

Our Cover Families

Life in the fast lane of high order multiples took us by complete surprise. Having just moved into the Washington, DC area in May for a tour at the Pentagon (George Jr. is a Surface Warfare Officer in the United States Navy), we found out we were pregnant in July of 2006. We were very excited to begin our family but had little idea the extent of the joys and blessings God was about to bestow on us. We always wanted a big family and assumed, as most, that it would be through the normal slow process of one child at a time.

We first became aware we were joining the ranks of supertwin parents at my 10 1/2 week check-up. My doctor said she had a strange feeling and wanted to do an ultrasound to see if maybe we had twins. As the doctor started the ultrasound, you could immediately see three babies and in stereo, the doctor and I said, "Oh my goodness." Then peaking out at us from behind two siblings you could see what appeared to be a fourth. I was in shock and disbelief. The next day my husband and I went for a high-resolution sonogram and received confirmation: we were indeed the proud expectant parents of quadruplets. We immediately began to pray for wisdom, guidance, and help! Life has been full of blessings, tough times, craziness, lots of love and adventures ever since then.

Blessed with a relatively uneventful pregnancy with very few complications and I felt good overall. I worked through November of 2006 and then my mother came to live with us and help around the house. I finally entered the hospital on bedrest two weeks before the babies were born. George III, Michaela, Rachel and Jared were born on January 16, 2007 at 30 1/2 weeks. God was so gracious and they did amazing in the NICU. Ranging from 2lbs 3oz to 3lbs 4oz the quads had no severe complications. I however suffered from a pulmonary embolism and then severe internal bleeding. I was in and out of ICU twice and had one emergency surgery as a result of the internal bleeding. Through it all, I was just happy I was fighting these battles and in pain rather than my babies. After some minor surgeries and one more major surgery, I finally began to heal. On February 8th, I came home followed by Baby George and Rachel two weeks later. Then within a couple of days, Jared came home and finally Michaela a week later.

The idea that it takes a village to raise a child becomes a stark reality bringing four babies home at one time. We have been blessed by so many people sacrificing their time, energy and love to help us in this wonderful endeavor. Our parents came and spent time with us, our church family and other friends rallied around to help with feedings, laundry, cleaning, and meals. Even people who we had never met came to assist us and be a constant support. Many of the people have continued to help us as the

babies have grown into toddlers. One set of grandparents live close and they have been spending 3-4 days a week with us since their birth. It has been neat to see how these children have become such a big part of so many people's lives and hearts. I have also enjoyed the MOST family. The magazine articles are so helpful and inspirational. I love to hear about others who share my challenges and joys and how they deal with the day-to-day and big events. I look forward to each magazine and reading about other families like ours.

Time has flown; the babies are now two and have grown so much. The cover picture is of our first family vacation at Hilton Head, South Carolina last October. It was truly an experience with the three sets of grandparents, brothers, sisters, and cousins all in attendance. The quads are now in toddler beds, talking up a storm, and we are working on potty training, which is going well so far. At the end of the day, I am exhausted but happy and proud to be a mother of quads.



Rachel, Michelle, George III, Jared, George Jr. & Michaela Kessler at Hilton Head
(Cover photo: George III, Michaela, Jared & Rachel)

Thank you MOST for a wonderful resource through *SUPERTWINS* magazine and God Bless you all! 💕

by Michelle & George Kessler Jr. Parents to George III,
Michaela, Rachel & Jared (1/07)



Back Cover Family:
The Webb Sisters Madelyn
(5/99) with Grace, Katherine &
Jacqueline (5/99)