

# After tragedy, family greets healthy baby

Two years ago, the Rossiters lost a newborn; now their oldest has a healthy brother.

By **ERIKA I. RITCHIE**  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

**ORANGE** • Luke Michael Rossiter — “the best baby in heaven” — was born Thursday.

That’s what his sister, Elise, 4, said — almost two years after her little sister died just hours after her birth.

The 7-pound, 3-ounce baby was born to Holly and Michael Rossiter of Laguna Hills at 8:45 a.m. at St. Joseph Hospital in Orange. The new baby was greeted with rainbow-sprinkle cupcakes and a birthday party — now a family tradition.

“When I looked in I saw Michael standing there holding him. I bawled — I was so happy he had a healthy baby boy,” Holly Rossiter said.

But the road to this joyous occasion wasn’t easy for the Rossiter family.

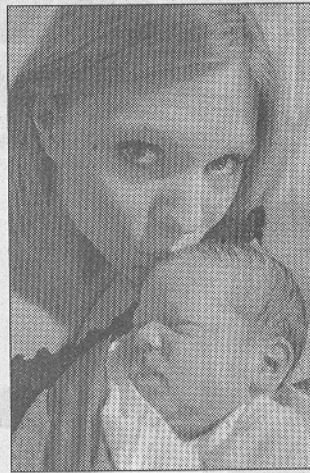
On March 3, 2007, Rossiter gave birth to Aubrielle Faith Rossiter.

Aubrielle had the tiniest cry. She was dressed in a white cotton dress and she wore a white bow with a pink flower around her tiny brunette head.

But after four hours Aubrielle died.

Four months before, Rossiter was told that Aubrielle had trisomy 13, a genetic disorder. Doctors told her that the baby could die at any time. If she did make it to full term, she probably wouldn’t survive through her first day, they said.

Still, Rossiter cherished every day of her pregnancy.



MICHAEL GOULDING, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

**Holly Rossiter kisses her new son, Luke Rossiter, at St. Joseph Hospital in Orange.**

At six months she was carrying Aubrielle so low she could barely walk. She had morning sickness for nine months. She never complained. It brought the young couple together.

“It gave us a grander view of life and the world,” Rossiter said. “We became more compassionate and aware of people who suffer.”

When the Rossiters found out Holly was pregnant again, they were happy but apprehensive. At four months the baby was tested and everything was fine. Still, toward the end of her pregnancy, she worried.

“Is something going to go wrong? I just wanted him out of me, I’ve heard too many stories of babies passing away. That’s the only time I worried,” she said.

Just a day old, baby Luke is healthy. Every time he cries, Elise rushes over to him and sings songs. At night she doesn’t want to leave the hospital.

“Aubrielle picked out the best baby in heaven and sent you to me,” Elise whispered to Luke when she first saw him.