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Chapter Ten
Nine Months Old,
Nasal Canula Trials

♥ July 21, 2005 at 09:12 AM CDT

Good Thursday to All,

Daddy here with a much needed check-in with all of you. With most of the Kramr/Janik side of the family enjoying the week at Lake Catherine in Arkansas, Kimberly and I have been dreaming about that cool water. We look forward to the day that Blake is riding a float with the whole family basking in the sun. I'm sure Uncle Delbert looks forward to having one more to pull in the tube. We wish everyone a relaxing week, and a safe trip home.

Knowing Kimberly would be missing everyone this week...we really appreciate so many taking the time to stop by for a visit. Unfortunately, Blake had a down day Tuesday, and Kimberly couldn't get away from Blake's room for a while and didn't get to visit with everyone. Thank you all for taking time to come by...we're sorry if you didn't get to see Blake. But yesterday was a much better day, and more than anything else...Blake used it to catch up on his rest. Knowing one of our favorite nurse Wayna was with Blake, Kimberly took time go shopping for a bit, and get a brief change of pace before settling back with Blake for the afternoon/evening. When that boy is ready to sleep...he can sleep. Sometimes 18 hours straight, with an occasional stretch or batting of the CPAP prongs. His sats. were much better yesterday. Blake is on a pressure of 9, our goal is to slowly move this down in the coming weeks.

I wanted to say how much Blake, Kimberly, and I enjoyed our visit with Sasha, Chase, & Catch...and Grandma Johnson too. Chase came in with Sasha to see Blake for his first time. Since we have been in this 'bubble' of sorts with Blake for the past nine months...we have really missed seeing little Catch. It was such a good day to see you all. Check out the latest

photos for a peak at our visit. Catch even brought some of his own toys to share with Blake. Thank you!

Yes, did you catch that one... 'Nine Months'? Blake celebrated by resting on his couch and playing with his toys. Blake is continuing to grow, weighing in at over 14 lbs. now. He is gaining on the field, reaching up to the 5% mark. This is a good sign that Blake is growing at a better pace. Daddy really sees it when he comes in Friday night after a few days away. All the nurses agree too, they all lovingly call him 'Chunky'...

A quick note of sorts to congratulate our good friends Bob and Catherine Stapleton...they are expecting a girl later this fall!!! Bob and Catherine found out the baby's sex this week, and were overjoyed. Everything is coming along perfectly, get ready Bob for ride of your life. 'Daddy' will fit you well! Prayers for you both...

For those of you who like to hear a few things to focus on when it comes to our prayers, here we go: We pray for continued development and strength of Blake's lungs as he works hard everyday to breath easier and with less support from the CPAP, We pray that Blake's heart will continue to grow strong and that the eventual heart surgery can be put off for as many months as possible, and we pray that Blake will be able to come home before needing this surgery. We pray for continued patience and endurance for Mommy and Daddy to keep the faith that we will one day all be home together. And we pray that everyone knows how much we love our entire family and friends and appreciate their hard work and love. We pray for the coming days...

Take Care everyone...summer is flying by. Enjoy it!

♥ July 27, 2005 at 05:09 PM CDT

Wednesday, and over the hump...

Quick update for all you Blake-sters, and I'm sure that I'll miss some of you tonight as the 5 pm whistle is about to blow. Today Blake was able to go down on the CPAP pressure. About three weeks ago, the doctors started to wean Blake from a pressure of 10. He went down, then up, and has been able to get down to 7 today.

Actually, we are keeping it on the quiet side, as to not let Blake know how big this could be. We are hoping to continue this trend, and hopefully start making bigger plans for our little boy. I don't dare say anything yet, but hope that Blake continues to improve at this pace. Keep it up, Son!!

A big weekend coming up...as our dear friends Bruce and Donna are getting married in Bastrop. This will be Kimberly's first trip out of Houston in nearly 6 months. It will be a great day! Babysitters are already in line for Saturday (Michelle & Grandma Kramr). Kimberly and I will be back to tell Blake all about it Saturday night. Best wishes to Bruce and Donna!

Keep up the prayers and well wishes!

Thank you all...

Daddy Chad

♥ August 02, 2005 at 08:05 AM CDT

How low can you go?

Blake is now breathing well w/ the CPAP set to 6 on the pressure. The doctor's think a good week at this, and they will try nasal canula. Most likely they will alternate CPAP and nasal canula for the first days to slowly transition Blake off the CPAP. We are very proud of our little fighter. He is improving daily. We definitely notice a change in his spirit too, he is happier and relieved to have that pressure rush in his nose go down.

Prayers for continued success at getting off CPAP. Thank you all for sending prayers to our son. They are working...

