

It's happened again

Once again, the stork has smiled down upon me—I've become a Grandpa again.

There's a neat thing that happens when one becomes a grandparent. It's a feeling of joy and happiness, accompanied by a sense of relief, when the baby is finally born.

Before that, we grandfathers-to-be tend to be a 'cool on the outside, jittery on the inside' sort until that blessed event takes place.

I think that happens because it's our own 'baby' who is giving birth, not someone else's daughter. We also have to rely on someone to call us and give updates, whereas when our own kids were born, most of us dads were watching from the sidelines.

So we fret (at least I did) and be oh-so-careful to not let on that it's bothering you.

Mary Ann and Kevin have presented the family with Adam Joseph, a new little brother for Andrew, who is as delighted with his sibling as if his parents had got a new puppy for him.

Adam arrived last Thursday evening, weighed in at seven pounds, seven ounces, and has been a great little baby, not giving anyone in the family so much as a moment of grief.

And he's a beauty. I told my daughter and son-in-law that they have a knack for making beautiful babies—they looked at each other, grinned silly grins, and then agreed with me.

He sleeps (like a baby—go figure) and seems quite content to take life as it comes, so long as Mom is there to make sure he's fed, is warm and cozy, and has a dry bum.

So life is good.

Over the years, I've met grandparents who found it difficult to accept having a grandchild, simply because they were afraid it made them appear old and 'senior' to the rest of the world.

Personally, I have no such feelings. I'm delighted to hand over the reins of being a disciplinarian/authoritarian in the family, to take on the role of becoming a mentor instead.

With Andrew less than two weeks away from

Ted Brown



turning three, I think that pair of boys will have a great time together, doing all sorts of 'boy things', like playing sports (if their parents have anything to do with it), and all the things that make them the cute little boys they are.

To be honest, I kinda envy those little guys.

I was the only son in my family, having had two older sisters to follow through life. (I tell ya, hand-me-downs became a touchy affair at that time in my life).

Andrew and Adam can be each other's best buddy, plotting to make their parents' lives a living hell, just like all red-blooded little boys ought to do.

I'm excited about that time down the road, when my grandsons are old enough to visit the farm, enjoy the open spaces that few kids today have the opportunity to enjoy, and also spend time with me learning about the joys of rural living—the same lifestyle their mom enjoyed as a kid.

So 'grandpa-hood' has once again come along to bless me, and I'm privileged to have these little people in my life.

I think, the older we get, the more we come to realize how precious this journey called life can be, as we make our way through it, interspersed with little gifts of joy along the way.

And let's face it—above all else, little babies are the most precious gifts of all.

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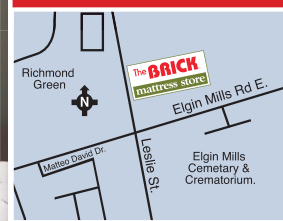


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