

Our Dear Eastmont Church family,

On Tuesday afternoon, while at our ultrasound appointment, Jenn and I heard some news that has changed our lives forever. It was revealed to us that our sweet baby Jayden has a form of dwarfism. In looking at the pictures our baby girl has arms and legs that are growing much too slow, falling 8 weeks behind in measurement. Though this is hard news to hear, the harder news to bear is the fact that her chest cavity is also much too small, fearing that her lungs have not fully formed to be able to sustain life on her own. Upon consultation with our doctor, we were sent to a specialist in Eugene to do some more testing to see a little more clearly what is going on with our baby daughter.

While in constant prayer, we know that God has us, and especially Jayden, in His hands. When we arrived at the doctor's office in Eugene on Thursday, the initial consultation pointed to the direction that Jayden probably had the type of dwarfism that develops no lung tissue to be able to survive after birth. Of course we were devastated by the news. Words cannot express the feelings that I felt at that moment. The genetic specialty clinic still had to do some testing to look exactly at her tiny body. Upon doing more searching around, they DO see some lung tissue. Praise God. There is hope! Is it enough to sustain life, they just don't know... but there is still something there. Now what? It now all comes down to what happens at the moment when Jayden enters the world. Will she be able to take a breath? Will there be a cry? That is what we are going to be waiting for. And so we wait... pray... and trust.

We are sorry that we are not able to share this news in person... Its hard enough writing it down in a letter. Right now we are surrounded by our families, finding strength and peace from loved ones, and especially our God. We are unsure as to how the journey is going to continue, but what we do know is that God, in His abundance of mercy, love, and grace, knows exactly what is going on. There are times of break downs, falling to our knees in tears and agony, but also balanced with times of complete peace and security, resting in the presence of our Heavenly Father. There are questions as to why this is happening, and all we can do is turn to Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not depend on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths."

So here is what we are asking our Family of God to do. Pray! Pray for Jayden, that if it is God's will, that she be able to sustain life on her own. Pray for peace and a whole lot of strength for Jenn and I (and our families) as we are waiting on pins and needles for the arrival of our sweet baby Jayden. A time of excitement and pure joy has been turned upside down to a time of uncertainty and anxiety. But we hand that over to God. Pray for understanding no matter what the outcome. We are scared, but desire God to be glorified in all aspects of this journey. We love you all and draw upon your support and strength to make it through. We cannot think of a better church family with whom to go through this journey!

I leave you with these words from Romans 8:38-39 "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angles, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor power, nor height, no depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Chris Charon – Friday May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Dear Eastmont Family,

I write this letter from a mother's heart. My heart is heavy, but I have hope.

I believe God makes NO mistakes when He creates us in His image, or when He gives us our names. Our daughter's name was picked out by God Himself, before He created the earth. He knew that Chris and I would be her parents. Jayden's name means "Jehovah has heard and answered." Since the day I found out I was pregnant I have called her "Our miracle baby" and as her mom, I will continue to say so as I pray for a miracle, but also for God's will. As a believer, I have come to realize that peace is the absence of fear and turmoil NOT the absence of pain and grief.

On Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, we went to see a specialist at Sacred Heart in Eugene. The first diagnosis for Jayden left me speechless, breathless, and confused, wondering what happened. I felt as though I could not find God, much less hear him. Our hope became hopeless. I stepped out of the room to try and catch my breath before the ultrasound and pleaded for some hope, pleaded for a miracle, and felt as though my request was falling on deaf ears. I felt as though they told me that my dreams of being a mom were cut off. My heart hurts so bad, I could hardly breathe. Then I realized God had not lost me. I felt the tangible touch of the Spirit as Chris, Dan, Jenn, and I were crying the room together, embraced in a family huddle. To God's glory, as we met with the doctor after the ultrasound, I, as her mother, left with some hope. I left the first room hopeless, but that has changed as I left the second room. I realize that God was not done writing her story.

Over the last few days there have been many breakdowns, but in our moments of intense grief and despair, God's throne has become a rocking chair for us as he has quieted Chris and I with His love. He has held us close to His heart as He has soothed our emotions, our spiritual knees from bleeding, and calmed our fears as they were raging.

It is so hard not knowing if God will restore my daughter to me, or if He will open my hands as I lay my daughter in His arms in complete surrender. In these dark moments as I surrender my daughter to His hands, she kicks in joyful surrender. Either way, I desire to be in complete surrender to His will because I know that is the only way I will truly be at peace. He makes NO mistakes in writing our stories for His glory.

Pray unceasingly for her lungs to sustain life and more than that, that God's will would be done, and that Jayden's life would have eternal kingdom profit. Pray for Chris and I to be loosed from the fear of labor.

Thank you for walking this journey with us, and helping bear the burden. We love you.

Jenn Charon - Friday May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010