



Seth & Kaitlin Folkers

MOBILE BIBLE INSTITUTE MINISTRY IN AFRICA

Dear friends,

Jochebed Emma Folkers was born on Thursday, July 6 at 6:36 am at Columbus Community Hospital in Columbus, WI. She weighed 5 lbs. 5 oz., and was 19 in. long.

After we returned to Milwaukee a week and a half ago, Kaitlin had a check-up and everything seemed to be normal. We heard the baby's heartbeat. Kaitlin's measurements were a little small, but within the acceptable range.

Sadly, Kaitlin began to realize early last week that something had gone wrong. Although she tried to elicit movement from the baby, there was no response. By Tuesday afternoon she was very concerned. That night my family drove us up to see the midwife, and she was unable to find any heartbeat. An ultrasound the next day confirmed that the baby had died.

Last Wednesday, July 5, we went in to the hospital, and the doctor induced labor. She expected Kaitlin would deliver by sometime Thursday evening, but God graciously granted an intense but shorter labor, and our daughter was born at 6:36 in the morning. My family and Kaitlin's mom and grandma came and spent the day with us in the hospital, then the doctor released us to drive home that evening.

For the sake of Kaitlin's family from SD, as well as friends who drove over to be with us, we had the funeral Saturday afternoon at 4:30. We then buried our little Jochebed yesterday morning at 9:00.

The cause of her death remains a mystery known only to God. It is possible that a blood clot between the cord and the placenta cut off the baby's life flow, but they are not sure. We know that God was in control, that it was His will to take her at this time, and we praise Him for it.

The middle name, Emma, belonged to my grandmother who passed away in April, as well as Kaitlin's great-grandma. Jochebed was a name Kaitlin had liked, and we both felt the meaning was perfect: "whose glory is Jehovah." Our little girl will never know anything else but to glory in the Savior, by whose redeeming work she was granted access into the presence of God for all eternity. Praise God that He allowed us to bring forth this little life to glorify Him forever!

As God has brought us through this difficult trial, we have been amazed at the grace He has given. We know that so many have been praying for us, for which we are very thankful. In innumerable ways God has demonstrated His goodness and kindness to us.

First, we thank Him that we were able to be back in WI, with the midwife and our family nearby, and a house for us to stay in. We had just arrived here five days earlier from months on the road. His timing was perfect.



SENDING CHURCH
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Pastor Ken Schultz
P.O. Box 393, Box Elder, SD 57719

CONTACT
✉ ephesians4_12@wwntbm.com
☎ 573.620.3927
✉ P.O. Box 725, Kings Mountain, NC 28086

WORLD WIDE
NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST MISSIONS

God led us to just the right hospital, a small community hospital with a doctor who had had home births herself, and a wonderful, attentive nursing staff. They were so kind to us, and each one seemed to take a personal interest. We are thankful for the opportunity to be a testimony to them. God seemed to be touching their hearts.

From the very beginning of our ordeal, the folks at Falls Baptist Church poured out sympathy and love towards us in a way we had never before experienced. In special times of prayer, cards and gift baskets, texts and emails, meals delivered to our house, and their help and attendance at the funeral, they demonstrated so much genuine compassion and brotherly love. What an encouragement they have been to us!

We appreciated my mom serving as our contact person to pass on updates and arrange details, and Pastor Van Gelderen and his wife driving over an hour each way to the hospital on his day off to be with us. Family and friends, including our pastors, drove all the way from SD to Milwaukee! Kaitlin's dad made a beautiful wooden casket. We are so blessed.



We are thankful also for the things God is teaching us. Although we knew it in our heads, this has caused us to understand in our hearts what a gift from God a child is. Bearing a child is not just a natural occurrence, but a divine blessing. God is the one who safely carries that child through to birth and beyond. When God gives us children in the future (as we earnestly hope and trust that He will), we will realize all the more what a stewardship they are.

Also, we've come to see in a new way how much the grace of God can make the bitter things sweet. As in the desert the bitter waters of Marah were made sweet when the tree was cut down and placed in them, so the grace of God through Jesus Christ, which has come by his atoning work on the cross, transforms even the bitter trials into sweetness. We would have it no other way than God's way.

Our plans have not changed. Because of the meetings we have scheduled we'll remain in the Milwaukee area until the end of August, working on preparations for our departure to Cameroon in December. We're also planning on attending a missionary boot camp together the end of this month. Lord willing, I'll be sending out our regular prayer letter within the next week or so, as soon as I have a link to a video of the funeral service.

Please do continue to pray for us, and especially Kaitlin during these days ahead. She is doing very well, as we look to the Lord, but I know it will be hard at times. We're seeking to establish a good schedule for the rest of the summer, and to fill our time with profitable activity. While we are planning time to rest and recover, we also don't want to sit around and dwell on our loss. We believe the best thing will be to keep looking ahead at what God has for us in the future, and looking above at the joys of eternity.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

May the Lord's grace be with you,

Seth and Kaitlin Folkers