

A MIRACLE BABY STORY

Discovery to Birth, a record for my son



Zachary Wayne Garrison

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Introduction

I have decided to sit down and write the details of my son's time in the womb thru his first week of life. Considering neither Dani nor I ever thought we would be blessed with a child; documenting it only seems right.

Danielle and I met at work of all places. I work for Geminus Corporation, which is the service company for Southlake Center for Mental Health where Dani had been working. I was employed as a desktop support technician so I worked on all the computer systems throughout the organization. On several occasions, I had to work with Dani on issues at the center. Each time we saw each other more interest would grow until she finally made the first move. I fell into the black-widows web and technically, she had me from hello. It is scary when you meet someone that is your twin in life.

Never the less it was no time before we were living together in all that sappy love infested stuff ☺

This is a work in progress and probably will change often. The items in this document are the truth to the best of my sleep-depraved brain can muster; the names and characters have not been changed to protect anyone.

That is until this one night I arrived home from work, but you need to read the first chapter for that.

Chapter 1 – The Discovery

Therefore, as I was saying I arrived home from work one day to find Dani bent over in pain and asking me to take her to the Emergency Room. This is very strange considering Dani hates hospitals and doctors in general. I was worried, hurried her into the car, and rushed her to Porter Portage Campus. In true hospital fashion, they made her sit in chairs and wait for what seemed to be forever. At this time, her friend Sarah had arrived with her husband Chad and waited with us.

Now not to say the emergency room doctor was stupid but the quack kept arguing with Dani saying he thought it was a gallbladder and Dani kept insisting it was a kidney stone. So finally, they come and tell us well your gallbladder is fine but you are also pregnant. Dani being Dani tells the doctor see I told you it was not a problem with my gallbladder, errr and I am WHAT? It took us a little by surprise but what a wonderful surprise it was.

Chapter 2 – The Kidney Stone

However, that still does not explain why she is in so much pain. Many hours have passed and they still have yet to find out what the problem is or even a course of action for it. It was at this point that I started to get a little upset, (yeah I know hard to believe I would get upset about anything after all I am such a sweet and relaxed person); oh yeah this is a fictional story and not fiction. I cornered the doctor out of her room and explained that if I did not see some progress being made soon I would be calling one of my good friends. Dumb doctor said yeah and who is that; this is the time when I turned the phone book over on the counter to

show Kenneth Allan, a local but highly successful accident and injury attorney. They told me they were going to run some more tests and would have some information for me very soon.

Amazingly, enough it was about 20 minutes later that they told us they were transferring her to Porter's Valpo main campus. Several hours and many tests later they discover that Dani was right and she has a kidney stone or stones. All treatment was hampered due to the fact she was pregnant and could not have the x-rays or anything that would harm the baby. While in the hospital we meet Dr. Cheryl Short and Dr. Strickland they are two wonderful ob/gyn doctors, they also do high-risk cases like ours and they both jumped right in and made Dani feel comfortable with the whole process.

We now met Dr Manickam who would be handling the kidney stone treatment. He was a great doctor and seemed very knowledgeable and not scared of the pregnancy at all. He decided on placing a small stint in that would need to be changed every 30 days. What this would do is keep the passageway open and not allow the stone to create another blockage. During the first surgery, they actually felt the stone as they pushed it back into the kidney; it had blocked the passage right outside the kidney. We went thru three stint changes, and on the third time, they were able to use a different type of anesthesia because now Dani was out of the first trimester, anyway it was during this time they saw the stone.

The doctor came out of this surgery shaking a nine-millimeter stone in a jar. The stone resembled a sticker; you know the little things that grow on bushes in the woods that have all the points on them. It was great Dani was back to normal and even feeling better.

