

# Manthe Messenger

September 2008

Issue 05-05

Dear Friends and Family,

He's here! After 41 weeks, Deacon Charles Manthe has finally arrived. On September 9, 2008 just after 10:00 a.m. we welcomed a healthy 23.25", 10 lb. 15.7 oz. baby!

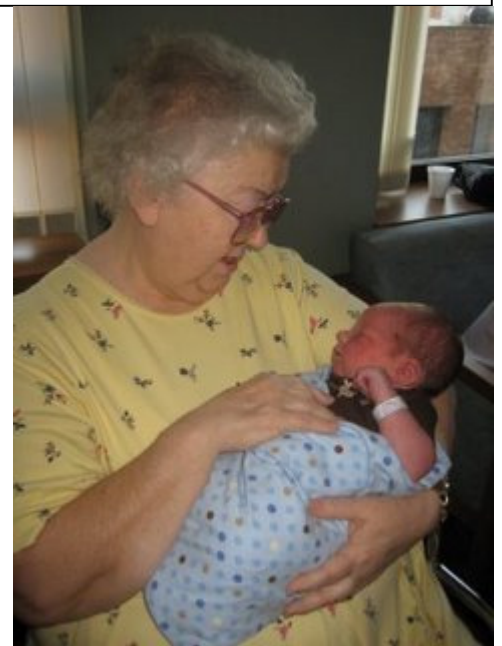
We're so thankful that Deacon's delivery was an all-around wonderful experience. The Lord really put everything in place for a healthy, happy pregnancy and delivery. After all of our packing and relocating so close to delivery, we could have run into a lot of problems with insurance, doctors, and the health of both the baby and I. One huge blessing was that Josh reconnected with one of his friends from high school who just happened to work for the State of Kansas SRS, and she immediately went to work setting us up with wonderful health insurance that completely covered Deacon's delivery.

I was able to have the same doctor who delivered Mackenzie 4 years ago, so that really eased any tension that we may have had from moving back to Kansas so close to delivery. In fact, we were in the same hospital with the same labor & delivery nurse that we had 4 years ago too.

In addition to most of Josh's family being here, my folks were able to fly in from NJ to celebrate Deacon's arrival with us. My mom, determined to get my labor going, took me shopping to keep me walking around. She and Josh's mom were wonderful company for us in the delivery room. They took great care of me. Meanwhile, my dad was on Mackenzie and Bella duty and had a great time entertaining them. This included a number of Memory matches (most of which Mackenzie won!).

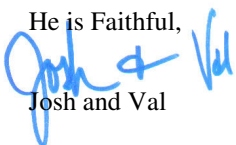
As far as labor and delivery goes, we were unsure of what games Deacon was playing with us for a few days. We had one false alarm that resulted in getting sent home from the hospital in the middle of the night. It's no fun going into the hospital happy and ready to meet your baby, only to get sent home with empty arms. A few days later, one week after my due date and after countless, non-efficient contractions, we proceeded with the scheduled induction. This was my first experience with the (wonderful) (amazing) (fantastic) epidural. Needless to say, it was a big factor in making my delivery a wonderful experience. Once everything was moving with my labor, it was just a few hours before we got to meet our big boy. We are falling in love with him more every day and thank the Lord daily for another beautiful child. Speaking of which, Mackenzie and Bella are thrilled to have a baby brother. They are constantly giving him kisses and asking to hold him. Bella shows immediate concern when Deacon starts crying and Mackenzie is such a wonderful little helper for me.

If you are wondering about his name, here's the story. In high school, Josh had to miss basketball practice because he wanted to go to church. One of his coaches took the opportunity to give him the nickname Deacon. This nickname stuck with Josh all through high school and college, and even today his brothers and friends call him Deacon. We were excited to pass along this name to our first son. Deacon's middle name, Charles, is a family name from both sides. However, our son's middle name is honoring Josh's grandpa who just passed away last December. Josh was very close to Papa and wishes he were here to meet his namesake, but was thrilled to name our son after him. Pictured below, far right, is Grammy, Papa's Widow.



Thank you so much for the thoughts and prayers over the last months. There have been so many obstacles from working through health insurance issues to making traveling plans for furlough. This would not have been as great of an experience without knowing all of you are behind us. We are so blessed by all of you who have chosen to be a part of the ministry God has called us to and the family he has given us. Thanks for your continuous support. We appreciate you all!

He is Faithful,

  
Josh and Val

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