

# The Ginn family turns tragedy into hope

Maya and Kate Ginn with their parents, Vicki and Tyler.



## By Victoria Ginn

It never occurred to me to ask Tyler to accompany me to my doctor's appointment. It was our third pregnancy and our 2 1/2 and 1 year old daughters kept us so busy, I was happy I made it out the door that morning with matching shoes.

In an instant, time stood perfectly still. I could hear the words being spoken to me "incompatible with life". Our third child had Trisomy 18, an incurable genetic disorder. My practical side shifted into high gear: remain calm, listen and process; but the tears were uncontrollably falling from my face. You know the risks of pregnancy, but it takes on a whole new reality when you are the less than 1% to which this can happen. It was more than likely that the baby would die before birth and if we did make it to birth, would die shortly after.

The next few days were a soul searching, logical versus spiritual, emotional roller coaster for us. Tyler and I had decided to continue the pregnancy. It was very personal decision that was the absolute right one for our family.

On July 29, 2006, seven months into the pregnancy Sara Ann Ginn was stillborn. Despite the inevitable outcome, we felt very blessed during this entire experience and it has drawn our family even closer. Tyler and I had decided that we would honor the memory of Sara by setting up a fund in her name. We had been sponsors to One Heart Bulgaria for several years and were made aware of the alarmingly large number of deaths in children from hydrocephalus. It was very disturbing because with minor surgery, these children would survive. Deborah Gardner had been fearlessly working to provide medical care and supplies needed to perform these surgeries. We had the faith, strength and courage to realize sometimes miracles appear in different packaging. The outpouring of love and support from our family, friends and peers was overwhelming. The Sara Ann Ginn Hydrocephalus Fund was created.

It has been truly inspiring to witness the generosity and love from everyone. Through the dedicated work of One Heart Bulgaria and the Sara Ann Ginn

Hydrocephalus Fund, over thirty-seven surgeries have been performed! You are all living testimony that reaching out makes a difference and saves lives. With Sara's death, other children received life. That is a miracle.

We feel very fortunate to be associated with One Heart Bulgaria. Tyler spent two years in Bulgaria during his mission while attending BYU. He spent much of that time doing humanitarian work, including witnessing the dire straits that the Bulgarian orphans are living in. We have had the honorable privilege to sponsor several orphanages over the years in which basic supplies and care have been made available to the children. We believe strongly in the work of One Heart Bulgaria and their dedication to improving the lives of Bulgarian orphans.