



# BRIDGES

*A Newsletter of New Baptist Church - November 2024*

After many years of waiting, on October 17 at 10:42 PM Theophilus David Eastman was born, my grandson. Hannah Eastman (Theo's mom) went to the hospital early morning the day before (October 16). Soon after her arrival the contractions slowly began and continued through the day. We thought that Theo would be born sometime that evening (Oct 16), but his birth would not be for another 24 hours. At one point during the late afternoon on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Theo's heart rate dropped, and an emergency C-section was about to kick into gear. Thankfully, his heart rate leveled, and Hannah was able to deliver him nearly 7 hours later.

It would be another 2 hours before I would get my first chance to greet my grandson!! I was overjoyed.

It was nearly 40 hours from when Hannah entered the hospital to the moment of Theo's birth. For a grandparent, that was a lot of waiting. And as I waited, I was reminded once again not only of how amazing the birth of a child is but also of how terrifying. I began to really feel this terror when the news was sent to us regarding Theo's heart rate drop and the possibility of a C-section. I never doubted the good care that Hannah and Theo were receiving, but we still prayed, asking the Lord for His hand of protection and care upon them. During this time of worry my mind pondered on what it must have been like to be a young woman giving birth to her firstborn in the not-so-faraway past. With no modern medical care, labor and childbirth must have truly been frightening for the young women who experienced it.

During that time of waiting, I found comfort in various Bible verses. Passages like Psalm 139:14

*(I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made), Jeremiah 1:5 (Before I formed you in the womb I knew you), or 1 Timothy 2:15 (Yet she will be saved through childbearing) came to my mind. Yet the passage though that my soul clung to was Isaiah 46:4, “**even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.**”* God's word in Isaiah was a reminder that not only did the Lord hold Theo in His hands now, at the time of birth, but will carry him into old age too.



After nearly two full days of waiting, Theo finally arrived, and when he did, all the waiting was worth it. This in itself is a profound spiritual lesson. Throughout scripture, God calls us to wait on Him (Example, Psalm 27:14, “**Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**”). Sometimes the waiting is long, difficult, and filled with uncertainty—whether

we are waiting for healing, for direction, or for God's promises to unfold in our lives. But in His perfect timing, God delivers. *He will carry you. He will save you.*

As we prepare to enter the Thanksgiving season, I am filled with gratitude for God's faithfulness during those tense hours of waiting, for His blessings of health and life, and for the gift of a new grandchild. I'm reminded that, in both the extraordinary and ordinary moments of life, God is always near, guiding, protecting, and sustaining us. May we all take time this month to thank Him for the blessings in our lives, both seen and unseen.

Grace and Peace,  
Trenton David Eastman