



Three Blessings

After spending 10 years trying to grow their family, the Perkins were blessed with triplet boys

Written by Ashley Lancaster | Photography by Lindsey Shelburne

When Gaberial and SaKora Perkins learned they were pregnant, they felt a slight disbelief. “We were trying to expand our family and had tried for nearly 10 years with no success,” recalls SaKora. “My husband was hesitant in his excitement because we had been trying for so long.”

Still, the joy of a new baby after a decade of trying was hard to suppress. Both had spent years planning for a large family, even buying a home that would accommodate siblings for their daughter, AnJané.

After what seemed like a lifetime, their prayers were answered. AnJané, a sophomore at Morton Ranch High School, was beyond excited to be a big sister. It seemed to the

Perkins family all they had to do was wait - and a new little one would complete their family.

Unexpected Blessings

The Perkins went in for their regularly scheduled ultrasound appointment, which would tell them the baby’s gender. Quite unexpectedly, the technician looked up from the screen and announced that they were having twins. While the couple was still processing this information, Gaberial heard, “No wait! There’s another one!” It was beyond anything they could have anticipated.

“We were very nervous,” recalls Gaberial, who had always yearned for a son. “But that nervousness changed into pure



Gaberial and SaKora Perkins, along with their daughter Anjané, were excited to welcome now 2-year-old triplets, Blake, Cayden, and Austin

Austin



Cayden



Blake



pride when we found out that we were not only having three beautiful children, but they were all boys. What more could I ask for?" So, hand in hand, the Perkins family moved forward with faith in God and much prayer.

"It took a lot of prayer and a level of mental and emotional strength that I have never needed in life before," says SaKora. "I was on an emotional roller coaster and would wake up every morning to a small note that I had written to motivate myself that read, 'Today, our goal is to stay pregnant.'"

Although she was at times overwhelmed with worry, her favorite part of preparing during pregnancy was decorating the nursery. "This was the most rewarding room I've ever had the

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“I was on an emotional roller coaster and would wake every morning to a small note that I wrote to motivate myself that read, ‘Today, our goal is to stay pregnant.’”

– SaKora Perkins

pleasure of completing. It allowed me to relax and think of what it would be like to have my babies at home soon.”

Answered Prayers

On January 27, 2011, SaKora and Gaberial welcomed Austin, Cayden, and Blake into the world - two months premature. As a result, the boys were very small and required intensive care. Already, the joy of new life was stifled by the risks associated with premature birth.

“They were all placed in the level three NICU. While there, Cayden contracted necrotizing enterocolitis and was given less than a 30% chance of survival,” says SaKora. “He remained in the NICU for five more months.”

The first months were extremely difficult, but the family was astounded at the level of support they received. Family members would come to the house to stay with AnJané while Gaberial and SaKora faced a five-month battle to get all three boys home. Finally, their sons received a clean bill of health, and the Perkins’ prayers of having a big family were fully and completely answered.

From day one, the Perkinses knew they were outnumbered. “This was an all-hands-on-deck situation”, says SaKora. “They were on a feeding schedule that required they eat every one and a half hours to make sure they gained weight. The feedings were required around the clock. Needless to say, we got no sleep.”

One Loving Family

Two years later, Austin, Cayden, and Blake are all happy healthy little boys. “Each one of them is a unique individual and we raise them as such. But they are truly partners in crime,” laughs SaKora.

Not only that, but they have excelled in their physical and mental development. Whereas at birth they were fragile and underweight, they are now each expected to grow over six feet tall. AnJané is a wonderful older sister and loves to show off her brothers to her friends. The shared responsibilities have made their family much closer, and they all pitch in to help whenever needed.

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Even though the triplets spent time in the NICU, they are each very active and healthy



“We were very nervous, but that nervousness changed into pure pride when we found out that we were not only having three beautiful babies, but they were all boys!”

– Gaberial Perkins

Through faith and prayer the Perkins now have everything they've ever wanted. "Our family is unique, and we can't remember, or imagine, life any other way," SaKora says proudly. "We are one loving family unit, and we love our time together." KM


ASHLEY LANCASTER is a married mother of two, lives in Katy, and loves watching her boys play football.

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