

October 2016



Dear Friends and Family,



**I apologize for taking so long** to send out a prayer letter as well as an announcement about the birth of Sofia. We did post an announcement and a picture on Facebook the day she was born, but here you will find a bit more about her birth and a number of pictures from her first four months. Enjoy!



**Sofia Amanda Gutierrez was born** on her due date, June 11<sup>th</sup>, at 2:40 a.m. I had an appointment that morning and the doctor really wanted me to stay at the hospital to be induced. I told her that I had driven myself and was not prepared to stay but would go home and if the baby didn't come that day, then I would come the next day to be induced. She sent me home to wait though I know she wanted me to come right back. I spent the rest of the day walking and trying to go into labor ☺ to the point that by the evening I was exhausted and though I was having contractions, they were not consistent nor were they getting stronger. Thomas had to run the sound for the high school graduation and then was planning to attend the party that night. We kept in touch through the evening, and at 10 p.m. I finally called to tell him to enjoy the party because this baby obviously was not coming and I was going to bed. So you can imagine his surprise when I called at 11:40 p.m. to tell him that I had slept for a bit only to be awoken by my water breaking and very strong contractions starting 10 minutes later and that I would be leaving for the hospital with Halle and my mom in just a few minutes. He left the graduation party and met us at the hospital. We arrived around 12:20 a.m. and I was told that I was at 5cm. At one point the doctor mentioned doing an ultrasound because of my previous C-section, but I think as time passed he could tell that there may not be enough time. Giving birth in a foreign country can have its differences and add to that using the local insurance and you can constantly be in for a surprise. The surprises for me this time were a frustration and a blessing. The frustration was that they had changed some policies about who can be with the mom while she is laboring so my mom was not allowed to be with me during the hardest part of the contractions. And no one informed me that although I had a letter giving Thomas permission to be there for the birth, I needed to ask about it as soon as I had arrived. Either way, the birth happened pretty fast and at 2:40 a.m. Sofia was born! The unexpected blessing came in that I was able to have her with me from the moment she was born. In my past birth experiences, I would get to hold my baby for a bit and then they would take my little one to the neonatal area until both of us were released by the doctors to leave the hospital. This time Sofi stayed with me until we left later that day. What a blessing it was to have her with me from the moment she was born and to have my mom by my side after the birth!



**Sofi has proven to be a very happy** and sleepy baby! Of course she has her moments, as any baby does, but overall she is very easy to make smile and almost seems to laugh at times. Samantha, Anthony and Nicole are definitely in love with their little sister. She has been a joy to our family.



With joy,

Amanda Gutiérrez



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