

JACKSON FAMILY NEWS

A Newsletter for Friends and Partners in Ministry of Bruce & Brenda Jackson

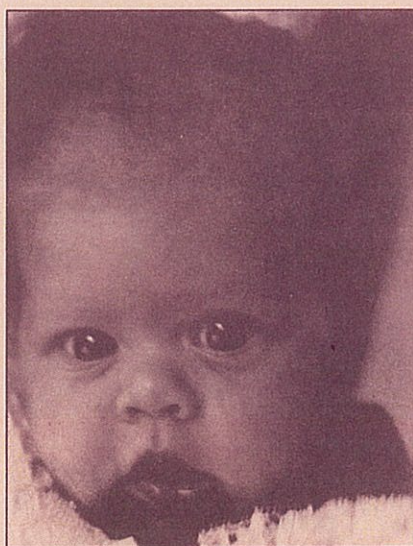
Summer/Fall 1990

It had already been a busy, intense week—full of concerts, plane flights, last-minute papering and painting in the nursery and of course, unending physical discomfort. But somehow, I'm sure, Brenda had missed the realization that this could be her final week of pregnancy! (One might surmise that parents of two children would realize that babies burst into your lives when they are ready even if it's two and a half weeks early.) When we awoke on Saturday morning, July 14th, neither one of us knew what kind of emotional rollercoaster ride we were about to take, but it started with the simple, early signals of labor.

By early afternoon, our concerns began to mount as chills and a slight fever would not subside. Brenda could not remember whether she had felt the baby move all day. We reluctantly called the hospital, not wanting to unnecessarily worry or make a wasted trip. We prayed fervently, even before calling, that God would give us wisdom and that this little, unborn life would be protected inside Brenda. After speaking with doctors at the hospital, we felt compelled to go immediately.

The doctor's responses were urgent as he assessed the situation. In all probability an infection was present and the lives of Brenda and the baby were threatened. Miraculously, Brenda's body naturally began the labor process,

which lasted a total of only 90 minutes! Six pounds of kicking, screaming, beautiful little girl were born quickly. Elation turned to concern, though, as the doctors and nurses worked feverishly to help Brenda. Her temperature had risen dramatically to 105 degrees in just twenty minutes! Hospital staff scrambled to administer IV medications in an effort to stabilize her condition. I watched her—shaking with convulsions and unconscious—wondering if I could ever deal with the reality of losing her.



*Behold, children are
a gift of the Lord;
The fruit of the womb
is a reward.*

Psalm 127:3

I know I'll never perfectly understand how deeply God loves His children, but it became a little clearer the first time I held Brook laDonna Jackson in my arms. The trauma all seemed to be past as they had been able to gain control of Brenda's fever and halt the spread of the infection. The focus of attention quickly turned to joy and thankfulness for a precious little girl. In that moment, we had no way of preparing ourselves for the news that the blood tests revealed the same infection in Brook's bloodstream. (Knowing this, the doctor told us that had we arrived just one hour later at the hospital, Brook probably would have been killed by the infection.) Aggressive testing and precautionary measures had to be taken, including a spinal tap to test for meningitis! We were confused, frightened and emotionally spent by every new twist. We waited, holding that precious little life in our arms every day, asking God to

miraculously intervene and physically heal. In the end, Brenda and Brook were both completely healed and restored after a seven-day hospital stay for Brenda and a ten-day stay for Brook. I had to remember the awesome words that God spoke to Abraham in Genesis 18:14, *"Is anything too difficult for the Lord?"* and then the words of Jesus in Matthew 19:26, *"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible!"*

We are still dealing with some harsh realities as a result of the situation because we are not receiving any insurance compensation for the time in the hospital. The first bills that we have received are financially staggering, but we know that God is able to provide for the needs in each crisis that we face. At this point, we are

grateful for a baby who is healthy and for Brenda's quick recovery. The Lord is faithful!



Bruce got the privilege of assisting in not one, but two deliveries! Bruce's sister, Melody Gingerich 2 days before delivery and Brenda 3 weeks before Brook was born.

EUROPE MISSION UPDATE

Many of you have asked about the status of our European mission trip and, needless to say, with the events of the past nine months, plans are on hold! We considered making the trip during Brenda's pregnancy, but dismissed the thought after conferring with the obstetrician. After everything that has happened, we feel as though this was the best choice. The invitation is still extended to us and we are eager to make the trip as soon as possible. We see tremendous ministry potential in some of the military situations that have been opened to us! Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom as we make decisions in these areas. We will be involved in an aggressive schedule here in the U. S. this year. Traveling with an infant is proving to be a challenge!

FAMILYSONG MINISTRIES, INC.

