

## OUR FAITH STORY

Sometimes God allows you to go through hard times to reveal things to you, open your eyes, test your faith, help you get your priorities straight and not take things for granted. We just experienced this and our faith was strengthened through it all and our love for each other and life was reinforced. It reminded us how much we needed each other and how much God has blessed us with and how God is in control and is always there for us. We are so thankful to everyone who was praying for us, for all friends, family, nursing staff who gave us encouragement and support, and for all those who cooked meals, offered to help, came and visited/called/sent scripture, encouraged us, THANK YOU SO MUCH! Your support and love strengthened us and made getting through this last month much easier. We give all the glory to God and we wanted to share a few details about our "experience" that were ALL GOD! He was watching over us and testing us from the very beginning. We hope He's looking down on us smiling that we held on and continue to hold on to our faith in Him. We still continue to hold on to our faith and we just ask for your prayers that these clots will break down and be gone before Sage gets her filter out in November. Love to all!!!

Here is our FAITH STORY:

### 7/31/15

- It's BABY day! Headed into St. Pete's in Helena for our c-section and Sage was having extreme leg cramps to the point where she had to sit down before heading up to the women's unit. When we entered the women's unit Nurse White (a Christian) met us at the door. She seemed very loving and something about her put us at ease.
- Headed in to OR for c-section and Sage was extremely shakey. Something just didn't feel right. Jeremy put her at ease when he came into the room, but still felt something was off. After baby Noa arrived (perfect in every way!) Sage felt extreme chest pain, shortness of breath and pressure and had to have medicine to help her through it. It was not like the other two c-sections.
- Nurse Jamie (another Christian nurse) was incredible to us because Sage was so hungry she allowed her to eat cream of wheat. This ended up creating stomach pain later that day, which was followed by extreme neck pain.
- Later that night a malfunctioning catheter added more stomach pressure. Dr. McMann (Christian doctor) was called to come take a look and said it was probably an air bubble/gas from the c-section.
- Pain in shoulder and neck kept Sage up and Nurse White came and tucked her in with pillows all over and a heating pad. It was like she was an angel helping her.
- Throughout the entire day/night baby Noa was so cooperative and good!

### 8/1/15

- Sage felt better in the morning and ate a regular breakfast and Jeremy left to go pick up our car and soon after that Sage started having extreme pain in stomach/neck/shoulder to the point of screaming and crying and anxiety increased. The nurse that took over for Jamie didn't really know what to do or say. Dr. McMann came back to look at Sage and on a \*whim\* (or the Holy Spirit speaking to him) decided to order a gal bladder ultra sound as a preventative measure in case it was gal bladder disease. McMann actually confessed to us that he almost changed his mind to not order it, but then "something" told him to stay with the plan and order the ultra sound.
- Later that day God revealed a large clot in the inferior vena cava (the largest vein to heart/lungs in the body) to the ultra sound technician before even checking the gal bladder.
- Sage was sent to ICU a few hours later. Family came to support and say goodbyes just in case she didn't make it through the night. It was surreal for Sage and very scary for the entire family. Prayer was requested immediately. Blood thinner treatment started.
- Nurse White and another Christian nurse came down to check on Sage and they both prayed over her for healing.

### 8/2/15

- Jeremy Clotfelter (Jeremy's boss and fellow Christian) requested to come and pray healing over Sage. Jeremy asked if he could come at 2:30 instead of 1:30 and when Clotfelter showed up so did Sage's Christian uncle and aunt to pray healing over her. It was perfect timing. God's timing. They prayed healing over Sage and it gave her peace.
- Sage continues to pray and cling to her Bible
- Later that night after she feels at ease and peaceful the devil attacks again. A hearing tech from out of town shows up and instills fear by saying she's worked on the cardiovascular operating floor for years and with her condition she should be seeking a specialist. She was off when explaining the anatomy and tried telling Sage the clot could go to her brain. Jeremy caught on and reported her 'unprofessionalism' to nursing staff, in hopes that she wouldn't speak out of turn in the future to other people.

Sage and Jeremy continued in prayer and the word of God for peace and strength that night.

