



Getting Through the Holidays

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Finally you muster up the courage to venture to the mall to purchase some necessary Christmas gifts when suddenly you hear the popular holiday tune, "It's the Most WONDERFUL Time of the Year" blare from the store's intercom system. You're appalled at the manager's audacity to play such a jolly piece of music. Doesn't he know what it took to get you out in the first place!? And what does the artist mean singing about how *wonderful* this time of year is when your perception of the holidays is black, depressing, and you just want to somehow develop the ability to delete the entire months of November and December.

In our holiday issue last year I wrote about my Christmas 2001 experience of just having a miscarriage. Within hours of coming home from the hospital after my second D&C in five days, our city's fire department chauffeured Santa around our neighborhood on one of their fire trucks as he threw candy out to all the kids. It was a horrible experience for me, because not only did I want to join in on the fun with my then ten-year-old son, I wanted to share the excitement of our pregnancy with our neighbors. But I was just too sad and heartbroken to go outside and try to pretend I was in the holiday spirit. It seems silly now, but occasionally during the following year of 2002 I thought back to that lonely night and was determined that the next Christmas would be different. If Santa Clause paid our street another visit, I would make sure I was not left out. Well, as December approached last year, I honestly forgot about my secret little holiday goal of seeing Santa. One night as I was talking on the phone to my twin sister Rachael (who also happens to live next door), I heard all kinds of commotion outside. Rachael was not at home at the time of our conversation, and after several minutes of hearing sirens I told her that something terrible must have happened in our subdivision. Then it dawned on me – it must be

Santa! I ran downstairs, threw open the front door, and sure enough, there was a fire truck rounding the corner of our street honking, sirens screaming, and Christmas carols loudly sounding. To top it off, Santa Clause was standing on the side of the truck yelling, "Ho, Ho, HO!!" as he tossed candy onto our front lawns. I quickly told my sister I wanted to hang up because I missed this last year and wasn't going to miss it again! My experience was a little different than I had anticipated as I was overwhelmed with emotion. I realized with great relief how much "better" I was and how different I felt than I had the year before. Instead of needing to run upstairs and hole up in my bedroom for the rest of the night like I did in 2001, I was able to be outside and honestly have a good time. I felt free, and it was WONDERFUL!

I write this article just two days after our seventh annual Walk To Remember. During the ceremony Lori King, the M.E.N.D. vice-president, and I read the names and birth/death dates of each baby represented as the families come forward to place angels on our tree. I noticed this year how many parents lost their baby during the month of December, and I thought of how extra difficult the holidays must be for these families. This time of year is certainly hard enough without having to compound it with the anniversary of a child's death. I wondered what kind of dread these families were dealing with, especially those who lost their little one in 2002 and are facing the holidays and their child's death date as a bereaved parent for the first time. I wanted to go up to each of them and tell them that no, it's not going to be easy, but they will make it.

I am incredibly grateful that I have made it. I have endured, and I have survived! Although Thanksgiving and Christmas will never quite be the same as it was before I lost my two babies, enough time has passed that my husband and I can truly say we're filled with holiday cheer. Instead of dwelling on our grief, we're able to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and rejoice that two of our children are with the One whose birth we celebrate. If this isn't quite the year for you to relate to our participation in the season, that's okay. Just make it a goal that next year will be better. I assure you, someday you will be able to hum right along with that popular Christmas carol and honestly mean that this *is* the most WONDERFUL time of the year.

Rebekah Mitchell

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When Traditions and Grief Collide

by Sharlene Libby

The holidays bring lots of memories and traditions to our homes. When a family is grieving the loss of a child, some of these thoughts and events just don't work because of the pain of loss. Festivities fail to be festive when our arms ache from emptiness. This is especially true during those first couple of Thanksgivings and Christmases after a baby dies. Though you can take comfort in knowing you won't always feel this way, it may also help to take a few steps to make the holidays easier to endure.

First, look at the events and activities you usually enjoy and evaluate them. Ask yourself, is this something I want to go to, or is it something I am doing solely out of tradition? If you fear it will be painful and are only doing it out of obligation, this may be the year to forego that activity. Have someone else host Thanksgiving dinner, or say no to a few Christmas parties. The annual shopping trip with girlfriends or the traditional cookie-baking with nieces or nephews will always be there next year when you are feeling better. Maybe this year you'd be more comfortable shopping online, away from crowds with children. And, the bakery makes excellent Christmas cookies!

