



THE VAN ZANDT FAMILY

Church Planters to Rhome, Texas

Love God. Reach People. Send Laborers.

The birth of our precious son, Silas, has been another area of added praise in our lives and ministry. However, his birth has brought many new prayer requests as well. In the week before Silas was born, Caryssa had her 36 week check up appointment. This appointment revealed that there would possibly be serious complications with Silas' bowels inside the womb. With that being said the Doctor decided to change the location of his delivery to ensure that Silas would receive the best care upon his arrival. In God's great timing, Silas was born just two days later on June 19, 2021.

Just minutes after he was born, with Caryssa only having held him for a moment, the nurses had to take Silas because of the enlargement of his abdomen and bowels. They immediately administered a suction tube into his stomach to relieve the pressure that was obviously effecting him. He was then carted off to the NICU where he has been residing for 7 weeks now.

Silas has since been diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis (like our daughter) and has had two surgeries: the first at 5 days old and the second at 6 weeks old. In the first surgery they removed the blockage that caused the swelling of his abdomen. They also removed a portion of his bowels due to the damage the blockage caused. He was left with an ostomy bag for 5 weeks to heal before the second surgery. In the second surgery, the surgeon removed another portion of his bowels that developed scar tissue that prevented him from tolerating any feeds for a couple of weeks prior to the surgery. Silas is now in recovery. He has quickly shown signs of proper bowel function and healing. The next step is for him to begin to eat and tolerate feedings regularly so that we can get him home where he belongs!

Caryssa and I would have never thought that we would become NICU parents. It has been a physically and emotionally draining experience as we have tried to balance life with moving, daily hospital visits, and preparation for the church plant. However, the Lord has used this time not only to deepen our faith and love for Him, but also for us to be a light in such a dark place like the NICU. We are thankful for His promise to be strong in our weakness, and His mercy in giving such broken vessels the opportunity to be used for His glory.

As our house has taken shape to become our home, contracts have been drawn for the meeting place, and Silas has rounded the corner, we are looking forward with anticipation for how the Lord will continue to work and bless!

Again, we are so thankful to our Mighty God for His goodness in the lives of people such as us, and we are thankful for faithful friends and fellow servants in the ministry that He has used to pray for and encourage us in this time!

Please continue to pray for the closing contracts for the lease of the meeting place, as well as for the continued healing and proper functioning of Silas' bowels so that he can come home before August 19 (his 2 month birthday).

ANSWERED PRAYERS

Housing

The house exceeds our expectations!

1

Building

The meeting place is a gift from God!

2

Meetings

The Lord has still opened doors at Churches!

3

Silas Is Here

Silas was born in June!

4

Finances

The Lord has met our every need!

5



Contact

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Sending Church

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Missions Agency

IBFI Missions

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