Sunday as I was leaving the RMH, by chance...I met a father whose 13 year son just completed VSD heart surgery. After two days, his son was out of the hospital and doing well. There is no doubt that I was meant to exchange stories with this father. He actually got off the elevator on the wrong floor which allowed us to start talking. This gave me strength as I was heading back to Austin. Little occurrences like these continue to strengthen our faith that Blake will pull through all this.

Have a great day and week...

Chad

♥ August 04, 2005 at 01:25 PM CDT

Blake's doing good!

Kimberly says Blake's been smiling all morning and doing well. He's taken the step down to 6 on the CPAP in stride and looking forward to next week. We'll see, maybe a try at nasal canula. Blake's finish his physical therapy this morning and a good holding with Mommy, so a nap is definitely due. If I don't get a chance to send a message tomorrow, we hope everyone has a good weekend.

With the BBQ dinner plate benefit coming up this Saturday in Santa Fe, we hope to visit with many of you praying for Blake. The gathering will be from 11-2 @ the Santa Fe Fire Station. Thank you all for the hard work and thought put into the event. There is a feature put together of Blake's photos with family and friends at different stages of his first nine months. I'm sure it will all be very special.

Have a great day...and we'll keep you posted.

Chad

♥ August 08, 2005 at 01:40 PM CDT

GREAT MONDAY EVERYONE!!! Aunt Becky here.

Boy are we breathing easier since Saturday. Blake's Buddies first fundraising event was a HUGE success!!! We served somewhere around

600 dinner plates and over 150 BBQ buns to some of the most BIG hearted people you'll ever meet. The desserts were wonderful and the silent auction was bigger than our wildest dreams! To top the day off-- Kim and Chad were BOTH able to make it down for most of the afternoon. Blake really wanted his Mom and Dad to visit with all those faithful prayers. It was a pretty emotional reunion of sorts but a wonderful way for everyone to show Kim, Chad and our whole family how much love and support we have all around us.

Words can't express enough our gratitude for the countless hours spent planning, collecting, purchasing, preparing, selling, setting up and cleaning that went into making Saturday such a success. You all know that we will always hold your kindness and love close to our hearts and be eternally grateful for the strength you give to persevere.

Now that we've had a day of rest, it's on to the next task- tying up the details for the Austin event. We're looking forward to another fun weekend at the end of September. If you haven't made plans yet, mark your calendar for September 24th. You can email me for more information.

Thanks again to Blake's Buddies and Congratulations on a Job Well Done!!!

More later-

Aunt Becky

♥ **August 10, 2005 at 11:06 AM CDT**

Thank You Santa Fe!

Growing up in Santa Fe, there is always this inside joke of not being the other Santa Fe. "...no Santa Fe, Texas..." Though our Santa Fe is not known for its scenic hills, or vacation resorts...you all shared with us the true wealth of our community. Saturday was a special day filled with sincerity, love, and generosity. Let me tell you all, that you are the 'real' Santa Fe.

The overwhelming spirit of gracious support and hope filled our day, and we will continue to share that gift with our son with stories in the future. Kimberly and I want to thank you all for the planning and execution of a wonderful day for our son. Thank you all who stopped by for a hug, sharing that you have been praying for Blake. Thank you all who shared gifts for our son, and took away auction items and B.B.Q. plates in return. And most of all, we want to thank our family and closest friends who made this day possible.

We love you all, and make it through the tough moments with your support. Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus, who ran the meal line which did not slow down the entire three hours. Special thanks also to our friend Benny, who prepared all the briskets for the event...they were delicious. And special thanks for all those who loaned tables and chairs, and moved them to and from the Fire House. And thanks to the Santa Fe Fire House for hosting the event. You all are special people, and prove that our small community is big in heart and love.

The good will and hopeful spirit of the day was taken back to Blake with our memories and stories to him. He smiled...actually some of the biggest smiles we've seen yet from him. Blake started to breath two hours a day

with the nasal canula Monday. This has gone well, and we are hopeful this transition will slowly increase to where he only needs the oxygen from the canula. We may then be able to start thinking of the 'H' word. We'll take one day at a time...and enjoy the fact that our little boy is with us, and overcoming things daily. He is showing us daily that all your prayers and encouraging spirit are leading him to better days. We are very proud of him! Kimberly shared a moment with me from yesterday...after taking a quick meal break, she came back to his room to find him playing in his rocking chair by himself. She stood still for a moment to take in the sight of seeing him reaching for toys and noticeably thinking about his surroundings. I have to hold back a few tears thinking of the sight...

Kimberly and I can not express enough our full gratitude to you all who helped and attended the Santa Fe Benefit. We are blessed with a special group of family and friends. Actually we think of you all as family. We hope that all your sharing will all come back to you ten fold.

Thank You Santa Fe.

Thank You Blake's Buddies.

(photos to come shortly...)