Another problem we face during that first Christmas without our babies is when and how to include the memory of our children in customs and traditions. Should we hang a stocking for our baby? And do we write his name on our Christmas cards? These are things each family must decide for itself, but the important thing is to do what makes you comfortable. Your way of including, or not including, your baby's name or memory in such activities should be more influenced by what feels right to you than by how friends or families may feel. It's true that your in-laws or neighbors may feel awkward if they see a stocking at the fireplace with your baby's name on it, but if it gives you comfort to see her name there, that's what you need to do to get through this season. If you want to write, "Remembering (your baby's name)" when you sign your family's names on Christmas cards, then go ahead and do it. Next year may be different, and the year after that different still. Eventually you'll fall into a comfortable tradition of your own that others will come to accept, like adding angel stickers to your Christmas cards instead of your baby's name. Until then, you have to remember that you are still grieving. This holiday will be different than any other, and you have to find out what works best for you as you work your way through it.

Finally, resolve to make this the year that you get away from the crowds and the commercialism and focus on what the holidays are all about. At Thanksgiving, try very hard to find things that make you thankful. This could take some effort if your grief is fresh, but a lot of prayer can help. Give thanks for the compassion of others, or for the prayers that are going up on your behalf. At Christmas, remind yourself that even though this is the season when we are celebrating a birth, that birth eventually led to victory over death. Don't feel like you have to paste on a smile just because "Jingle Bells" is playing everywhere you go, but a good heart-to-heart with the Lord may bring a sense of peace that will make this time of year more bearable. If you find yourself running from all the hoopla, make sure you are running to the arms of the One who understands your pain. Remember, He lost a child, too. That is really the reason we celebrate this time of year.

If Christmas morning seems emptier than you had hoped, hang in there. God does heal, and you will be able to celebrate again. The holidays don't have to be merry. We just need to remember why they are here.

M.E.N.D.'s

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:00 P.M.

CALVARY TEMPLE

3000 WEST AIRPORT FREEWAY

IRVING, TX



R.S.V.P. TO REBEKAH AT (972) 459-2396 OR REBEKAH@MEND.ORG

Childless at Christmas

by Lynn Campbell Behnke

“Christmas is the light that shines
In children’s eyes,” they say,
And often I feel such a void
In our home on Christmas Day.

I’d love to take such loving care
To choose each special toy;
No sacrifice would be too great
To bring our dear child joy.

Then suddenly I see myself -
The child beneath the tree,
And after awesome sacrifice
My father watches me.

With great anticipation
Which gift will I like best?
But I’ll accept just one thing -
I kick away the rest.

Oh, Father God, forgive me
For my stubborn, selfish ways.
Teach me Lord, to trust you ever
And to always offer praise

Reprinted from *Stepping Stones*, a Christian newsletter for couples facing infertility. For information, e-mail step@bethany.org or go to www.bethany.org/step.

January/February Topic

The Church’s Role
in Supporting Bereaved Parents
Deadline—November 30, 2003

March/April Topic

Grandparents Grieve, Too
Deadline – January 31, 2004

Stories, poems, thoughts, and/or feelings regarding these topics are welcomed. Submissions must be received by the deadline to be considered for publication in the newsletter. Unfortunately, there is not enough room to include all submissions. Choices will be left to the discretion of the editors. Please see the back page of the newsletter for the appropriate address to send your submissions. Any submission printed in our newsletter will also be posted to our website indefinitely unless we receive notice in writing that you are only granting permission for your submission to appear in the printed version of the newsletter.

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M.E.N.D. Support Group Meetings

Regular M.E.N.D. meetings

are held the
2nd Thursday of every month from
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

**Mommies AND daddies are both
welcome at all of our meetings.**

Matters of Faith

Bible study

meets every 3rd Thursday, 7-9 p.m.
Please contact Jana Spigener
at (817) 468-9963 or
heartblossoms@msn.com if interested.

Playgroup

*For families with children born prior to
or subsequent to a loss.*

Contact DaLana Barsanti
at (817) 589-0588
fivekids@ev1.net

*(Playgroups meet at various locations
around the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.)*

Join us in a time of sharing experiences.

Our daddies group

meets the 2nd Thursday of

March, June, September, and December
from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

This is a special time for daddies to get together and discuss concerns unique to them as fathers. Our moms and dads meet together for introductions before dividing into two groups for discussion.

