



# THE PENTONS' PROGRESS

Your Monthly Newsletter For The Community Ministry of Central Ohio Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Volume 24

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More than half of January was spent waiting for the arrival of Joel S. Penton III, who arrived 1 week late!



## Camp Kern

On January 24th Joel drove to Oregonia, OH for a youth retreat. The Regional Lutheran Church holds their annual retreat at Camp Kern and their theme this year was "Expect the Unexpected." Joel shared what you might expect, the Gospel. He shared about the life transforming power of Jesus that arrested him the moment he put his faith in Christ—it was completely unexpected. He pleaded with the youth to not wait but call on Christ now. He promised that if they also chose to follow Jesus that they could expect the same type of life changing experience. After the retreat, Joel told me that the time he has had off of speaking recently helped him appreciate the extreme honor and privilege it is to be able to share the Gospel with so many people. Praise God for the opportunity He has given us to be a part of what he is doing!

## Joel Stephen Penton III

We would like to thank everyone who prayed for the safe and healthy arrival of Joel III. It was very clear to us throughout the 3 days in the hospital that we were covered in prayer. I had worried for weeks about the potential problems with being induced and on the day of the induction I was calm and happy. We were blessed to have great nurses who listened to each and every detailed request we had including the desire to pray with our little one immediately after he was born. We also were blessed by the Lord to have one nurse who was a Christian and prayed with us during the labor. Finally, on January 17th at 2:03pm Joel III arrived! He weighed 8 lbs 4 oz and measured 21 inches. He was also 1 week late and took 23 hours of labor! He wanted to make a dramatic entrance! Thank the Lord for this precious blessing!

Until next month ,

*-Bethany Penton*

## Please Pray For...

- Parenthood (see below)
- Upcoming assemblies
- Upcoming outreach events

## Message From Joel

Teammates,

January was an exciting month with the birth of our child. Bethany and I are so thrilled with the opportunity to raise Joel III to be a man of God. I pray that I as a father I can model God The Father to my son. Our first night in the hospital after Joel's birth I preached the Gospel to my boy for the first time. I told him that he is a sinner and he needs Jesus to save him and give him new birth. I don't think he got it. You know they do say that people have to hear the Gospel an average of seven times before they believe. I will keep preaching to him.

Please pray for us as we enter this new phase of our lives. Pray that I can draw the proper boundaries around my work schedule so as to not neglect my family. Pray also for me and Bethany that we would not slip into the common and tempting sin of idolatry, serving our child before God. We want our home to be Christ centered, kid friendly, not the other way around.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

God Bless,

*- Joel*