Chapter 3 – Pregnancy

Now that the stone was, gone Dani could spend some time just seeing what pregnancy was all about without the complications. Strangely enough, she had begun losing weight with the stone and continued even now to lose weight. The doctor explained we are now eating better and taking the vitamins so the body is able to grow healthier. We had normal visits to the Doctors office once a month at this point. I never missed an appointment I never thought I would ever be able to have a child so I did not want to miss any part of this.

Chapter 4 – Gestational Diabetes

One normal test they do about 28 to 30 weeks is the gestational diabetes test. See because of the placenta some women cannot produce enough insulin to keep their sugars under control. It would figure my wife would be one of those unlucky ones. Her sugars got so bad that we had to give her insulin shots 3 times a day. This was hard on me due to the fact I have a phobia of needles. I got over that real fast and was able to give her the injections daily.

Chapter 5 – Education

Being that Dani & I both are somewhat **strong-headed** when we believe in something and know we are right; we decided we should take the birthing classes and breast feeding classes together. This way we could both learn the experience together. The child birthing classes were every Monday night for 8 weeks, I will have to say our teacher Rhonda was a lot of fun and made the guys feel relaxed and made the classes fun.

The breastfeeding class was another story; the instructor also made me feel comfortable but all the other husbands found a way out of the class so I was the only man in the class. Thinking back on that class now though I am glad I went it helped me to understand the process and the importance of Dani breastfeeding our son.

Chapter 6 – Preeclampsia

One day on the way home from work we were going to meet my brother and his family at the Chinese buffet for dinner when Dani said she was not feeling very good. We called the doctor and they told us to drive to the hospital upon arriving in the labor/delivery unit they placed Dani in bed and put the external monitors on here that showed the baby's heartbeat and his movements. Dani's blood pressure had become very elevated and the doctors worried she was having the onset of preeclampsia.

“Preeclampsia is a disorder that occurs only during pregnancy and the postpartum period and affects both the mother and the unborn baby. Affecting at least 5-8% of all pregnancies, it is a rapidly progressive condition characterized by high blood pressure and the presence of protein in the urine. Swelling, sudden weight gain, headaches and changes in vision are important symptoms; however, some women with rapidly advancing disease report few symptoms.”

Now the doctors kept her in the hospital for two days and placed her on heprin a drug that prevents blood clots. Since she was stuck in bed they worried, she might get a blood clot. Her pressure got better and they released her from the hospital under the condition she was to be on bed-rest. See the next chapter for the fun that came along with telling Dani she could not go back to work.

Chapter 7 – Bed-rest

All right so you all know Dani, well for those of you that don't she can be described in many ways but one of the main ways would be **career-oriented; workaholic, control-freak** but meant in a nice way of course. She filed the paperwork at work and went on family medical leave. She had a hard time adjusting to staying home and just resting and letting the baby cook a little longer. Things got a little better and we waited things out.

Chapter 8 – Preeclamptic revenge

Now the time was getting close to Christmas so Dani and her sisters planned a Christmas get together for the sisters and their father for here at our place for the weekend of December 18th. On Wednesday of that week, her dad came up from Kentucky and we went out to dinner, now due to my size and the size of Zachary in Dani's belly we took Don's truck, I became only the fourth person to drive the beast, man I need a truck

again. On Thursday we had a doctor's appointment, we went and her pressure was up again so they wanted us to do a non stress test, which we did, but her pressure was still elevated. We were told to go home and come back to see Dr. Short on Saturday.

Saturday, pressure elevated again and Dr Short says, "We have ridden this as long as we can". She sends us over to Valpo so they can induce the pregnancy.

Chapter 9 – The Blizzard

Son let me explain we had been having mild winters for quite some time prior to this year. However, as we started into this weekend all news channels and meteorologists were calling for a huge blizzard. They were right, at home we only got maybe 6 inches, in Valparaiso where you were born they got 16 inches and in Michigan City they got 29 inches.

This type of record snowfalls usually meant we were in for a long cold winter so everyone started to bundle in.

