

2005

The Year of Baby Flynn

35 years in the making and worth the wait!

As most all of you know, the focus of this year has been on the expectation and arrival of our son, Logan Carl Flynn (a/k/a “Baby Flynn” as he was known during pregnancy). It’s been a year of answered prayers & blessings, thankfulness & joy, delight & laughter, growth & development, and amazement & wonder (as well as feedings, diaper changes, clothing changes, laundry, spitting up, more laundry, etc.!).

The expectation: In January we had our big ultrasound (it was like watching *Baby Anatomy 101*), which showed most all of Baby Flynn from brain to legs. We didn’t want to know the sex of the baby; all we wanted was a healthy baby with all of his/her parts. As spring progressed, Chantal delighted in steadily outgrowing her clothes and gaining weight (she called herself “the happiest expanding pregnant woman anyone had ever seen”). In April we took a wonderful series of childbirth and baby care classes through our hospital. We were extremely blessed with four baby showers during April and May (given by University Church of Christ, Carl’s departments, our families, and Chantal’s departments, respectively). Chantal resigned from her position as Office Manager of the Seaver College Career Center and Volunteer Center on May 13, in order to take care of Baby Flynn full-time. She was given a lovely farewell reception attended by a large and very diverse group of friends from across the university. She spent the next few weeks sorting through baby gifts, writing thank you notes, and doing loads and loads of “wash before first use” laundry. We made the decision to make half of our bedroom into Baby Flynn’s nursery (decorated with a little bit of Classic Pooh), since our second bedroom is bursting at the seams in its role as the office and storage. After 9-10 months of deeply loving this little person who we’d never met and oh-so looking forward to seeing him/her face-to-face, all that was left to do was to wait in eager and anxious anticipation for Baby Flynn’s arrival, especially once the June 3 due date came and went (at which point we began hoping and praying that Baby Flynn would check out of his/her all-inclusive resort willingly and not be evicted by way of induction).

The arrival: On June 8 – Chantal’s 35th birthday – after a fast and furious labor (about 4 1/2 hours from first contraction to delivery), our beautiful baby boy, Logan Carl Flynn, was born. What an answer to prayer! A healthy baby with all of his parts! Chantal labored and delivered without any pain medication, and it was an amazing experience. Carl was present throughout the entire labor and delivery, and cut the umbilical cord. He was an amazing birth partner. Chantal couldn’t have done it without him and the wonderful Labor and Delivery nurses. Most of our family, including all of Logan’s grandparents and his great-grandma, were able to see him within hours of birth. We were blessed by several friends who visited us in the hospital and provided meals for us once we were home. We did experience a bit of medical drama, however. Chantal hemorrhaged after Logan was born and fainted several times. It took an overnight IV to get the bleeding under control. In addition, just hours after we were discharged from the hospital, we called 911 because Logan appeared to stop breathing and was unresponsive. He was okay by the time the paramedics arrived. A precautionary trip to the ER – Chantal and Logan’s first ambulance ride – revealed nothing abnormal. We really don’t know what happened, but it scared us to death. Chantal’s Mama visited with us for the first few days following Logan’s birth, and Carl was able to take two weeks off of work. Those two weeks were a wonderful time for us to be together as a new family. As you can see from our address label and stationery, Logan is adorable and an absolute delight – a little extravert with lots and lots of smiles and an infectious laugh who is happy most all the time. He’s also a champion breast-feeder (another answer to prayer) with chunky Michelin tire thighs. Chantal even bought him an “I’m a breast man” t-shirt! Logan loves his bouncy seat, his activity gym, bathtime, his stuffed Nemo, doing the Hokey Pokey, and playing with his feet. He does well in the car, and falls asleep during most rides. He’s rolling over, and has recently added rice cereal—which he likes—to his diet. Logan brings indescribable joy and love into our lives and hearts. We are so thankful for the blessing he is to us. We realize that we have the awesome responsibility of raising our baby boy into a young man. It is a responsibility that we take very seriously, and with God’s help we are committed to doing it to the best of our ability.

