

(--From a tape made for the family only two days after he was born!)

1. WELL, PRAISE THE LORD! Here we are! Dear Maria is so shy! I told her to please try to tell you about the birth of the baby, but she said, "Oh, I can't, I can't! I'm too shy! I want you to tell it please!" So anyhow she's lying right here behind me on the bed as chirper and bright as ever, and she's been up and around ever since the day the baby was born!

2. WE REALLY HAD A GREAT TIME! God bless you all!--How's everybody? I trust everybody's okay and happy in the Lord and getting lots of good work done while you're waiting for your babies! God bless you all!

3. I'VE BEEN WANTING TO WRITE YOU a note, but we got caught in the middle of the mother-muddle this time and I haven't had time to get it off. But thanks for your good missives to us. I don't want to take up Maria's time on this tape with the things I want to talk to you about, so I better just let her tell you a little bit about the baby.

4. FIRST I'LL TELL YOU MY STORY! Maria woke me up early Saturday morning, January 25, 1975, by making a quick dash for the bathroom without her bathrobe, and I thought, "That's funny! She's sure going fast! She doesn't usually go that fast like she's in a big hurry!"

5. WELL, IT TURNED OUT HER WATER HAD JUST BROKEN and she was trying to make it to the toilet! I was still half asleep

and dreamy and I wasn't sure, but I just had that feeling right then, "Uh oh! I wonder if her water's broken?"--And sure enough it had! But I thought sleepily, "Well, I'll wait until she gets back and find out." But then I thought,

6. "NOW, SHE DIDN'T PUT HER ROBE ON and she's been several minutes and she'll be cold in there, so I'd better turn on the light to see if she took her robe."--And I turned on her light and the robe was gone! So I turned off the light and tried to doze a bit.

7. BUT AFTER ABOUT TEN MINUTES she still wasn't back and I still kept having this feeling she didn't have her robe, but I couldn't understand as the robe wasn't there. So I finally decided to get up and go see.

8. SHE WAS THE CUTEST LITTLE THING sitting there on the toilet



with her notebook, no robe, cold, in and threw it around her, and then I went to the girls' room and stuck my head in the door and I told Rachel and Lydia. I said, "Good morning!"

11. (--IT WAS 4 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, by the way!) I said, "Good morning, Maria's water has broken and she may need a little help." So they scrambled around and started climbing out of bed and the furor began. Rachel went and sat in the bathroom with Maria for awhile wrapped up in a big blanket, and one time I went in there Lydia was in there with her.

9. IN FACT I HAD A TERRIBLE TIME with the girls and her the night before, Friday night, telling them, "You gotta get her bag packed tonight! She's supposed to have the baby tomorrow!" But Maria kept saying, "Oh no, I'm going to wait and have it Monday when the doctor said he could be there."--He said he'd rather I had it Monday."

10. HERE SHE IS: (Maria: I said I didn't feel like I was going to have the baby. I felt so good I didn't see how it was possible!) So I ran back and grabbed my robe for her and came

