



The Hamley Herald

Special Edition

January 27, 2011



WELCOME BABY ANDREW!

It has been an exciting week for us, and we have once again witnessed God's faithfulness through some current major life changes. Carrie's father Paul arrived in Belgium on Saturday and was whisked away to France straight from the airport for a day of last-minute shopping. We knew from the doctor's appointment the day before that our son was well on his way, and that it would be our last weekend of "freedom" before his arrival. If he didn't arrive by Tuesday January 25, the plan was to induce labor, fearing that if he was any later, he would be too large to deliver naturally.

Carrie was thrilled to find herself in labor Monday through the night. By the time we arrived at the hospital at the scheduled time on Tuesday to be induced, labor was already well underway!

The hours leading up to delivery were quite pleasant, (that is, AFTER the epidural was administered), and after eight short minutes in the delivery room, we had our baby snug in our arms. Andrew Ryan Hamley arrived into this world on Tuesday, January 25 at 6:28 p.m., weighing in at a surprisingly light 7 lbs., 3 oz., and measuring 19 5/8 inches. And there was much rejoicing!



Andrew bonds with his new teddy bear

What's in a Name

Naming a child is often one of the most challenging tasks new parents are faced with. In Bible times, when God sent a special little boy, He often sent an angel to reveal his name. We knew that we had also been given

a special little boy, but after waiting for our angel for many months, we finally had to take on the task of naming our baby sans divine intervention!

Andrew's middle name, Ryan, was not much of a challenge. After losing fellow missionary and friend Ryan Bartlett to a car crash in Malawi weeks after losing our first baby in December of 2008, we knew that we wanted to honor his memory and legacy of kingdom service, sacrifice, and missions. We are proud for our son to bear Ryan's name and hope that his passion for the Lord and for the lost mirrors that of Ryan's.

We chose the name Andrew after one of the "unsung" disciples. Andrew was Peter's brother, a humble fisherman who faithfully served and followed Jesus while managing to stay out of the spotlight as much as possible. Though he didn't do anything especially noteworthy like walking on water, betraying Jesus, doubting, raising the dead, or writing a book of the Bible, Andrew is the one who brought his brother Peter to Jesus, left his nets which were teeming with fish on the beach and followed after Jesus while never looking back.

Getting Settled

While I, Carrie, write this very special edition of the "Hamley Herald" from my hospital bed, an army of volunteers (plus Michael and my father) are moving us into our new home. We are overwhelmed with the amount of volunteers that came forward to help (10 or more), especially since it is a weekday morning. The weather has also decided to cooperate—it is the first bright and sunny day we've had here in weeks! If all goes well, Andrew and I will walk to our new home from the hospital when we are discharged on Sunday morning. Here, the average hospital stay might be long (6 days minimum), but at least we are being well cared for. I try to convince myself that it is like being on a cruise: I have a balcony "suite," they feed me 3+ meals a day, are at my every beck and call, provide an optional exercise program and I have plenty of time to rest and relax and catch up on my reading (if not my tan). If only there were a midnight buffet!

All in all, the delivery couldn't have gone much smoother, and Andrew is proving to have a mellow temperament and easygoing attitude, for which we are grateful and hope that it continues.

Thank you for your many hours of prayers that went into the conception, pregnancy, and delivery of our special little gift from God. We look forward to showing him off to as many of you as possible in the fall. Until then, keep the prayers coming!



The baby formerly known as "Frijolín" cuddles with daddy

Praises

- For Andrew Ryan's smooth, safe arrival!
- For health for both Andrew and Carrie.
- For an excellent English-speaking hospital staff.
- For all of the love, support, and visitors from our new church family. No one at the hospital can believe how many friends we have for only having lived in Belgium for 7 weeks!
- After today we *should* have internet at home!
- For a house to call our home to bring Andrew home from the hospital to.
- For our friends Sandra and Roger who also recently had a baby and are doing well.



Andrew and Grandpa Paul

Prayers

- For Michael as he has had to take on a LOT of extra responsibilities while I am in the hospital including transitioning and setting up our entire household, starting Dutch classes, and taking care of all of the paperwork at city hall to get Andrew registered.
- We have until Monday to get our car title switched over from Spain, or the insurance will run out and we will not be able to drive it anymore. The title just (finally) arrived from Spain, and on top of everything else, Michael has to literally run all over Belgium to collect the proper documents to be able to get it registered.
- That amidst all his running, Michael will be able to see and spend time with his son. (He's seen him for only a few short hours over the last 2 days, and all he really wants to do is spend time with us and bond as a family!)



"Isn't he the sweetest thing you ever did see?"

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"I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of Him."

--1 Samuel 1:27