**8/3/15**

- Sage awakens thankful for each day God is giving her. She's also so grateful for her mom and dad taking care of her kids which she desperately missed and longed for. She was also so thankful for Jeremy as he took such amazing care of baby Noa and he did everything he could to fight for Sage and keep her spirits up and encouraged. He was her rock and stayed so positive. Sage & Jeremy were reminded each day of how much they loved each other and needed each other.
- The internist at the hospital was certain that blood thinners and time were the only answer, they actually discussed letting us go home after two days. Our efforts to explore more options seemed futile even though Jeremy did everything he could to be Sage's advocate and get her the best options/care.
- Later Sage was moved back up to the woman's unit and continued to pray and find strength in God's word. Blood thinning treatment continued. Prayers were flowing from all of our family, friends, and church.
- Jeremy offered prayer to someone in the elevator. God was speaking to him.
- Nurse White shows up later that night with flyer for a church her husband pastors at that just so happens to be right next to Sage's parent's house out in the middle of nowhere and across the canyon from our house. Jeremy also knew her husband through Montana Internet query since her husband works there too. Strange connection (totally a God thing!) Nurse White prayed over us again.
- Sage and Jeremy continued to cling to God. The verses God revealed to her most that she read over and over were **James 5** and **Philippians 4: 4-13**.

**8/4/15**

- Dr. McMann stopped in to check on Sage and gave glory to God by saying the \*whim\* he had was from God and it was the 'big man upstairs' looking out for Sage.
- Sage continued to give glory to God and pray with Jeremy.
- We had Nurse Jamie taking care of us again and she revealed to Sage & Jeremy that she was a Christian and talked about some of the trials she's went through and gave Sage encouragement not to live in fear of Satan but to tell him to get behind her and to live in the power of the Lord. After Sage's ultrasound that day that still showed a clot that seemed even bigger and was discouraging and created fear, nurse Jamie came and had a deep conversation with Sage about what God was trying to teach Sage through all this and maybe it was even the devil who tested Job in the same way putting her through this and God is seeing if she was going to stay strong in her faith.
- Sage returns to James 5 which talks about calling upon the elders of the church for prayer over the sick and acts upon this scripture. Jeremy calls upon their church elders and will, Pastor John and other elders are there in what seemed like an instant to pray over her for healing. Sage was comforted and felt peace. What incredible compassion & selflessness God's children have.
- Later that day the Director of St. Petes Hospital (Brenda) comes to meet us and offer us assistance in any way. She was extremely kind and looked very familiar.
- Jeremy does everything he can to transfer Sage's care to Benefis Hospital in Great Falls to see a specialist that can give Sage a second opinion on options, etc. for clot. Efforts were unsuccessful!
- Angela from church who is a nurse at St. Pete's stops by and offers prayer. Many are praying over us. Jeremy Clotfelter continues to check in and John Jourdonnais and Scott Doherty continually sending scripture and prayer as well as Sage's friends/family/prayer group. We are uplifted by the power of prayer once again.
- Baby continues to be amazing and a little angel, and cooperate when we need her to most.

**8/5/15**

- Thankful for another day God has given them, Sage and Jeremy continue in prayer.
- One of the nurses informs us that we may not be able to stay another night because of insurance and Sage & Jeremy feel one more day would be beneficial so they could get situated in Great Falls with somewhere to stay so they could be close to a hospital in case the clot breaks loose.
- Just like that a place to stay was fulfilled by friends of Sage's parents who have a furnished house, free of charge just minutes from the hospital they weren't using. Praise God and His provision.
- The director (Brenda) stops in later that day to check on Sage and says she'll do what she can to allow us to stay and we make the connection that we've met her before at the Wolf Creek Church and they live fairly close to us. Small world...I think not. God! Jeremy works through staying another night with the insurance companies. Prayer continues!!!

**8/6/14**

• Sage is so thankful for another sunrise! Sage & Jeremy get released today from hospital and head home to gather belongings for staying in Great Falls for a few weeks. At this point Sage's parents have had their kids for almost a week taking care of them and their house. We were so grateful for them and they helped get us set up at the house in Great Falls.

**8/6/15 - 8/7/15**

- Sage and Jeremy were able to relax and enjoy a home atmosphere with their kids for these two days. Prayer continued as they were still concerned about the clot that could break loose at anytime and travel to her heart/lungs. Let's just say Jeremy kept a very close eye on Sage. :)
- Sage wasn't bleeding a whole lot at this point which was odd. At the house in Great Falls Sage was more active then Jeremy would have liked her to be. There is a good chance that the activity actually helped get the bleeding starting instead of laying around and it just pooling getting worse and worse in her uterus.