All support group meetings are held at:

**1159 Cottonwood Lane, Suite 150
Irving, Texas (Las Colinas) 75038**

(This is on the west side of MacArthur Boulevard, across the street from the Four Seasons Resort. There is a Holiday Inn Express at the entrance of Cottonwood Lane.)

For more information or directions,
call (972) 459-2396.

Subsequent pregnancy group

meets the 4th Tuesday
of each month from
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

For families who are considering becoming pregnant or are currently pregnant after a loss. Led by Christine Oxendine (bearpals@charter.net).

Subsequent pregnancy birth class

For families who are near their due date with their subsequent pregnancy.

This one-night childbirth refresher meets once every three months and is conducted by one of our M.E.N.D. moms, Allyson Smith, R.N. The group requires a minimum of three participants to meet. For more information contact Allyson at ssmith@dallas.net or (972) 899-0405.



Birthday Tributes to Our Special Babies

Happy 7th Birthday, Joshua and Jeromy

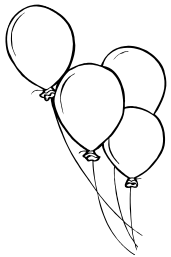
Joshua and Jeromy Barsanti
 November 21, 1996
 Anencephaly
 Parents: Randy and DaLana Barsanti
 Brothers: Taylor Wesley, Colin, and Harrison



Happy 4th Birthday T.J.

We miss you sweet angel. Your short life has touched so many - what a blessing you are. This year is especially difficult because we just moved away. Although your balloons will be placed by someone else - you are always and forever in our hearts.

Until we can hold you again.



All of our love,
 Mommy, Daddy, and big sister Ashleigh

Thomas James (T.J.) Smith
 Stillborn September 3, 1999
 Clot in Umbilical Cord
 Parents: Michelle and Jim Smith
 Sister: Ashleigh

For our son, Kyle Charles Walton

Five years ago you changed our lives.
 Our family would not be complete without you.
 Families are Forever.

Kyle Charles Walton
 November 19, 1998

Group B Strep/lack of proper nourishment from placenta
 Parents: Jason and Kristen Walton
 Siblings: Jessica, Laura, and Joshua

Happy 3rd Birthday to Our Precious Baby Carter

Mommy and Daddy love you and think of you each and every day. We miss you so much. We know that you will be a special angel watching over your little sister, Erin.
 All our love,
 Mommy, Daddy & Erin

Carter Patrick Outen
 Stillborn November 6, 2000
 Unknown cause
 Parents: Chris and Shannon Outen
 Little sister: Erin



Happy 2nd Birthday to Elizabeth Cox

We love you and miss you very much!!



Mommy, Daddy,
 big sister Graceanne,
 and little sister Jillian

Elizabeth Ellen Cox
 October 25, 2001
 Mylticystic Kidneys
 Parents: Scott and Kathryn Cox
 Sisters: Graceanne and Jillian



Dear son,

Your sister Mary Paul is getting married the month before your 2nd birthday! We are very aware that you are not in our arms to celebrate this good marriage! We will sit in the family pew where two years ago we sat, with your body beside us during your Mass. You will be everywhere with us November 1st!

We never not miss you~

As Mollie told you when you were born, **be good in Heaven~**

We are trying to be good here on earth~ all our love~ Mama, Papa and family all!

John David Gray-Lewis
 December 9, 2001
 Placental abruption

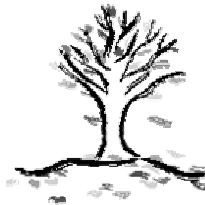
Parents: Gerry & Vic Gray-Lewis
 Siblings: Rachael, Mary Paul, Michael, Clare,



Andrew,

I miss you ever day. I think of you every day and I wonder what you might be doing. I know you are sitting on Jesus' lap and you are looking down on Mommy. I wish and pray every day that you could be here with me celebrating your third birthday. I decorate your grave for each holiday and season.
 Happy birthday, my Andrew. I love you dearly!

Love,
 Your mommy
 XOXOXOXOXO



Andrew Joseph Jack
 Stillborn November 11, 2000
 Heart attack during labor
 Mom: Patty Jack



Happy 2nd Birthday Catherine Mary



It has been two years since our precious angel was born
In some ways it has been an eternity and yet in other ways ...
just yesterday

I remember every sweet detail about you

You were born with Daddy's eyebrows and Mommy's feet and dark hair
Your treasured framed footprints I see everyday
And when I see my footprints, I smile because they are just like yours

Today would have been your 2nd birthday, Catherine
We feel your absence from our arms everyday ...
But we also feel your presence in our hearts many times a day ...

