

Hi Everyone,

Our great news of bringing Daniel home has prevented us from updating you all for some time! It feels wonderful to write to you with him sitting beside me. As those who are our friends on Facebook already know, we are back in Autlan living with our son!!!! It is so good to be home again.

In all our joy, life with a preemie started as a challenge. We have lived in a state of exhaustion that we have never known. During the first few days we even wondered if we had taken Daniel from the NICU too soon. We realized just how much round the clock care we had been paying for! We were giving him a whole list of medications for many things almost every hour. He then would take a good hour to suck his food down and then Elizabeth would have to pump the next meal to give it to him in his special bottle. We also had a scare as his body temperature was a little unstable which affected his breathing and whole demeanor.

But we are glad to report that our little fighter just keeps getting stronger and this means that caring for him is getting more normal. He now only needs one medication 10 minutes before every other feeding. A couple days after his due date he gained a lot of strength and we started breastfeeding. He is thriving on it and this makes life easier as well.

After being released we visited the ophthalmologist every 48 hours. When she said that she would see him in a week we moved back to Autlan to a house full of boxes. (the house is now only half full of boxes) At our last visit she said that she thinks Daniel's eyes are a miracle. She had been certain that they would have to operate cutting under the eye and everything. She said that the problem is completely gone and shows no signs of coming back. She does want to see Daniel in 3 weeks just to be extremely cautious.

Daniel is almost 7 lbs now and is growing out of all his preemie clothes. I am happy but feel nostalgic to pack his little precious clothes away. Daniel's metabolic tests came back all normal. They were checking for all sorts of different types of disorders some quite serious. So we were quite relieved.

The biggest area for concern at the moment is that now on 2 occasions in 3 separate tests Daniel has failed his hearing test. He did not hear anything in either ear at the 35 decibel level. We are seeing his neonatologist on Friday and he will direct us as to the next steps to take. Today we started Daniel's first stimulation therapy session. It was very interesting and we actually saw Daniel develop and gain some skills right before our eyes. Today was focused on strength and range of motion exercises. Thursday's session will focus on multisensory exercises. We praise the Lord that we can do this in Autlan as we will be seeing the therapist 2 times a week for the next 3 months when the doctor will re-evaluate his progress and decide what Daniel's next step is. The therapist teaches us how to do the exercises and we are supposed to do them 3 times a day with Daniel.

We want to thank you all again for bringing Daniel before our God.

John and Elizabeth