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Early, but Precious!



For our family, September was a rather full month that included a roller coaster of emotions and activity. On Tuesday morning, September 6, four days after writing my last newsletter, Trudy went in for her regularly scheduled OB/GYN appointment. A blood pressure check at the beginning of her appointment came back with a very high blood pressure reading. It became clear pretty quickly, due to some other tests and symptoms, that Trudy had developed [preeclampsia](#). She called me at the office and said she was being admitted to the hospital and that likely she would be induced in a day or so. But, by the time I got to the hospital Trudy was already being induced. The rush to being induced was primarily due to Trudy's very high blood pressure level.

As you can imagine, there were a lot of emotions and concerns for Trudy and me. A major concern for Trudy was whether she would need to deliver the baby through C-section. None of our other children were born via C-section, but due to the severity of Trudy's preeclampsia, that was a real possibility. Trudy doesn't like needles and therefore especially doesn't like the idea of a needle in her spine. ☺ Fortunately, Trudy didn't require a C-section. The Pitocin they gave her to induce labor and Trudy's natural labor instincts kicked in and that night

Eleanor buckled up for her first time outside of the hospital walls and for her ride home!

Eleanor Josephine Kulas was born. She was born at 9:37 pm, weighed 4 pounds and 15.9 ounces, and was 18 inches long. Eleanor was born at 34 weeks LMP age (about 32 weeks from fertilization), six weeks prior to her due date of October 15.

Some pro-choice advocates will argue women should have the right to abortion at Eleanor's age and even after that—all the way until the last day of pregnancy. Trudy and I recently said how bizarre and crazy that perspective is. It seems even more so if you have ever held a child at that early age. They are so precious—no matter the age!

Eleanor's early arrival into the BORN COMMUNITY landed her an extended stay in the hospital, a total of 24 days! Overall, Eleanor has been very healthy for a premature child. She did have several episodes of [Apnea of Prematurity](#) while in the hospital. It is a condition where the infant stops breathing for 15-20 seconds during sleep and their heart rate drops. This is a very common condition for premature children, but is nerve-racking for parents.

Nursing Eleanor has been difficult, too, as premature children are not ready for nursing. In Eleanor's case she did have the stamina to nurse and mainly was fed through a feeding tube until 2 weeks after her delivery. So Trudy came to the hospital about 4-5 times each day to nurse, hang out with, and hold Eleanor. Each time she left, she left without Eleanor! That was difficult. Trudy noted that she probably came and left Eleanor about 100 times in those 24 days! All of these experiences helped us trust in God more and helped us learn about patience.

We are thankful for everyone who prayed for Trudy, Eleanor, and our family. Here are a few other prayer needs:

- That Eleanor would maintain and gain weight
- That Eleanor would not have any more Apnea of Prematurity episodes
- That Trudy would heal completely from the delivery
- That Trudy's blood pressure would stay at a healthy level and her doctors would prescribe the best course of action for her
- That our two youngest boys, Lincoln & Augustine, would be careful & gentle around Eleanor

In Christ,

Paul G. Kulas