When I look into the clouds,
I imagine you in Heaven in God's loving embrace
Mommy and Daddy love you completely and we miss you so very much
With tender love and lots of kisses we wish you a happy 2nd birthday



Love,
Mommy and Daddy
and little brother on the way

In loving memory of Catherine Mary Martin
Stillborn December 15, 2001
Trisomy 18
Beloved child of Nancy and Glenn Martin



My dear child I am thinking about you all the time.

I love you always.

You were due to be here in this world with Daddy,
older sister Miriam and me on December 20, 2002. The Lord
called on you before your time. This would have been
your first birthday. So sweet child of mine.

Happy First Birthday!



Loving you always,
Mommy & Daddy Nigo
Big sister Miriam Victoria
and baby sister Abigail Beatrice

Remembering Baby Nigo
Miscarried May 2, 2002
Due December 20, 2002
Parents: Danny and Celina Nigo
Sisters: Miriam and Abigail

Remembering Baby Charlie on his 2nd Birthday...

We can't believe it's been two years since we held you!
We think about you and miss you everyday
and can't wait to see you again in heaven!
We honor you and celebrate you this November 10. You will
always be a part of our lives and forever in our hearts.

Charlie Donald
Stillborn November 10, 2001
Unknown cause
Parents: Mark and Amy Donald
Siblings: Jenny and Tom



Losing Ashley

The day I lost you, I lost myself.
I've been looking everywhere for you
but I know you are gone.
I waded in a sea of confusion and pain.
I feel like I'm drowning - I can't breath.
How am I supposed to live without you?
You were a part of me - a vital part and now you are gone.
My heart has been removed,
My chest is tight with pain.
Did you know that I love you -
that I still do?
Did you even know who I was and who you were to me?
My firstborn - my perfect daughter-
I will never forget you-
please remember me.

Ashley Rain DeLoach
Nov. 18, 1998 - June 12, 1999
CHARGE association
Parents: Phillip and Niki DeLoach
Little Brother: Joseph DeLoach



Dearest Allison,

Three years have passed since we touched your beautiful face and watched you open your eyes for the first time. I can imagine what our days would be like together here on earth—coloring pictures, frequent trips to the park, and you being the protective older sister to Megan. Each day your dad and I remember and cherish our smallest gift from God and our greatest love—our daughters. We love and miss you dearly. Happy 3rd birthday, our sweet angel.

Love always,
Mom, Dad, and little sis Megan

Happy 3rd Birthday, Princess!

Even though you came early God let us keep you near and dear to us for nine days. You will never know how many lives you changed—how you touched so many who never knew your name. I will never forget your beautiful black hair and eyes as blue as the ocean. Even though your mom and dad were worried, I never saw them so proud! I've never been so happy to see Nanna's special girl. Nanna and Papa Joe planted you a special garden. In that garden is an angel playing with the squirrels and reading the Bible. I know you are in heaven and I will see you there. Now God has blessed us with your sister, Megan. I know you would both look like twins if you were still here. Megan will always know about her big sister Allison. I thank God that your mom found M.E.N.D. and that we have a way to share your memory every year. Thank you, God, for letting us have our Allison for nine days.

Love,
Nanna Hime

Allison Paige Bausch
November 1-10, 2000
Prematurity

Parents: Tonya and Brian Bausch
Little sister: Megan
Grandparents: Joe and Vickie Hime



Our Pilgrim Bed

by Gerry Gray-Lewis

The holidays: Halloween, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas....all times of the year which evoke images in us of home, of growing up, of childhood memories. Often as we contemplate such holidays, the kitchen is depicted as the heart of our home. It sparks in us images, aromas, sights, and tastes of a busy family life—our blessed chaos!

When we married 24 years ago, what a surprise to be oriented in this new life to the master bedroom as the heart of the home! Mom and Dad's bedroom was directly off the kitchen. Mom, though in her early 60's, had been suddenly stricken with both kinds of arthritis, so she often reclined and held court from the comfort of her bed.

It was an amazing privilege for me to be invited to sit beside Mom on her bed to visit. Such space had always felt so sacred and off limits in my family. Due to illness, it was not uncommon for Mom to be dressed in a comfortable gown or pj's visiting with me, yet a stranger.

