

Our dear Joshua,

Today is a special day.

From the moment you were born, you have always had a contagious laughter followed by an infectious smile. In those first few weeks, your mama nicknamed you “smiley”. With each week and month, we are witnessing your personality develop. Each day, we see attributes of your passion and devotion. You show confidence in the presence of those who loved you. You look up to your brother, Jonathan, and your courage and bravery match any challenge he presents to you.

In just a short amount of time, we are observing qualities that represent your name. We named you Robert Joshua. Robert means “Bright Fame”. Joshua, in its most broad sense, means “The Lord Saves”. However, we were drawn to the lesser-known meaning of Joshua, which is “The Lord is generous”. Generosity was a recurring challenge for us in the year of your birth. It is our prayer, Joshua, that you grow to know and experience the generosity of Jesus and the compassion of His mission so that you can be a catalyst of that conviction. May your heart be generous with love that is steeped in your personal relationship with Jesus. Essentially, your life mission (as given to you by your name) is to make bright the salvation and compassion of Jesus through demonstrating a life that expresses His generosity.

It is our commitment to you, Joshua, and our Lord Jesus, to raise you according to His principles, to instill lifelong disciplines that help shape your character and integrity to be that which promotes and draws people to receive from your life mission.

“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful.
Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness
and peace for those who have been trained by it.”
Hebrews 12:11

We are honored that God chose us to shepherd your heart and pray that we can be the parents you need us to be. We pray that on that day when Jesus reveals Himself to you and you hear His voice for the first time that you will recognize its familiarity because it sounds like your mama and daddy. On this day, we consecrate your life so that it can be used by God to be an expression of His generosity. May your heart search out and seek to follow Him and to know Him so that you fully comprehend your life verse:

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”
Joshua 1:9

As we initially stated, today is a special day. To these fundamentals on this day August 26, 2012 we do dedicate.

Forever your most avid fans,

Daddy and Mama