

## **BIRTH AND . . .**

The baby came after much tribulation. From the pinnacle of childbirth, the mother saw her child as beautiful in her sight.

The doctors scowled. Something is wrong here. The baby breathes, has a strong heartbeat, cries, kicks and squirms, but look at the prenatal paperwork! All we can see is a cleft lip; surely there is something else wrong! So they began their hunt, and trophies they found. A hole in the heart wall between the chambers of the heart, minute, but nevertheless a hole that would require surgery they agreed, if the child lives that long.

Look at the eyes, they cried, but they found the corneas and retinas intact. This baby will never see, if the child lives that long.

The baby seems to be deaf and will never hear, if the child lives that long.

The neurologists examined the brain area. There is very little formed brain so there is nothing they can do. They looked sad and pronounced that this child would not live that long.

The child is having seizures, they declared. We must give it some medication to quiet this malfunction that could take the child's life, if the child lives that long. The medication failed to do its soothing but stopped the child's breathing. Quick, they cried, restore breathing, and they did three times.

Remove the medication, they declared, it is not doing what we thought it would do. The baby lay nearly comatose. If you want to have the baby baptized or dedicated, you had better to it now, they declared, because the child will not live much longer.

At eight days the baby was baptized, and everyone believed it would not live that long.

At fifteen days the baby was sent home, and Hospice became involved because this baby will not live that long.

The baby lived over seven months before returning home to the God who made her, having completed the work she was created to do.

God works in mysterious ways to accomplish His purposes.

--Penny S. Hession, 2003