

Caleb Charles Austin was born quite emergently on September 29, 2006. He was due to be born December 15th, 2006, so it was quite a surprise when he came so early. Some of you might have read about this in my bio, but in case you missed it, here is what happened. In the middle of the night on September 28th, 2006 I sat straight up in bed; my abdomen was rock hard. I wasn't for sure right away if something was wrong or if I was just having a Braxton hick's contraction, a really strong one. Due to our past history of struggles with pregnancies, I sometimes felt paranoid that something was wrong, and I didn't want to freak out this time too. Well, my abdomen stayed rock hard and would not let up so I woke Tom up. We quickly made arrangements for Sami and Shane, and then raced to the hospital in Rochester. I remember when we were a few miles away from the hospital, I felt myself go sheet white. I knew there was something majorly wrong but did not know what. I remember telling Tom over and over, "Something's not right, something's not right". Within mere minutes of our arrival at the birth center my room was filled with doctors and staff and then emptied as they rushed into the ER for an emergency C-section. Talking with the doctor afterwards we found out that Caleb was minutes from not making it. He came out blue and lifeless but they were able to resuscitate him within 2 minutes. The whole operating room gave a cheer and then they had to get back to me; I had lost over 2 liters of blood. The doctor told me that if I had not have woken up, I would have died too. She explained that I had experienced a complete placental abruption and it was a miracle that we both made it and survived the whole ordeal. But by the grace of God Caleb and I are here today. Caleb was big for his gestational age, so he had size on his side. He spent the first 7 weeks of his life in the NICU where he just had to get bigger and be able to eat on his own. He was otherwise a very healthy little baby boy who could fit in the palm of Tom's hand. Now I don't think Tom can hardly even pick him up anymore, he is such a solid guy.

Caleb is our Lego lovin sports guy, who especially loves contact sports. If he can barrel into you while he is playing, he is all for it! He is not competitive about it, he just has a blast playing. In fact, if his big bro Shane is home and playing with him, Caleb just laughs and has a blast. His giggle makes us all laugh. He also has developed an interest in horses. Since Sami has her horse home now, Caleb is thinking that he wants one too. He heads up with her every day to work with Barbie and help Sami. Maybe someday Sami will have herself a riding partner.

Caleb is a sweetheart of a boy who is very sensitive, thoughtful, and helpful. He is the first of all the kids to ask if he can help you with anything, and the first one to get up and help if you tell everyone that you need help with something. He does not like the limelight, like all of our other kids do. He is more comfortable helping and staying in the background where he can just do his thing and no one sees him, which I think he gets from me. But then there is this other side of him too, the clown side. He loves to be the clown and have everybody laugh at him, and sometimes he doesn't know when to quit 😊 I'm pretty sure he gets that from his Dad!

Caleb loves to laugh, pick on his younger brother, stir up his sister, color, read, and eat!! And boy can that kid eat, especially meat! And if there is no meat on his plate, he is quite concerned. If Caleb could pick his favorite meal it would be meat, with a side of meat, and meat for dessert, lol! I think he would throw some potatoes in there too. We are working on developing his love for all things veggie! Needless to say, we are raising the right kind of stuff to keep up with him 😊

This has been fun for me to write about Caleb and all of our family members! It has helped me to reflect on and really appreciate the uniqueness of all of us. I hope you have enjoyed reading these bios and getting to know us a little bit better.