**8/8/15**

- Sage felt leg cramping all morning and the bleeding picked up. By late afternoon/evening, Sage was bleeding heavy and was directed to go to the ER in Great Falls at Benefis. Sage's parents came to the rescue and watched over the kids. When we entered the ER there were about 20 people in the waiting room and more filing in behind them. God again provides and we were able to get in right away because we emphasized the bleeding issue and the clot and were in a room getting looked at within 5 minutes. Thank you Lord!!!
- We were very uncertain with how things were going to go into the future with Sage's treatment. The transfer of care (that St. Pete's set us up with after going rounds and rounds) to the hematologist seemed like more of a "check the box" situation. We were hoping for more options and they just didn't seem to exist. So, it was a blessing in disguise that we ended up back in the ER with unknown events ahead. Just treating the clot with blood thinners for 6 months seemed like not a very good option with her condition. The ER doctor was very knowledgeable and agreed with the severity of the clot situation. A large clot came out before getting Sage's uterus ultrasound which was concerning and the ultrasound showed the uterus full of clots at which point Sage was admitted to the Intensive cardiovascular unit.
- Sage and Jeremy spent from 8:00pm to 3:30am in a cold ER room with their newborn and she was just an angel baby the entire time. She was incredible!!! Praise God!

**8/9/15**

- Nurse Shellie took over Sage's care and was able to debrief Sage on everything going on and they had a unique connection with Shellie as well. Jeremy worked with her son and their kids played t-ball together and their family are Christians and know our friends Craig & Jackie Smith. Shellie was great and put Sage at ease about everything.
- John Jourdonnais sent up prayer at that time. Scott Doherty continued to pray along with many, many friends/family/fellowship. Sage & Jeremy felt the prayer and were at peace.
- Benefis acted fast and it all culminated in the Radiologist putting in a filter which was really one of the biggest peace of minds ever. Praise God for skilled doctors!!! On Sage's way to surgery she clung to her Bible and read over and over Philippians 4: 4-13 which tells us to have peace and rejoice in the Lord and present your requests to Him and he'll give you the peace that surpasses all understanding. Nurse Shellie continued to put Sage's mind at ease too and she received excellent care from all the staff at Benefis, including a pregnant mommy-to-be named Sandy.
- As soon as we walk into the OR to get the filter in we see a familiar face that puts us at ease once again. His name was Tom and he is our good friend Adam Cotton's brother-in-law and he's an incredible, kind familiar face that gave us peace. To even further put Sage at peace they offered to turn on the radio during the procedure and Sage's favorite song "I Hold On" by Deirks Bentley started playing and when they were done with surgery another Deirks song came on which was just really neat.
- Again, baby Noa was incredible when she was with Jeremy in the room next door where he waited while Sage's filter was put in. Jeremy had Sage's Bible (since the surgeons wouldn't let her hold onto it during the procedure) and Jeremy laid down on his face and cried and prayed prostrate and looked through all Sage's notes in Philippians and read chapters 2-6 which was incredible and gave him peace. About the time Jeremy finished reading they came out and told him it was a successful surgery! Praise God once again!!!
- Sage & Jeremy headed back up to the cardiovascular unit and things looked fairly good then the next thing they knew they were concerned about the multiple large clots and active bleeding in her uterus and needed to do surgery to get it out. So, hours later

after the filter was put in they wasted no time and were taking Sage down to the OR for a DNC that was supposed to only take ½ hour. Sage clung to her Bible again and read Philippians again before the surgery. While Jeremy waited, he read the entire book of Philippians and the surgery ended up taking almost 3 hours. Not long after Sage went into surgery, Jeremy got on his hands and knees again face down and prayed and cried and when he got done praying he clapped his hands hard (like he was taught at church to do to command sickness out of the body) and he stood up and grabbed baby and within a minutes our good church friends Craig and Jackie showed up out of nowhere. They gathered and formed a circle and held each other and prayed and it was incredible. Then it was back to the waiting and again Jeremy prayed and prayed and for the second time he clapped his hands and 30 seconds later the Doctor (who was also amazing and a christian...Dr. Miser) walked out saying everything went well. It was a success!!! Praise God!

- Sage & Jeremy felt total peace once again after all that that they were going to beat this! Praise God! They felt the prayers flowing and were so thankful for what God was revealing to them and how He was healing Sage. Jeremy paid forward the power of prayer to another person in the elevator who's loved one was recovering from a quadruple bi-pass.

**8/10/15**

- Sage and Jeremy woke up so thankful for what just happened and continued to pray and were at such peace with everything. The doctors wanted Sage to stay one more day in the hospital and were pleased with how everything went. One of the nurses said Sage was very lucky to be alive! It was all God though and glory be to Him! He was watching over them from the very beginning!

- Sage got to embrace her kids and tell them how much she loved them today! That was one of the hardest parts...being away from them! God taught Sage how blessed she is to be a mom! Her family, friends, fellowship and faith mean everything to her.

**8/11/15**

- Sage & Jeremy got to go home!!! Let the recovery and healing begin!!!