Chapter 10 – The Induction

Saturday December 18 they get Dani admitted to the hospital, put all the IVs in, and connected her to the monitors. They use cervical to try to ripen the cervix and bring on the contractions. The contractions start however, they are not bad at all and Dani is doing rather well with them. 1am the cervical has been in for 12 hours and has not managed to do its job yet. They decide to try potasain to bring on the contractions. It was around this time that I started to fear for my wife's safety; seeing her in this much pain really killed, me and I wanted to just take it all away. On several occasions I slipped away to take a walk, not wanting to worry Dani however I was spending these times in the chapel praying to god for both my wife and my unborn son. This went on for hours however about 2pm we finally made it to 2 centimeters; 25 hours in and only to 2 really upset Dani and she worried if she could make it thru this. It was sometime in this period when Dani was given the nickname of Babyzillia, yeah ok so she had some rough moments. It was around this time that Brandi had to go home due to work the next day and no-one knowing she would actually be having the baby today. Don drove Brandi home then drove back to Kentucky, in hopes of missing any more of the blizzard.

At 3pm everyone insisted that I go home (during the blizzard) to get a shower and a change of clothes so I would feel better. Jeff, her stepfather drove me home and I felt much better we got a call she had progressed to 3 centimeters, finally some progress. Jeff drove me back to the hospital and I ate some dinner very fast and listened to the tales told to me by her sister Nikki and her mom. It seems the whole time I was gone Dani kept asking for me and saying things like, "I miss him so much", "where is my Ron", and "I love Ron he should be here, I need him". This was nice to hear.

It was around this time that my parents Art & Dar and my brother Scott and his wife Susan decided to go to Scotts house and relax for a little while, after all Scott lives about 10 minutes from the hospital.

I got back just in time to hear we have made it to 4 centimeters and they were ordering the epidural. After a few minutes Dani was having very hard and fast contractions well into the 100's on the meter and she was not taking them to well. It was somewhere around this time she kept telling us she had an uncontrollable need to push and as we talked her out of that, the nurse rechecked her. She went from 4 centimeters to 10 centimeters in less then 15 minutes and it was now time for the baby. Now it was too late for that epidural the nurses started preparing the room and I made the call to my parents it was baby time.

Chapter 11 – The Birth

The doctor was already on her way and it looked like this would all be over soon. The nurse was in position and they let Dani push a few times which made her feel so much better. After the third push, the doctor was in place and her and the nurse switched places.

Dr. Short told Dani she was much farther ahead of the game then most first time mothers cause they usually have a lot of pushing to do, but she won't have to because he is way down in the canal and ready to be born. From this point it only took about six more pushes and little Zachary was letting us know he was here and ready. Dr. Short placed the clamps on and then I cut the cord thru my tears of joy, my baby boy was here and had all his fingers and toes.



He was pink, perfect, and weighed 7lbs and 4 ounces. Everyone remarked thru the rest of the time at the hospital how perfect he was and how he did not look like a newborn, it did not matter to me I had my perfect little boy.

Present during delivery and I thank God for both of them because they helped me and Dani thru this without them it would have been very difficult; Nikki & Darlene, Dani's sister and mother.

Grandparents Jeff and Darlene Hauser ended up coming back to the house with me on Sunday evening so we could all get some sleep.

Chapter 11 – The First Week

I decided to add the first week to this document because everyone tells me the first week is so eventful you will want to remember it forever. I have also added one picture from each day that you were with us so that you can see some of your progress.

It has been a wonderful journey and I would recommend it to anyone, but remember sleep is something you need to forget about; you will not see much of it for a while. I also believe that the father should be awake and present during each feeding all thru the nights even if breastfeeding and not much he can do, this is family bonding time and helps the family unit grow. We had to supplement with formula so mommy would feed you from the breast then I would feed you from the bottle.

