



It's 6 AM on Thanksgiving, I'm on my hands and knees on the bathroom floor. It's been nine hours since the contractions started.

"Baby, let's GOOOO! Please call the doctor and tell them we're coooooming."

We get in the car and head to the hospital a few miles away. "Oh Lord, please don't let them send me home." If a pregnant woman isn't dilated enough the hospitals can send them home until she's further along.

"Lots of babies are coming today." The nurse says at checkin. "Wait in the lobby until we can admit you into triage." This is when it starts getting really uncomfortable. No position are helpful. We wait for twenty minutes until a triage room opens up. (The longest twenty minutes of my life!) "Oh please let me be dilated enough." I groan to the nurse.

"Is seven centimeters enough?" She laughs. "You're really far along. You'll get to ten centimeters and have this baby in about four hours."

Through the pain I smile at Miles. I'm wheeled into our delivery room and given meds to help. The pain melts away and I have some of the best sleep I've had nine months.

The medicine begins to wear off and I wake up and try to push. I'm dilated fully at ten centimeters but no baby yet. A few hours later I try to push again. Nothing. The doctor breaks my water and I try to push again for another twenty minutes. Nothing. Penelope's head barley moves.

It's been almost 28 hours and I'm exhausted, frustrated, worried. Miles asks for the doctor to be called in again.

Within minutes the room is filled with doctors, nurses, assistances. "We're going to have to assist this baby with forceps." The doctor says. Then the real pain shocks me. Miles pulls her head out but her shoulders wont fit. She's stuck. Her right arm is broken as she's pulled out.

It's 6:30 AM on Friday the 27th of November and my precious 9.3 pound baby is laid on my chest.



Ashley, Miles & Baby Penelope



PENELOPE STAYED IN THE ROOM WITH US FOR AN HOUR, BUT BECAUSE OF THE BROKEN HUMERUS BONE SHE WAS TAKEN TO NICU.

SHE STAYED IN THERE FOR FOUR DAYS. LEAVING THE HOSPITAL WITHOUT HER WAS HEARTBREAKING.

I STOOD OUTSIDE HER NICU WINDOW AND WEPT IN MILES' ARMS.

IT'S BEEN ONE MONTH NOW AND SHE'S COMPLETELY HEALED. SHE'S MOVING BOTH ARMS AND ACTS LIKE THE BREAK NEVER HAPPENED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS DURING ONE OF THE HARDEST TIMES IN MY LIFE.

OUR WHIRLWIND BOARD VOTED TO COVER PENELOPE'S HEALTH INSURANCE. THIS WILL BE \$123 A MONTH.

IF ANYONE FEELS LED TO GIVE ABOVE AND BEYOND IN 2016 TO HELP OUR NEW MISSIONARY IT WILL MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.