

We Needed a Second Miracle

We had already had one miracle with my wife's pregnancy. Now we needed another one.

My wife, Sarah, was 24 weeks pregnant when she started having a lot of pain. I gave her a blessing and then left for work. I was still at work when she called me home to take her to the hospital.

"Your baby's coming," we were told when we arrived. Since Sarah was only 24 weeks along, the baby's best chance of survival was an emergency C-section.

"Your wife doesn't need to go through any additional trauma," the doctor told me. "She's going to lose the baby anyway."

Sarah and I talked and prayed about what the doctor had said. We felt that if there was any chance our baby could survive, we needed to take that chance. We had experienced difficulty having children. Our oldest son, Taylor, is adopted. When Sarah got pregnant two years after we adopted Taylor, we felt that it was a miracle. Now we needed a second miracle.

A little while later, a specialist came to us and said, "I think we may have time to get your wife to a children's hospital in El Paso, Texas, that is equipped to care for premature and critically ill newborns. The baby

will have a chance there!"

An ambulance pulled away from our local hospital with Sarah and sped toward the children's hospital 45 minutes away. I followed close behind, pleading with the Lord in prayer to give us a miracle. I promised Him that I would stay on the gospel path and try to be better.

At the hospital, I told the doctor in the neonatal intensive care unit: "We know we have already had one miracle with my wife's pregnancy. Now we expect another one."

The birth went well, and our baby survived. After she spent four and a half months in the neonatal intensive care unit, we brought Shanna home. We *had* received a second miracle. Not many years later, we received yet another miracle—the Lord blessed us with twins.

Shanna has a slightly low IQ, and she's in a wheelchair, but she's full of joy, always positive, and a friend to everyone. She loves to tell you about her day, and she's excited about life. She keeps us smiling and teaches us to be happy. We love her and are grateful for her. Shanna is truly a blessing. ■

Daniel Payne, New Mexico, USA

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