Counsel, confessions, coupon cutting, and convalescence from numerous surgeries, the antics of grandchildren racing past Mom and Dad's bed were regular functions of what normally is seen ONLY as the parental sleeping bed.

As our marriage bloomed, our bed too, became the hub of our family life. Babies (10) were conceived in this bed, nursed, and snuggled for what would be many years! Anxious adolescents would sit on the bed and confess worries, disappointments and dreams. We would confide in one another as spouses; difficulties at work, worries about parents, even write the family monthly budget from the bed. Poor Papa would climb into bed, only to find cookie crumbs from one small child who had enjoyed a treat with his co-conspirator, Mama!! Often our bed, an antique, would collapse to the floor after wee ones played yet another forbidden trampoline game on top!

Arguments ensued at times in the bed; laundry would be piled high for folding. Furniture, suitcases, and diapers were hidden under the bed, along with the family dog who slept there each night. Confessions would be heard here, and Penance and Reconciliation would be dispensed. Seasons would change, and thus would the comforters and sheets. Feverish children would be tucked between parents for care, as well as children who woke up from a bad dream, real or imagined.

A wooden cradle made by my husband has sat beside the bed for over 16 years. A wreath of flowers hangs above the headboard made with love by our oldest daughter. Two rosaries hang from both bedposts as reminders of our need and dependence on prayer.

This is an intimate marital place in our home, but a place where much spiritual and physical living occurs. It is a place where all were welcome, but where great intimacy also occurred even with many people present.

Perhaps such a bed would be better titled the "Pilgrim Bed". Webster defines pilgrim as "One who journeys in foreign lands. A Wayfarer". Certainly spouses approach their daily sacrament of marriage as pilgrims, journeying in their new foreign land of love and life. We, as human persons, are on our earthly journey headed ultimately for our eternal residence of Heaven. As Christians, we so very often are out of step with our culture and this world. We truly do feel like foreigners in our world, the culture of death, as Pope John Paul, II, calls it.

This December our pilgrim bed became like the hallowed ground of Ground Zero. Our infant son had been conceived in this bed; many weeks had been spent on quiet bedrest attempting to protect his young life; then on December 9, 2001, the placenta abrupted, and his life was lost all in that same bed. Days later, Fr. John from our parish sat on the foot of that same bed, planning our son's birth into Heaven. What hallowed ground!

From trampolines, to piles of laundry, confessions and forgiveness, budgets, to coupons, from life, to death, to new life!

This blessed chaos, which carries us on our pilgrim journey toward our Heavenly Father upon, in, and under this pilgrim bed!

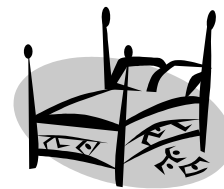
In memory of John David Gray-Lewis

December 9, 2001

Placental abruption

Parents: Gerry & Vic Gray-Lewis

Siblings: Rachael, Mary Paul, Michael, Clare, Maura, Mollie, and Jojo



Special Ways to Remember Your Baby During the Holidays

- * Light a special candle during holiday gatherings
- * Buy an ornament in your baby's memory and hang it on your tree.
- * Purchase a poinsettia to decorate your church in memory of your baby.
- * Donate to your favorite charity in your child's memory.
- * Give a gift to a needy child.
- * Include angel stamps, stickers, or cut-outs in your Christmas cards as a way to honor your baby's memory.
- * Wear your baby's birthstone to holiday functions.

Reprinted from M.E.N.D. Newsletter, November/December 2000

M.E.N.D. would like to recognize the sponsors of our
Seventh Annual Walk To Remember.

We are very grateful for their support.

Tazmanian Freight Systems
 Dentistry of Las Colinas/Byron L. Mitchell, D.D.S.
 Nationwide Insurance/David King
 Bay and Paula Miltenberger
 Moxie Pest Control
 Marie Bradham
 Garabedian Homes
 Presbyterian Women/Highland Park Presbyterian Church
 Irving Parent/Suburban Parent
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 Texas Women's University
 Meza Engineering
 Pinnacle Mergers & Acquisitions II, LTD
 Curves For Women/Fort Worth
 Sterling Sales & Solutions
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 Chris and Monica Gregory
 V. Wayne Pope, Attorney at Law
 Albertson's/Mansfield
 Doug and Angelique Sohn
 Joseph and Samantha Iliff
 U-Haul/Grapevine

Keepsake Resources

Angels in Heaven Ministries

www.angelsinheaven.org

Offers framed poems, cards, and audio tapes relating to infant loss.

