



Our little MIRACLE

By **JANE RIDLEY**

As the radiologist moved the ultrasound scanner over his sister Sarah's stomach, Michael Fay could hardly bear to look at the monitor.

It was the moment he would find out whether his grief-stricken family had suffered a double tragedy – if they'd lost not only Sarah but also the precious child she was carrying.

Doctors had declared the beautiful 34-year-old brain dead after she was brutally beaten. It would be a miracle if the baby had survived.

But the tiny face staring out from the screen proved that miracles can happen.

"It was like he was saying, 'Hi, I'm still here! Help me out!'" recalled Michael's wife, Carrie.

In that instant, she knew that she and Michael would raise Sarah's son as their own. "There was never any doubt," she said. "We loved him the instant we saw him on the ultrasound and Sarah would have done the

When a brutal attack left Michael Fay's pregnant sister in a coma she was kept alive until she gave birth. Here he tells why he's raising her son as his own

same for us.

"We said, 'He is a gift from God. We will fill his life with as much love and kindness as his mom would have done.'"

Sarah, from Champaign, Ill., moved to Hawaii in the mid-90s. She was delighted when she discovered she was pregnant with her third child.

The lively, carefree massage therapist chose the name Josiah – meaning healed by God – and excitedly planned for the birth.

His brother Adahy, 10, and sister Wahliya, seven, were delivered by midwives at home and she wanted Josiah to enter the world the same way. "She was a real earth mother," said

Michael, 31. "A free spirit who adored reggae dancing and swimming with wild dolphins."

However, Sarah's happiness was being threatened by Josiah's father, Maawann Jackson, her violent on-off boyfriend.

"She once told our mom that he'd hit her," added Michael. "I was extremely concerned and called her immediately.

"But she played it down. She just said he had a bad temper."

The couple were thrilled when Sarah and the children flew to their wedding in Denver, Colo., on October 8 last year. Six months' pregnant Sarah seemed content. "It was the first time I'd met her," explained



LEGACY: Josiah Fay, alone far left, and being cuddled by Michael and Carie Fay, who will raise him. Inset, the photo of murdered mom Sarah that was placed in the tot's crib

He was perfect in every way.”

As her baby was placed in an incubator, Sarah's life-support machine was turned off. Her organs were donated to three different women.

It was with bitter-sweet emotions that Michael and Carie cradled Josiah for the first time.

“He was so tiny,” recalled Carie. “He was skinny and looked like so tiny and fragile. We fell in love with him instantly. But we all felt so sad that Sarah was gone.”

They placed their favorite photograph of Sarah in Josiah's crib and he would gaze at it for hours.

Adahy and Wahliya now live with their father, Brian, in Pasadena, Calif.

“We'll get the kids together as often as we can – they're still a family and we'll make sure they stay that way,” said Carie.

“When he is older, we will tell Josiah what a beautiful, strong, intelligent human being his mother was.”

They will also have to tell him how his biological father was allegedly responsible for her death. Jackson, 24, is now awaiting trial for second-degree murder.

The pair hope that, by telling Sarah's story, they will highlight the issue of domestic violence. “Families need to talk about the problem, not hide it away,” said Carie.

Meanwhile, despite the tragic loss of his mother, Josiah, who is now 8lbs, can look forward to a future filled with love.

“His mom will be watching over him and his older brother and sister,” said Michael. “She might not be here with them physically but she will always be there.”

● *The Sarah Fay Memorial Fund is supporting Adahy, Wahliya and baby Josiah. If you would like to join The National Enquirer in making a donation, send checks payable to the fund to PO Box 70696, Eugene, OR, 97401. Please mark the envelope National Enquirer. Visit www.sarahmariefay.com for more information.*

rushed to help, Jackson is said to have disappeared.

The workers tried to resuscitate her. But it was too late. Sarah's brain stem had hemorrhaged. There was no hope. “They did a test which showed no brain activity,” recalled Michael, who had flown with Carie to Hawaii. “It was devastating. I held her hand and whispered, ‘It's time to go to heaven. You shouldn't be scared to go.’”

But Sarah had one last task – to carry Josiah until he was ready to be born. When the family knew he was unharmed, there was no question Sarah should be kept on life-support.

“The ultrasound showed there was no trauma to the fetus,” explained Carie. “We put our hands on Sarah's tummy and could feel

him moving and kicking. We sang Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.”

The Fays – including Sarah's mom, Fran, 59, and older sister, Stacey, 36 – kept vigil at Sarah's side. Scores of friends came to pay their respects, decorating her room and performing Hawaiian chants and dances.

“There was a real energy,” said Michael. “Sarah's spirit was there with us. She was still there, being a mom, doing everything she could to give her son the best chance.”

Josiah was delivered by caesarian on December 12, when he reached his 32nd week in the womb. He weighed just 3lbs 5oz.

“Mom and I stroked Sarah's hand during the surgery,” said Michael. “Afterwards, the doctor put the baby up to my sister's face.

Carie. Tragically, when Carie saw her sister-in-law again – less than six weeks later – she was in an irreversible coma at Queen's Medical Center, Honolulu.

Police said she had been beaten by Jackson, who had confronted her in a home she was having renovated. He allegedly ran out and yelled to three construction workers that Sarah wasn't breathing. As the men

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