

Update from Levi and Robyn Lenz:



Today (September 5, 2014) we celebrated the birth of our precious daughter, Elizabeth Grace Lenz. Born only 14 weeks into her little life and not viable to be sustained here in this world. So it is with great sadness in our hearts to also have this special day marked with such grief as we buried our precious daughter here in Ambang. She was born at 1 ¼ (5cm) inches and I would estimate she was about ½ oz.



We realize that we have been so blessed in this tragic occasion to have actually been given the gift of seeing and holding our little one at such an early stage. The fact that we were able to lay her to rest is an absolute miracle that God has given our family as the procedure that resulted in finding her by our surgeon, still fully secure inside of her little home which was still intact was just an absolute blessing to us and miracle. The surgeon graciously broke the water and gave Levi his daughter in a little cup. She was fully formed, little

fingers, toes, hands arms, eyes, ears, nose and mouth. Just far too tiny to obviously survive outside of my womb. The surgeon said that it appears that she may have stopped growing about 2 weeks ago by her size and form at about 11 or 12 weeks.

Our precious Elizabeth Grace Lenz was born around 12:15pm, Friday, September 5, 2014 into this world, knowing that she was already being held by her Heavenly Father's loving hands. We chose the name Elizabeth in honor of my beloved friend and grandma Elizabeth Ann (Dye) Allen who knows oh so personally the sorrow of losing loved ones on the foreign mission field, and Grace as we know it is only by His Grace that we stand and will walk through this. God blessed us with being able to actually hold and see our precious 14 week old baby girl and also have the opportunity to bury her here in Wahgi. We are deeply mourning our loss though at the same time, we cannot praise God enough for giving us this very rare gift of being able to hold and actually see how perfectly formed she already was; all 10 fingers, beautiful little face, ears, eyes, nose, mouth and tiny toes. There are so many small and huge ways that the Lord showed Himself very personally to us through this time and I have shared in more detail in our more detailed story for those that would like to walk in this journey with us in a more personal way.

For those that would like to have our full story, we would be happy to share our journey of grief and faith with you. But for many we realize the details may be too much and so we want to respect you as well. Which is why we will keep this as brief as I am able.

As we drove back from the hospital, I thought about what we might have that would be suitable to bury her in. God brought to mind the 2 little jewelry boxes that I have that have Willow Tree carvings on the lids. One of them is of a mother holding her child and the inside has a special message engraved, "Treasuring the Quiet Moments of Motherhood." We chose this as her little special box.



We took time to capture the memories through pictures and then before sharing with the boys, Rachel, our dear friend and co-worker, took some gorgeous family photos (First and Last of all 6 of us).



We then shared with the boys of their baby sister's loss and wept together before burying her privately.

We had dear friends drive up from Goroka to be with us and provide a warm homemade meal. They brought along a gift from another dear friend who had baked little Birthday

cupcakes with pink candles for us to celebrate our daughter's birthday together. (Palmer's, Emery's and Simmonds- a mere Thank you will never be enough!)

And to ALL of you, each and every one! For your prayers, your e-mails, texts, skype calls, postings, outpouring of love!!!! Thank You!!! We are so thankful for the amazing, loving, family of God that He has surrounded us with when we are so far away from our own physical families. God is amazing. It did our parents hearts good to hear that we have been mightily cared for on this side of the ocean. Our Kudjip Nazarene friends made our experience bearable, as they took time to pray, bring food, gifts of love and just compassion and care!!! I can't ever imagine this would happen in a formal stateside hospital and may have never been granted the gift of my little girl's body to care for and lay to rest! Our Heavenly Father is just phenomenal!

"Blessed Be His Name! He gives and takes away, still my heart will choose to say, Blessed Be His Name, JESUS!"

I really encourage you to request our full story because you will read how God moved in our lives through this whole ordeal and read how the Spirit of God moved in my heart during my D&C procedure to actually sing this very song, while I was in complete dream-state under sedation!

We cannot Sing Praises enough for the mighty Army and Loving Family that we have in the Lord Jesus! And even more, for His Love and Grace that He gives in our hour and minute of need!

Thank You for your love & prayers!

Clinging to His Grip,

Robyn for Levi, Michael, Daniel, Matthew & Elizabeth Grace Lenz