



fully human
the special call of special needs

Families whose newborns have complex medical issues face a variety of challenges which may include: 1) fear of the unknown for the child's lifespan 2) the grief of leaving him every night in the care of medical personnel and forfeiting much parental bonding 3) the emotional exhaustion over the loss of your hopes for your child's first days in this world 4) the need to continue to function and earn a living, attend to studies, and/or raise other children 5) the heartbreak of seeing your child in pain, poked and prodded with needles and tubes, though grateful for their assistance 6) and, other difficulties unique to each family's mindset and world view.

How do friends give grace at such a time? DO: ask if they need food, a visit, or help with errands, and then act accordingly; let them vent or cry a lot; be there to listen. DO NOT: take it personally if they do not return phone calls, ask you to be extra careful in sanitizing your hands when visiting, offer advice unless they ask for it; tell them they need to have more faith; or, compare them to other families. Follow their lead, and set them at the feet of Christ daily in your prayers.