Chantal had an absolutely glorious pregnancy, for which we are extremely thankful. She wasn’t sick, wasn’t tired, didn’t miss any work, and wasn’t uncomfortable or complaining as the pregnancy came to an end. She loves being Logan’s mommy and his full-time caretaker. She says it’s the hardest job she’s ever done, but he’s the best thing she’s ever done, so it all works out. She also loves referring to Carl and Logan as



“my boys”. She continues to be challenged by trying to juggle taking care of Logan with doing the household chores, running errands, etc., and tries not to get frustrated with herself when things don't get done exactly as she'd like. She participates in a weekly women's Community Bible Study, and attended a great “Baby and Me” class with Logan this fall (the class sang songs and played with their babies, and shared bits of parenting wisdom and advice with each other). She's recently become involved with Conejo Valley Moms, a community group that offers playgroups and various outings for babies and their moms. One additional bit of medical drama: Chantal was diagnosed with a pretty serious staph infection in October (MRSA, for those of you in the medical profession) that required some on-going medical treatment. Carl pitched in and acted as medical assistant, and Chantal seems to have recovered from it.

Carl loves being Logan's daddy, and looks forward to each new day with him. From the beginning, Carl has wholeheartedly shared in diaper changing, burping, bathing, singing, reading, playing, and parenting in general. He was able to accompany Chantal to each of her doctor appointments during pregnancy, and has been able to go to each of Logan's well-baby check-ups so far. On the weekends he pretty much takes over caring for Logan (except for breastfeeding!) in order to give Chantal a break. In February he transitioned from Communication Specialist to Director of Student Administrative Services within his department at Pepperdine. In the spring he also taught a section of “Christianity and Culture”, and this fall he's taught a First Year Seminar on Christian Spirituality. He continues to play in a community volleyball league with his Notorious D.I.G. teammates, and played Ultimate Frisbee throughout the summer with a group at Pepperdine. While Carl serves at Pepperdine, he continues his vocational journey. He loves teaching, technology, and visual design, and seeks God's wisdom to discern a creative way to employ these three passions.

Etc. As if the expectation and arrival of Baby Flynn weren't enough to keep us busy, we also managed to cram some other events and activities into our lives. We attended the Campus Ministry spring retreat in January, and in February we attended Pepperdine's Homecoming and participated in the Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's L.A. Race for the Cure. We both participated once again in Pepperdine's Faculty/Staff/Alumni Songfest group in March. This time Carl appeared on-stage and Chantal – 7 months pregnant – faithfully attended each rehearsal and performance, and helped out behind the scenes. She made a “Baby's First Songfest” shirt, which she wore to the final performances, and was honored by receiving the Director's Award for the group. Carl officiated at the funeral of his stepmom Deb's mother, Joanie Russell, in January. He also officiated at the wedding of his brother Sean to Chevonne Brandon in April; Chantal served as co-guest book attendant. We attended Pepperdine's Lectureship and the annual California Strawberry Festival in May, as well as a handful of friends' weddings. We had Logan's baby blessing at University Church of Christ in late September, and most of our family was able to come for the occasion. In October, Chantal's lifelong best friend from Michigan, Jenni Irish Minewiser, and her family came to visit (their baby boy, Nolan, was born 6 weeks after Logan, so it was a special time for us to meet each other's little ones). We made the bittersweet decision to place membership at Conejo Valley Church of Christ here in Thousand Oaks in November, after years of worshipping with University Church of Christ at Pepperdine. The Conejo church is about 5 minutes from us, and it feels like the right decision for our family at this time in our lives. In Flynn Family news, Carl's brother Eric and his family recently moved to Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Since Logan's birth, we've done our fair share of traveling. Logan met Mickey Mouse at Disneyland in July, at the tender age of 7 1/2 weeks (Carl's dad & stepmom treated the whole family to a weekend at Disneyland in celebration of Dad's birthday). We traveled to Palm Springs in August to see Chantal's Mama and to introduce Logan to friends there. Chantal's Mama joined us as we made our annual pilgrimage to Lake Havasu for Labor Day weekend to celebrate our niece Carlene's birthday. In October we traveled to Las Vegas (courtesy of Carl's dad & stepmom again, who treated the family to a weekend there in celebration of Carl's stepmom Deb's 50th birthday). While in Las Vegas, we also visited with Carl's childhood friend Richard Blalock and his family. We traveled to Lake Havasu again in November to spend a restful Thanksgiving with most of Carl's family and Chantal's Mama.

Logan was 6 months old on December 8 (where has the time gone?), and on December 12 we celebrated our 13th wedding anniversary. We are very much looking forward to Logan's first Christmas, and hope that you & your family have a blessed holiday season.

“The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace.” (Numbers 6:24-26)

Love,

Carl, Chantal & Logan

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