In 1988, our ministry became recognized federally and locally as a non-profit organization. With a Board of Directors selected for the ministry, gifts and contributions can be receipted for the IRS and an organization for accountability is now ours. Any investment in this ministry to families must be made to FAMILYSONG MINISTRIES or channeled through a local church to receive an income tax deduction. We deeply appreciate our friends and partners who share our burden for families and help financially through one-time gifts or monthly support. Thanks — we could not do this without you!

WHERE WE'RE HEADED

If we're going to be in your area, we'd love to see you! Pray for us as we travel over the next few months.

September 23	Columbus, OH
September 30	Dayton & Columbus, OH
October 7	Kingsport & Knoxville, TN
October 13	Des Moines, IA
October 14	Waterloo & Marshalltown, IA
October 21	Johnstown, PA Hagerstown, MD
October 24	Lancaster, PA
October 28	Elizabethtown & Lancaster, PA
November 4	Murfreesboro, TN Madison, AL
November 11	Dayton, OH
November 18	Franklin & Fairfield, OH
November 21	Memphis, TN
November 25	Detroit, MI



MOO-VED BY THE MINISTRY

This year, it was our family's privilege to be hosted, in concert, by the Lancaster County Holstein Organization in Pennsylvania. These dairymen represent one of the largest county organizations of its kind in the country. A widely circulated newspaper did a front-page article on the concert, including this photo, with a full explanation of our ministry to families! The concert featured music taken from some of the great Broadway musicals as well as other secular tunes. Then we shared our testimony as a Christian family. We praise God for these fabulous opportunities for witness! (Pictured in the photo with us are Lowell and Debbie Brubaker, who headed up the event, and their children. The one with the large ears and the rope necklace is a friend of the Brubakers!)

From the Heart

"Thank you" seems inadequate to express how deeply we appreciate the many encouraging letters and expressions of love that we received during such a difficult time with Brenda and Brook. This ministry happens as a direct result of the kind of spiritual and financial support that our partners provide. We really could not do this without you!



RESPONSES OF NOTE...

Our six year old daughter Becca loves Brittany's tape. In July, she fell off the monkey bars and broke her wrist! Her cast comes off next week. Brittany's song about evolution has double meaning for Becca. Now she goes around singing "You Can't Make a Monkey Out of Me". Thanks for your ministry in music.

—Centerville, Ohio

On a Thursday evening you were going to perform at our church. Earlier that evening, my husband and I made a trip to the hospital. I was fourteen weeks pregnant and had started bleeding. The doctors just sent us home and told us that I would miscarry. I didn't want to go anywhere or see anyone, but the Lord's Spirit led us to the church that night. After the concert, I talked with Brenda and shared with her what had happened earlier. She prayed with me and that night I left with a peace in my heart. A couple of days later, we went and had a sonogram and found out I was carrying TWINS! I haven't had any problems since that night we prayed, and in two weeks we are expecting two baby boys. We praise God for you and this wonderful ministry!

—San Bernardino, California

Tommy is a third grade student in our local elementary school who has leukemia. I am purchasing Brittany's tape for him. We shared our tape with him and he sang along. We pray that God will continue to be with Tommy. Please send six more of Brittany's tapes. They are really being used to bless folks younger than I and some elderly folks who are precious.

—Franklin, Ohio

Please help us update our mailing list!

Would you like to continue receiving the Jackson Family Newsletter? Is the address we have for you correct? Did you move and forget to include FamilySong Ministries in your change of address package? We're trying to keep our mailing list as up to date as possible, so if there has been a change for your family, please let our family know! There's a space on the order form for you to reply. Thank you!



FamilySong Ministries, Inc.

Bruce and Brenda Jackson

P.O. Box 292882

Nashville, Tennessee 37230

ORDER FORM

- ☐ Please send me _____ copy(s) of Brittany's recording (cassette only)
- ☐ Please send me _____ copy(s) of your recording ***A Miracle and Nothing Less***
☐ cassette ☐ album
- ☐ Please send me _____ copy(s) of your newest recording, ***FAMILY FOREVER***
☐ cassette ☐ compact disc
- ☐ I am praying for you!
- ☐ Enclosed is my ☐ one time ☐ monthly gift of \$ _____ to help you continue to reach families for Christ.
- ☐ Yes, I want to continue receiving the Jackson Family Newsletter.
☐ This is a new address for our family
☐ Add our family to your mailing list

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Albums and cassettes are \$10 each plus \$1 postage and handling. All checks should be made payable to FamilySong Ministries. All gifts of \$25 or more will receive a receipt for tax purposes.

FamilySong Ministries, Inc.

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