

## 9 Pounds 8 Ounces

When Brent and I realized that we were going to have another baby, we immediately started to search for midwives in the area. We found Brenda. She was perfect for us. Brenda was also expecting a child about a month before I was due and planned for her own home birth. Brenda already had another client who was due about two weeks after me. She was confident that this would not be a problem. In her many years of being a midwife, she never had to miss a birth. My due date came and went. I was ready for the baby to come sooner... not later, as I believe almost all women would agree who have been overdue. I felt as if I had swallowed a bowling ball.

I was thirteen days overdue when I finally felt contractions. While waiting on our new arrival, we worked to improve our new home, but had not moved into it yet. My husband and his brother were digging a ditch for the sewer pipe that needed to be replaced. Stepping out for a bite to eat, I noticed contractions and started timing them. They were about five minutes apart. I went back to the house and shared the news. With an hour's drive ahead of us, we left quickly.

Brent, Roman and I hopped in the truck and headed back to our apartment. The bouncy ride made me think that the trip was never going to end. As my contractions intensified, I remember holding very tightly to the hand grip above my window. Finally reaching the apartment, I called Brenda. She wanted to know the time between the contractions. They were at about three minutes apart. Brenda lived about an hour away. She said that she would be there soon. Unaware of the excitement about to unfold, Roman went to sleep.

When Brenda arrived, she brought one of her older daughters to watch her own newborn and her apprentice. The newborn would need fed at some point. Brenda watched to see how much I was struggling through the contractions. She said I was doing a good job. She was surprised that I could talk on the phone as

well as what I had. I sat, stood, walked, and leaned on furniture and walls as I desired.

My water never broke. Brenda asked if I wanted her to break my water or if I wanted to wait for it to be broken naturally. She said that once the water broke, I could start pushing for the baby. I was surprised that I wasn't in more pain! Yes, it hurt, but it was nothing like the first time. Yes, please! Let's get on with it! I was grateful for the ice chips and reminders to breathe. After pushing enough to have the head, we paused for a moment. The shoulders just barely emerged. Brenda told me to reach down and get my baby. "What!?!"

I followed instructions. I bent over a bit and grabbed the baby under the armpits. It was kicking my insides like crazy. I pulled him right up to me. What an awesome moment! Brenda said he was a big baby and the scale agreed. It's no wonder that I felt like I was carrying a bowling ball. He was 9 pounds and 8 ounces. Yikes! God was with me. There were no problems, medication, or machines.

Shortly thereafter, as we were recovering and Brenda's group was preparing to leave, Brenda said, "Well, that worked out just right."

I wondered what she meant so she explained. Brenda got a call from her other client who was expecting her first child saying that she was in labor. The timing of this client's contractions was monitored while the apprentice traveled to Brenda's home. While waiting for the apprentice to arrive, I called saying I was in labor. Because it was my second child and my contractions were closer together, the decision was made to come to me first.

While sharing this information, it occurred to me that Brenda never once told me that I should have the water broken to speed up the delivery. She mentioned it as

a possibility if I wanted to start the delivery process. She did not tell me of the other client in labor until I was resting and they were ready to go. Brenda was not done with her work. She was heading straight to the home of the other expectant mother.

Welcome to the world little Isaiah.

God's timing was, is, and always will be perfect.