and they are going to wait to see if it will close on its own before using medicine and if necessary further down the road a surgery. This too is normal and usually closes on its own. So then we ask for your prayers especially in these two areas 1.Brain Hemorrhage and 2.Heart valve.

If you want to see a video of him about 15 minutes after his birth go to my facebook. I am also sending you another picture with this update.

Thanks again and God bless.

John and Elizabeth

July 21

Hi Everyone,

Here we are 5 days after Daniel's birth. He is doing so well. Have a look at the pictures that I sent. You prayed and he is here. His weight dropped to 705 grams but now appears to be gaining as he was 710 grams today. So it looks like he is going to start upwards. He has been eating his mother's milk for three days. The first day was 1,1/2 mil every three hours, the second was 2,1/2 mil every three, today he is drinking 5 mil every three hours. The doctor says that is a good sign for his intestines which was one of the main concerns for a preemie. Today they took off his oxygen helmet and they are just putting it in his incubator. He is now out from under the lights because his liver test came out good. He tries to suck and he yawns and stretches and cries one in a while. Today they were taking an ultra sound of his brain and his heart and hopefully tomorrow we should know the results. My sister Charlene is here with us and has been a great comfort and confidant. I will sign off for now but will give more info soon. Thanks again and God bless.

John and Elizabeth

July 19, 2009

Hi Everyone,

I just wanted to give you an update on things. Daniel is doing very well. He continues to breath on his own. He weighed 880 grams when he was borne and now has lost weight (which is normal) and is 715 grams. His waist is 19 1/2 cm his height is 32 1/2 cm. He will stop loosing weight in a few days. He should be out of the lights soon which will slow his rate of loss. Also he is starting on his mother's milk today via feeding tube which will also help. His infection appears to be clearing up and they will do a test tomorrow. We feel that he is going to make it and do well due to your prayers. It seems our faith is becoming sight. We are not out of the woods yet so please keep praying. You have all been such a blessing to us, you can't imagine. We saw one eye open up today when they turned off the lights. It was blue like Elizabeth and we wonder if it will stay blue. He has a perfect shaped head just like his father. His little cry is absolutely heart breaking and we are filled with love for our son.

We have been shown so much love and kindness by all of you and many Mexican people here. We have a free place to stay in Guadalajara now thanks to Jeff and Lisa King our language teachers from 5 years ago. The Hotel refunded our money for the month that we booked (I will always remember their kindness). Plus some very kind people have responded to help with our bills and we thank them so much. Every bit helps allot. If you feel that someone needs to be forwarded this update don't hesitate to do so. It is hard to get everyone when things are so crazy right now. Thanks to Bethany Baptist for sending us a good quality breast pump and prayers. That's all for now. We will try to send pictures on our next update. We also have a video of Daniel when the Pediatrician was

reviving him and we will put that on facebook when we get the chance. I am going to Autlán tomorrow to pay bills and take care of some business. My sister Charlene is flying in tonight to be with us for a week. Bless her soul. It may be a couple of days until I get a chance to update since I am going to Autlan round trip tomorrow. Don't worry I am getting better sleep and can drive perfectly safe. God bless.

John