



The Smith Family

Church planting in
Argentina



Dear Praying Friends,

August 1, 2010

To say that a lot has happened since our last letter would be an understatement! We have spent **39 days in the hospital**, but not all because of Joel.

I do apologize for our lapse in communication, especially to those who receive letters by mail and cannot keep up with us on our blog, Facebook, or Twitter. I will work harder in the future to make sure the emails and letters go out at least once a month like they had before. Your prayers mean so much to us!

I have no doubt that your prayers have made a difference in our lives, especially the life of our little Joel. Joel celebrated his **2nd birthday on July 2nd!** Now 6 months after learning his diagnosis, it is hard to imagine that one fourth of his life has been spent dealing with kidney cancer.

All the doctors and nurses are impressed with how well he has responded to his chemo and radiation treatments. Considering the circumstances, he has excelled in the areas of diet and delays. Most kids in similar circumstances need a feeding tube 2 weeks into treatment. The doctors did not suggest one for Joel until week 16. He only needed it for a few weeks until we found a toddler formula to add to his milk.



Many children battle with infections and low counts that cause multiple delays in treatment. Joel has only had one delay during 25 weeks of the 31 week treatment program and is now on the home stretch, with just 6 weeks remaining. He **goes in tomorrow for a 4 day hospital stay.** *We request special prayer that he does not develop a fever after this treatment and that his counts bounce back quickly so that there will be no delay.*

I thank you for your prayers for Jennifer. She tried to give me a couple of heart attacks, but, thankfully was unsuccessful! Twice towards the end of June while Jennifer was with Joel in the Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt and I was hours away in meetings, she *herself* had to be taken to the Labor and Delivery Unit of Vanderbilt to be monitored. Once, it was because **she fell directly on her belly!** (Everything was fine.)

Naturally, for the month of July, I stayed closer to home and helped her to rest, taking caring of Joel and going to all his hospital appointments and treatments. Our **support level is 44%**. Though I did not travel as far or as often, July provided a very special, unexpected adventure. On Thursday afternoon, July 22, I took Jennifer to her week 37 OB appointment and she was admitted. Early the next morning at **12:46 AM, January 23rd, Amelia Ruth Smith was born measuring 20.5 inches and weighing 9 pounds!** That's right! Three weeks early and NINE pounds! We thank the Lord for a beautiful and healthy baby girl! *Please pray that we all (especially Joel) adjust well to having this new addition to our family.* Thank you for your prayers and support.



Keep in touch through the month: Via facebook, twitter, our blog, website & email!

The Smith Family *Joshua, Jennifer, Joel, & Amelia*



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