

To the friends and family of Steve, Laura & Nathan Lorenze



On September 22, 2004, Laura and I realized a dream we have had for many years: Our son Nathan William was born at Glendale Adventist Hospital at 6:10pm. While we had been trying for years to begin our family, it was mid-2004 when we started to believe that this would be the year things would really happen.

Laura and I were the recipients of an inheritance that was left to my mom and eventually passed on to us. Considering the money had come from my grandparents, to whom I was very close, we decided the money would be used for something that would make them proud.

We considered many different ideas, but each of us knew how we really thought it should be spent.

Nathan William Lorenze was born on September 22, 2004 at Glendale Adventist Hospital.

Referred by a colleague, Laura and I found our way to the San Diego Fertility Clinic in Del Mar. Dr. Hummel is a great guy and he immediately put a plan of action into place for us. Laura was spending a few days each week commuting between home

and Del Mar all the while injecting herself twice each day (8am & 8pm) with fertility drugs. This process lasted four months.

When we finally arrived at the end of the process, Dr. Hummel explained how we would proceed: Laura and I would need to be in Del Mar on June 18, 2003 when the doctors would extract the materials they needed from her then get what they needed from me. The schedule was exact and we could not deviate from it even by an hour. Laura made arrangements to be there, but I am a school principal and the 18th was graduation day for my students. While I would have gone to Del Mar regardless, I found that I could attend the graduation and still make it to Del Mar in time for our 10:30am appointment. All I had to do, I figured, was to charter an airplane to fly me from the airstrip near my school to the Palomar Airport which was the nearest to Del Mar. I found a charter company at the Van Nuys Airport and made the arrangements.

The pilot arrived right on schedule and was joined by his father who was an F-18 pilot in the Israeli Defense Forces and here on vacation. In all, our flight in the Cessna 172 was pleasant and uneventful. It was raining and quite cloudy, but the pilots were skilled and made it a fun trip.

My step-mom, Dana, was waiting at the Palomar Airport when I landed and drove me to Del Mar. I arrived with about 15 minutes to spare and was able to make my contribution to the process.

The process of in vitro fertilization (IVF) seems to be quite complicated, but was actually quite simple. Once the eggs have been fertilized and the embryos created, they are implanted into mom and we simply wait and see if they take hold. Our first attempt at this was unsuccessful, but the





second time around resulted in the birth of our son. Considering my strong relationship with my grandparents, we decided they would be honored by naming our child after one of them. Either way, we figured, the name William or Helen would be our child's middle name. Considering we had a boy, the name William was it. We chose the name Nathan simply because we like it. Besides, we like to call him "Nate the Great."

Being Nate's parents has been much better than we ever thought it would be. We knew it would be exciting and that we would love him very much, but we really had no idea how wonderful it would be.

Probably the weirdest feeling we've ever experience was coming home form the hospital and showing Nate where he would spend his childhood. The feeling of being responsible for a helpless child is at once overwhelming, but is also very fun.

Nate is a very good boy. He doesn't cry very much, only wakes up one time each night and has proven to be quite tolerant of noises and going different places. We have taken him out to eat about 15 times in his first three weeks of life and he was great each time. He loves driving in the car and even went to the motorcycle races at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. This weekend he'll be attending a hockey game at the Staples Center downtown. He does well when he's given a bath and seems like he's simply a very content little boy.

One thing we have really noticed is the absolute joy a baby brings with him when he enters the world. When people learned we were having our first child, they immediately sent gifts and much support. All of the generosity was somewhat overwhelming for us and to say we are appreciative would simply be an understatement. You are one of those whose giving has truly made Nate's arrival the best time in our lives.

Laura and I want to that you very much for your gifts. Everything Nate received is in his nursery and is being put to good use. We have received so many gifts that we would have never known we needed. Clearly, we are benefiting from the experiences of many of you.

Again, please accept a tremendous amount of gratitude for you thoughtfulness. We really appreciate it and will never forget it.



Remember to keep up with Nate at www.lorenze.com.