

# the LISBON

focus

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## IT'S A BOY!



We are still in awe at the miracle of life and the gift that it is from God. Many of you prayed fervently for Owen as he spent 23 precarious days in the NICU as we begged God to spare his life. He graciously healed him, and we admit that we haven't known what to do with him ever since! He is a perplexing mix of opposites: needy yet independent, sweet but rotten, shy but daring. What a journey parenting is – physical parenting and spiritual parenting!

Yesterday Avery (age 6) was slightly disappointed to find out we were having another boy, until Beau pointed out she would get to boss TWO brothers around. We can only hope this baby is easier than Owen, though he was just about as cooperative during the ultrasound! We're off to a good start 😊. Since missionaries live a somewhat odd life, divided between multiple continents, we would ask you to pray for the logistics of this birth.

1. For a healthy and safe pregnancy.
2. For God's wisdom and leading as to whether we should leave before the baby is born, or wait until just after.
3. For a safe delivery and speedy recovery as we dive into ministry commitments upon our arrival.
4. For baby's birth certificate/passport/visa, etc.

## roadtrips...

Valerie and the kids have been able to travel as well recently as several of our bookings have been nearby. We have been privileged to speak in several missions conferences or missions emphasis months as well as a Valentine's banquet and ladies' meeting. God has blessed us with some new supporters or increased support from currently supporting churches.

As we travel to churches, we place a jar on our display table that people deposit coins or dollar bills in to go toward the purchase of our plane tickets. As you can imagine, it is costly to move a family of 4 back and forth across the ocean. Depending on the season, tickets cost between \$900-1200. Through this jar and special offerings, we have raised about \$2,000 of the \$4,000 it will cost to fly back this summer. If that is something God would place on your heart to be involved in, that would be a blessing to us.

## Paisley, the missionary beagle

Many of you may remember "the beagles" from our prayer cards, or even meeting them in person as they traveled with us on deputation. Dexter had to be put down years ago, but Paisley was with us 10 ½ years for every step of our journey. In Portugal, she opened the door to speak to many people, passed out tracts with us, and even starred in some of our children's ministries and Christmas plays. She traveled thousands of miles by plane and by car and has witnessed all of the major and minor events in our family. She has had a liver condition for many years and we knew a hard day would come when her liver would no longer function. That day was Thursday and we were heartbroken to say goodbye to her. We are still adjusting to not seeing her around in her usual places and routines. I'm sure many of you understand how our pets can become our family. What I love about her story is how God can use even a beagle to build a bridge to people for the gospel's sake. 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 *God chooses the most unlikely candidates to do His work, so that He will receive the glory* (my paraphrase).



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