Day One:

I received a call from Dani at 4:30 am she was upset because one of the nurses had taken the baby to the nursery for a check and took forever bringing him back. I made sure this did not happen again as I stayed at the hospital the rest of the time until his discharge.

Zachary received his circumcision on Monday morning along with his first visit from his Pediatrician.

I went back to the hospital early Monday morning that is when Darlene took the picture of Zackary on my hand. Just a while later and Grandparents Jeff & Darlene Hauser had to head home, they already missed a day of work and with the forecast of more snow, and things did not look good.



Day Two:

We stayed in the hospital for 48 hours after little Zachary was born. I spent a lot of time just watching you Zachary, you made the cutest little expressions on your face and these little squeaky noises.

We brought him home on Tuesday evening and Aunt Nikki & Uncle Ted came and stayed the night with us to help us thru.



Day Three:

Aunt Brandi her other sister and daughters came up the next day isn't this the cutest picture, Serena is only 14 months old and with her mom's help she held the baby.

We had to take you to the hospital for a blood test, you did so good; better then I did I was so worried they were hurting you.

Brandi had to work the next day so close to evening time she and the girls went back home.



Around the same time, Uncle Ted and Aunt Nikki headed back to Chicago to prepare for their long trip.

On Wednesday night Grandparents Don & Marie Pitcher came up to stay a few days from Kentucky.

Young Zack of course has his days and nights reversed so he is up all night long and sleep during the day when everyone wants to see him, go figure.

Day Four:

On Thursday we had some alone time and gave him his first bath, of course Dani was overwhelmed and we both cried because it was so special. Dani is still worried about her milk arriving but the Doctor called us at home and just told her to supplement with formula and things would be fine. She is turning out to be such a great mommy. Marie made us a fantastic dinner and then we enjoyed some movies.



It was Thursday night when Dani first started to feel her milk coming in. This was after she followed the advice of lactation websites and drank a beer. One beer or a glass of wine a day is said to stimulate the milk production.

Mommy read you a story and you just were all ears and smiles. Something to also note on this night Zackary slept most of the night, we also brought the swing in and when he did fuss, we placed him in the swing to help him sleep

Day Five

Today is Christmas Eve and after a good night sleep I woke early bright and chipper. I fed you a bottle of formula and you went back to sleep; and thankfully so did mommy she needs her rest.



Today you also meet some of daddy's friends; Keith and Sharon and their kids Nicole, Heather, And Dennis came over along with daddy's other friend Collette we had a nice long visit and you just seemed to love all the attention.

As night came Grandparents Don & Marie Pitcher spent some time with you because they had to go back to Kentucky the next day.

Around this time we took you to bed and Mommy read you a story as you drifted off to sleep.

Day Six

Christmas day; on this day we went to Grandma and Grandpa Garrison's for the first time. We arrived very early then Grandma Garrison made us all biscuits and gravy and then after we ate we opened presents.



Uncle Scott, Aunt Susan and Cousin Bryan had to go see some other relatives so after they left we took a nap with you.

We woke up just in time for dinner with the family. At this time, Aunt Pearl got to meet you. We had dinner and then spent time with the family.

We brought you home and spent some time together before putting you to bed for the night.

Day Seven

A nice relaxing day for just mommy, daddy and little Zachary. We spent the day just in awe of how wonderful you really are.

Fun Facts

- My Name is Zachary it means: Remembered by God
- My Birthstone is: Turquoise
- My Flower is: Narcissus or Holly
- My Astrological Sign is Sagittarius
- I was born in the Chinese Year of The Monkey
- I will start kindergarten in 2010,
- I will be old enough to drive a car in 2020,
- I will graduate High School with the Class of 2023

In Closing

Son this document was so very easy for me to sit down and write and I did it during the first week of your life because I wanted you to have a record of it. These are merely simple words on paper and can not compare to how much you mean to me and your mother for years neither of thought we would ever have a baby; so when we call you our little miracle you now know the rest of the story. I love you son.