

## Our Christmas Miracle Baby

I still remember when I took the pregnancy test and it was positive. I was surprised but my husband and I were both happy. Our doctor suggested a noninvasive prenatal test at 12 weeks gestation. All was good and we found out I was carrying a boy. So, we were very happy. At 19 weeks, an ultrasound showed there might be a problem with the heart. A more detailed ultrasound at 24 weeks showed our beautiful baby boy had medical problems.

The genetic specialist recommended an amniocentesis. After this test at 27 weeks, the specialist explained that our baby had a medium to severe genetic problem and the baby may not survive birth or he may die shortly after birth. The doctor offered two options: abortion or continue the pregnancy. He said he could find someone to perform the abortion even though I was only 13 weeks away from the due date. We were completely overwhelmed. We could not live with ourselves if we let our baby be killed by an abortion, but there seemed to be no good options. It was almost Christmas and all our dreams of a new baby boy arriving into our family were shattered.

I started searching online for help, praying that God would guide us to a place that didn't tell us to abort our baby. That was when I found Miriam Centre and I called there in tears to talk about all our fears and difficulties. The person who answered let me talk and listened. Her words gave me peace, strength and hope. She offered to meet us both the next Monday morning - Christmas Eve. When my husband and I came in, we were both crying and all our emotions came out. The two staff members let us talk about all of our concerns and problems that seemed to have no solution. They prayed with us and assured us that God is always with us even in the most difficult circumstances. They showed us that it was possible to continue the pregnancy and that our baby was safe for now in me. I told them that finding support at Miriam Centre was a Christmas Miracle. We would accept our baby boy, no matter what.

The doctor predicted there was a very small chance that Louis would live so my husband prepared funeral arrangements. The closer the time came to the birth, the more I was scared. Finally, the day came for the caesarian. When they took the baby out, there was a small sound from him. He was alive! The nurse brought him to show me and I kissed him. Then Louis was baptised. My husband and our other children came in to see our new baby boy. Louis could breathe well and his heart was beating. He has some medical problems which are controllable. On the third day, we took Louis home with us.

We feel a strong family relationship with the people of Miriam Centre and they are part of Louis's life. The most important thing they gave us was hope and the knowledge that we are not alone. Louis continues to grow and get stronger day by day and we are not afraid for his future.

*" When I am discouraged, when my heart is sad, I put my hope in God. God opens doors when we pray."*

A Happy Family