



Texas Parent to Parent

A Grandfather's Story

Charles Clack, TxP2P Volunteer

We were about to take Ariana home after spending 24 hours overnight with her in the hospital learning about the intricacies of her care when a doctor asked us to step into a side room with him. He mentioned his experience of 24 years in Neonatal care and said in his opinion Ariana suffered from a "Bulbar Palsy." He didn't want to see us take Ariana home out of a sense of guilt or obligation. She would probably never recover any of her functionality as we would know for a child. He said, "Let me make this crude analogy . . . Ariana is like an expensive Rolex, a beautiful time piece. However, she's been dropped and although still beautiful, will probably never keep time again."

I told him as I was reminded how I had experienced the winning of a \$1,000 Seiko LaSalle watch in a company contest. It was a beautiful glittering gold watch with an intricate solitary band. The entire band fit into the extremely thin watch face. I explained I had taken the watch to Sears to have the band adjusted. Because of its unique design, the clerk couldn't understand how to adjust the band. He took hold of the band with a pair of large scissors and amidst my horror, he put the band in these large shears on the floor and began to step on the watch. Damage to the watch was significant - the band had large gouges from the shears. I negotiated with Sears' management and they agreed to send the watch back to Seiko for repair. After about 8 weeks of nervous calls to the Sears outlet, I was told the watch was in the store for pickup in their jewelry department. I went in and met with the Manager. He said, "Charles, here is your watch. Well, not your actual watch, but a replacement. See your watch was repaired at the factory, but in the process of shipping it back, it was run over by a UPS truck. The manufacturer and the shipper have provided this brand new watch."

I then replied, "Doctor, I understand what you are saying, but God has shown me that it's not what we see but can't see which is real. I don't know how exactly but Ariana is in the hands of the watch maker who made her. We will not only have a beautiful timepiece soon but one who keeps perfect time. As we wait on God, He's promised us in His time Ariana will be restored to perfection. Her name and her condition are not an accident. This temporary condition is for HIS Glory. Our token to remind us of His truth that by His stripes we ARE healed."

This is demonstrated in the choice of Ariana's name. Her father, talking with a fellow AA member, said, "I have to name this little girl and I have no idea what to name her." His friend said, "Well, I always liked the name 'Ariana.'" Her mother chose her middle name, "Sky." Ariana means "Silvery or Holy (Ari)" and "One" (Ana) - with Sky being Heavenly, Ariana has been named a "Heavenly Holy One." So, it is with great anticipation we await the new and the beautiful, God has blessed us and others who have met Ariana Sky with his unfathomable Glory and Grace."

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