

Family fills week with announcements

It was a week full of news from the Lutz abode. Austin, our 5-year-old grandson, called on a Tuesday exclaiming, "My EEG was normal!"

That was some of the BEST news anyone could have given me. Two years earlier at age 3, Austin's EEG showed that his brain waves had severe seizure activity. Out of the blue, epileptic seizures became a part of his daily life.

Despite the many attempts of neurologists to find the right meds, the brief drop seizures weren't stopping and, in fact, were becoming more frequent. It was a heartache to watch his development start regressing.

Austin had an immediate favorable change when they found a doctor who made the diagnosis of Doose Syndrome. Just days after changing his diet, the seizures stopped and his true personality began to return.

Slowly weaning off all meds and remaining faithful to the low carbohydrate, high fat diet, Austin's condition improved to the highest expectations. Those changes actually allowed his brain waves to change and he's now being weaned off the diet. What a miracle of miracles!!

So a few hours later, Austin called again and said, "It's a girl!"

The Lutz family is expecting a baby in December and Brooke and Jeff had been to the doctor for an ultrasound. Although Austin expressed some disappointment that he wouldn't be getting a brother, it was special news to know a little more about our third grandchild and to envision another bundle of pink.

Another Perspective

Written by Lori Pankonin

The news didn't stop there. Later in the week, we learned that Jeff, Brooke, Austin and Tayvin will be moving to Red Cloud in a matter of weeks. Austin will start kindergarten there. They are excited about the opportunity for Jeff to make the change within the Great Plains Communications company. Brooke is impressed with the school and after much prayer, the decision was made.

Great! Austin said he's excited and then added, "You're going to visit me every day, right?"

No, I won't. That change will take some getting used to for all of us. We've been rather spoiled to have our grandkids within blocks for their entire lives. In a matter of minutes, we could head for the park or the library or just have some playtime at Grandma's and maybe an overnight stay.

There just aren't too many other people in my life who get so excited when they see me and run to me with big hugs and exhilarating expressions. That's a pretty special pleasure.

I don't know how many times I've gone over just for a hug fix if I needed a little pick-me-up. Those opportunities will still be there, they'll just be less frequent and will require some planning and travel time. But I can still get those invigorating phone calls that make me laugh and warm my heart. And the phone will allow us to hear those words, "I love you."

It's a great opportunity. Although they don't yet have a place to live, things are falling into place and that, too, will happen.

The week caused me to sit back and reflect on life and the importance of good health, the joy of family and the importance of job satisfaction.

Good luck, Brooke and Jeff. Count on more fun times, Austin and Tayvin. We look forward to meeting your little sister.

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