

## Church Planting Missionaries in Burkina Faso West Africa

## September Prayer Letter

## Are you going to keep the placenta?

Kind of a weird question; at least that's what we thought when we were asked. People are probably wondering what it was like having a baby in Africa; well, now we know from personal experience.

The day our container arrived (Aug 10th) Ashley began going into labor, which left me no time at all to get the house set up before the baby came. I was frantically running around putting together furniture as Ashley was having contractions, most of the day they were about 10 min apart but as they got closer together we knew we would have to leave soon. We loaded up in the car getting ready to run to the clinic around 5 PM Friday evening, on the way there we were pulled over by the police but after seeing that Ashley was in labor they let us go without seeing any of our paperwork. When we got to the clinic they immediately admitted Ashley and got us in a room, and the waiting began. They told us that the Anesthesiologist had already left for the weekend and that Ashley could not have an epidural, but after asking them to check again the Anesthesiologist came back in after midnight to administer the epidural. That slowed the labor down some and so we just waited until about 6:30 AM Aug 11th until Parker Joel was born. The doctor then asked are you going to keep the placenta? I wasn't really sure what to say, I thought I must have misunderstood his French, but he was very serious. Burkina Faso tradition is to either eat the placenta or take it home to bury it. I found out later that many believe this protects the child from witchcraft because if anyone else ever got the placenta they could use it to curse the child. Both Mother and baby are doing great, we are enjoying settling into our new roles as parents. Thank you for all those who prayed for a safe delivery! We are excited to serve God in Burkina Faso as a family.





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