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## The next best thing to being there

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## THE LAST WORD



CHARLIE REGISTER

*Charlotte (left) and Sarah Price join their Dad and stepmom in showing off the new additions to the family.*

### The next best thing to being there

**When Sarah Worth '91** gave birth to twin sons on November 28, her husband, Bill, was halfway around the world, in Baghdad. But Bill actually saw their children first — thanks to the wonders of technology and the help of a good friend.

Sarah, who delivered by Caesarean section, says, “The doctors had a sheet up, so I couldn’t see anything. I know Bill saw more than I did.”

The technology came in the form of a Webcam and wireless Internet access. The friend was Carmela Epright, Sarah’s colleague on the Furman philosophy faculty, who operated the Webcam. Bill, a military science professor at Furman, watched from overseas and gave support via cell phone.

“Even if he wasn’t there in person, it was nice to have him in my ear,” Sarah says.

The couple, who married in 2004, discovered that Sarah was pregnant last spring, three days before Bill, an Army Reservist, was scheduled to be deployed to Iraq.

The news was somewhat bittersweet because Sarah knew that her husband, a lieutenant colonel, would not be able to share in her pregnancy. She learned later that she was having twins and would have to undergo a Caesarean because of the position of one of the babies.

With the twins expected in late December, the couple worked with their obstetrician to schedule the delivery for December 8, when Bill would be home on a three-week leave.

But the boys had other plans.

On November 27, Sarah’s water broke — just a day after she had turned in her grades for fall term. After calling her husband, she and Carmela scrambled to put technology to work. Carmela assembled the hardware in the delivery room.

“Thankfully, the hospital [Greenville Memorial] has wireless Internet,” says Sarah.

The twins were born on the 28th at 7:12 and 7:14 a.m., respectively. William Tandler, weighing 5 pounds, 12 ounces, arrived first. His brother, Charles Rabon, weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces.

Both mom and babies endured the delivery well and returned to their home in Greenville four days later. Dad arrived December 5 to meet his sons in person. He returned to Iraq December 27.

— JOHN ROBERTS