A Loss Remembered

2908 South Clemont Dr.

Denver, CO 80222

(303) 692-9668

lossremembered@cs.com

Provides beautiful remembrance cards on the anniversary of a child's death.

Perinatal Loss Certificate of Life

<http://www.tearsoup.com/pl/certificate%20of%20life.htm>

Makes hand-calligraphied certificates acknowledging your baby's life.

Angel Lady

www.angelady.net

Artist Ethel Pontsler offers custom artwork of deceased loved ones based on photographs.

Keri's Kreations

221 W. Hillview St.

Winslow, AZ 86047

(928) 289-0715

A book of remembrance for parents who have lost children through miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant death.

My Heart's Missing Link

P.O. Box 0992, Allen Park, MI 48101

www.myheartsmisssinglink.com

Offers beautifully designed heart-shaped pendants with a birthstone and a "missing link" to help remember loved ones who now live in heaven and your heart.

Angel Babies in Heaven

(843) 871-3071

<http://www.galaxymall.com/children/angelbabies/>

Offers hand-painted memorial stepping stones to honor babies gone too soon.

Once Upon a Family™

www.onceuponafamily.net

Contact: Amy Gill

(214) 725-6116

Offers special pieces to keep memorabilia safe. Donates a percentage of sales of the Baby Keepsake Box, Tiny Treasures Box, and Memory Trunk made to M.E.N.D. members back to M.E.N.D.

Haley's Creations

P.O. Box 13242, La Jolla, CA 92039

Toll Free Phone:

877-538-6446

www.haleyscreations.com

Offers remembrance cards, journals, and keepsakes relating to infant loss.

In Loving Memory

**Jackson David Crowe**

August 22 - September 9, 1998
Congenital Heart Defect/Heart Failure
Parents, David and Marie Crowe
Siblings, Hannah and Andrew
Given by Presbyterian Women
of Highland Park Presbyterian Church

Thomas James (T.J.) Smith

Stillborn September 3, 1999
Clot in Umbilical Cord
Given by parents,
Michelle and Jim Smith
and sister Ashleigh

Angelica Meza

Stillborn July 1, 2000
Cord Accident

Andrea Meza

August 3, 2001
Premature
Parents, Victor and Elizabeth Meza
Little sister, Abigail
Given by Meza Engineering, Inc.

Rianne Ellisa Scrivner

March 4 - 7, 1997
Severe Hydrocephaly
Parents, Bill and Rae Scrivner
Little sisters, Chanie, Casidy, and Canlie
Given by Pinnacle Mergers
& Acquisitions II, LTD

Clara Shea Huey

Stillborn June 16, 2003
Parents, Ashley and Sara Huey
Given by V. Wayne Pope,
Attorney at Law

M.E.N.D.

gratefully acknowledges these gifts of love given in memory of a baby, relative, friend, or given by someone just wanting to help. These donations help us to continue M.E.N.D.'s mission by providing this newsletter and other services to bereaved parents free of charge. Please refer to the back page of this newsletter for more information regarding where to send your donations and what information to include.

Thank you so much!

Mercedes Ruth Spigener

Stillborn September 21, 1995
Intramembranous Insertion of Umbilical Cord
Given by parents, Grant and Jana Spigener
and little brothers, Wyatt, Ford, and Porter

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995
Cord Accident

Baby Mitchell

Miscarried December, 2001
Parents, Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
Big brother, Byron, Jr.
Given by grandparents,
Dennis and Sue Brewer

Logan Wayne Fish

September 17, 2002
Skeletal Dysplasia
Given by parents, Brittney and David Fish
and brothers, Landry and Hudson

Logan Wayne Fish

September 17, 2002
Skeletal Dysplasia
Parents, Brittney and David Fish
Brothers, Landry and Hudson
Given by Curves for Women,
Fort Worth, Texas

Logan Wayne Fish

September 17, 2002
Skeletal Dysplasia
Parents, Brittney and David Fish
Brothers, Landry and Hudson
Given by Sterling Sales and Solutions

Kyle Charles Walton

November 19, 1998
Group B Strep/
Lack of proper nourishment from placenta
Parents, Jason and Kristen Walton
Siblings, Jessica, Laura, and Joshua
Given by Moxie Pest Control

Emily Ann Pampeyan

April 26-30, 1997
Cord Accident
Parents, Craig and Julie Pampeyan
Siblings, Kristin and James

Bay Miltenberger, Jr.

