

Revival & REFORMATION

The Official *United in Prayer* Weekly Blog and World Church Prayer Requests
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Baby Miracle!

By Neelam Daryl Joshua

We wanted a baby. After two years of marriage, I told my husband, Daryl, "We're haven't had a baby. Let's ask the doctor why." Daryl agreed, although he didn't want to go. At the hospital, we spoke with the physician. "I'm not able to conceive," I told her. "Can you help us?"

She agreed to help us, but Daryl said, "You know, we haven't prayed about this. True, it has been two years, but I would like to pray first and then come back."

The physician asked how long we wanted to pray. Daryl, who is a pastor, said a month. So we prayed, and I conceived. We were so excited! I rushed to the physician, and she confirmed that I was pregnant. She cautioned, however, that the baby looked small. "But don't worry," she said. "Eat well, and the baby will be fine."

I went for regular checkups. After five months, the physician said the baby was not growing normally. Daryl and I were very concerned. "Don't worry," the doctor said, "I'll give you some medicine that will help the baby gain weight." On the next checkup, my weight had increased, but the baby's weight was the same. "Come back again in a few weeks," the doctor said.

At the next checkup, the radiologist was concerned. "Something is wrong," he said. "I don't think the baby will survive." The physician got a second opinion. That doctor also thought that the baby would not survive and recommended an abortion. Daryl and I were heartbroken. We prayed. "Lord, we have been serving You," Daryl said. "Show us what to do."

Daryl called his twin brother who works as a pediatrician elsewhere in India. He recommended visiting another hospital. At the new hospital, a doctor ran tests. "Listen," she said. "The baby looks normal to me. Let's see how long we can prolong this pregnancy."

"What are our chances?" Daryl asked. "You are a pastor," the doctor replied. "You believe in prayer. Pray. There is power in the hand of God."

I was hospitalized. Every hour, the hospital staff checked on the baby. That night a young doctor doing his residency approached us. "You look like a happy couple," he said. "Why are you worried?" We told him. He said he had been born into a non-Christian family but had accepted Jesus. "Can I pray for you?" he asked.

Bowing his head, he prayed, "If You can make the sun stand still, You can perform a miracle in the life of this pastor's family." His prayer gave us confidence that God would do something.

Two days later, the doctor expressed concern. "The baby is very small, and the chances of survival are weak," she said. "But don't worry. We will do our best."

The baby was born on a Sabbath morning. He weighed only 1.5 pounds (680 grams). The doctor was so happy when the baby began to cry, and she placed him on ventilator. She didn't know what assurance to give us, saying only, "We are doing our best." Adventist students from a nearby medical college came and sang to us on Sabbath afternoon. We were so happy.

We trusted God would do whatever it took to save the boy's life. It was so hard to see such a small baby with so many tubes. We couldn't touch him. We could only sing and pray. "Do not be dismayed, God will take care of you," Daryl and I sang.

In three days, the baby's weight dropped to 1.3 pounds (600 grams). The doctor was worried about an upcoming operation that she had scheduled to save the baby's life. I asked a visiting Adventist doctor to pray. "Lord, humanly I don't know whether this baby can survive," he prayed. "But you are a miracle-working God. If it is Your will, You can increase the weight of this baby to fight. May this baby be a testimony."

The next day, the baby had gained 0.35 ounces (10 grams). Every day after that he gained weight. When he reached 3.5 pounds (1.6 kilograms) after three months, the doctor announced that he could go home. "Your little fellow has been hospitalized for quite a while," she said. "I think he is ready to go home."

Another doctor marveled that the baby had survived. "This is the result of your prayers," he said. "It truly is God's hand."

We named the boy Neshاون, which means "miracle" in Hebrew. We hope he never forgets that he is a miracle. We have dedicated him to serve God as a pastor one day. Psalms 150:6 says, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" (NKJV). Every breath that Neshاون takes is a testimony that he is praising the Lord. Praise the Lord!

This story as told to Andrew McChesney by Neelam Daryl Joshua. Neelam is from Bengaluru, India. Thanks to Adventist Mission for allowing us to reprint this story.

World Church Prayer Requests

July 9 - 15, 2021

- After the 1Mind4India prayer event this past weekend, we want to continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in India, that God will work on their behalf in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.
- Please pray for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division's Voice of Youth Ignite. The Holy Spirit has been working with the 536 Voice of Youth (VOY) Teams leading to 6,291 newly baptized disciples. Let's pray for these new members.
- Please pray for the additional 400 VOY Ignite teams who will hold their online and physical nightly meetings starting this July to December. May God protect them from COVID-19 as they fulfill the gospel commission.
- Pray for the upcoming Voice of Youth 74th Anniversary on September 3-4 as we celebrate God's bountiful harvest of people led to Jesus' feet. Let's pray for Pastor Gary, Pastor Finley, and Pastor Muganda as they inspire the SSD youth to preach the 3Angels' Messages through VOY Expand 2022.