

My name is Shannan and I have 5 beautiful little girls and 1 handsome grown son.

I did not think I was ever going to have any more sons. I thought I might have been cursed for the rest of my life to have only girls but one day I must have prayed long and hard enough because when it came time to have my ultrasound done my husband and I were surprised to find out that it was a boy! The only thing I could think of to say was "well that's what has been poking me this whole time" - trying to make a joke so I would not start to cry out of joy to finally have another son, my final child. I guess God has something in store for me to finally give me a son that I have been waiting so long and hard for this whole time.

I was coming to Virginia for a family visit when my husband and I decided to have a homebirth. I was just so sick and tired of the way the hospital always treated me like a piece of dead meat. So I met with Jennifer Rector and said, "This is it. She is the one that is going to birth my baby at home."

All went well. On October 14th, 2009 we were at a bridal shop - shopping for dresses for my brother in law's wedding. All of a sudden, my water broke!! So my mother-in-law and I got in the car and headed home. My husband was at home cooking a delicious seafood dinner (which i never got to eat). Within 20 minutes, Jennifer and her assistants showed up.

Over the next 2 hours I was sitting in a very nice warm bathtub getting ready to give birth to my son. When Bettie checked me, she told me that I should get on my left side to help finish dilating. As I rolled over, I immediately pushed my son out into Bettie's hand. His head came out so fast that his face got bruised and within 2 contractions his whole body was out. I was so relieved that it was finally over.

He weighed in at 9 pounds, 6 ounces. I was shocked! I did not think he was so big! I was 1 week and 1 day late but OVER 9 POUNDS!!! - that was my biggest baby yet.

Time came to get the placenta out and nothing happened. We gave it time but after a couple of hours it was no use I had to go to the hospital and have it removed by the doctor. I had lost a lot of blood but all was well and I went home about 8 hours later - home, with my son. I loved having my son at home versus the hospital but since this is my last baby I won't be birthing again. THANK YOU Jen, Bettie, and Neely. You guys were wonderful to me and my family...