Stillborn December 9, 1998
Preterm Labor
Given by parents, Bay and Paula Miltenberger
and little brother Bryce

Isaac Craig George

December 19 - 21, 2002
Premature at 23 weeks
due to Incompetent Cervix
Given by parents, Eric and Janet George

Joseph Charles Libby

Stillborn May 26, 1999
Cord Accident
Given by parents, Wim and Sharlene Libby
and siblings Will, John, and Mary Grace

Gabriela Faith Gregory

Stillborn January 24, 2002
Anomaly of Umbilical Cord
Given by parents, Chris and Monica Gregory

Blake Leland Allen

April 21, 1999
Premature labor/Incompetent Cervix

Lauren Grace Allen

Stillborn February 13, 2000
Cord Accident
Given by mom, Jan Allen
and brother (Lauren's twin), Zachary

Lauren Paige Grimes

Stillborn March 6, 1999
Unknown Cause
Baby Grimes (Raleigh's twin)
Miscarried January 25, 2001
Given by parents, Paula and John Grimes
and sister Raleigh

Abigail Joy Boyd

Miscarried June 22, 1999

Hannah Elisabeth Boyd

Miscarried October 21, 1999

Michael Aaron Boyd

Stillborn April 23, 2000

Baby Christian Boyd

Miscarried December 17, 2000
Parents, Craig and Melanie Boyd
Siblings, Samuel Garrett and Emma Grace
Given by grandparents, Tom and Paula Todd

Jacob Dominic Stuckey

Stillborn August 19, 2000

Unknown Cause

Christopher Thomas Stuckey

Stillborn September 19, 2001

Unknown Cause

Parents, Brandon and Michelle Stuckey

Little brother, Jonathan Josiah

Given by grandparents, Schuyler and Phyllis Stuckey, "Gami and Pop"

Aiden Xavier Sohn

October 13, 2002

HELLP Syndrome

Baby Sohn

Miscarried May, 2003

Given by parents, Doug and Angelique Sohn

*... In Loving Memory***Allison Paige Bausch**

November 1 - 10, 2000

Prematurity

Baby Bausch

Miscarried May 4, 2001

Given by parents, Brian and Tonya Bausch and little sister, Megan

Allison Paige Bausch

November 1 - 10, 2000

Prematurity

Baby Bausch

Miscarried May 4, 2001

Parents, Brian and Tonya Bausch

Little sister, Megan

Given by grandparents,

Vickie and Joe Hime

Timothy Schulyer Morren, II

September 28 - December 23, 1997

SIDS

Parents, Tim and Pam Morren

Little sisters, Ashton and Alexa

Given by grandmother,

Sunbeam Carpenter

Garrett Anthony Mayer

October 12 - December 18, 1999

Tetralogy of fallot

Given by parents, April and Tony Mayer

and little sister, Samantha

Catherine Mary Martin

Stillborn December 15, 2001

Trisomy 18

Baby Martin I

Miscarried June 14, 2002

Baby Martin II

Miscarried September, 2002

Blighted Ovum

Given by parents, Nancy and Glenn Martin

Carter Patrick Outen

Stillborn November 6, 2000

Unknown Cause

Given by parents,

Chris and Shannon Outen

and little sister, Erin

Subsequent Births**April and Sam Moreton,
and big brother Asher Luke**

of Siloam Springs, Arkansas,

joyfully welcome

Ava Louise,

June 27, 2003,

9lb., 11oz.

The Moretons lovingly remember

Baby M,

October 15, 1999;

Baby Boy Moreton,

March 17, 2000;

and Angel #3,

August 1, 2000,

Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome.

Jay and Trish Cox,**along with big brother Mark****and big sister Kennedy**

of Plano, Texas,

joyfully announce the arrival

of their triplets:

Dillon James (4 lb., 8 oz.),

Trevor Reece (4 lb., 12 oz.),

and Mason Alexander (5 lb., 13 oz.).

The babies were born August 21, 2003.

The Coxes lovingly remember

Casey Taylor,

stillborn February 20, 1998,

Trisomy 13;

Baby Cox I,

miscarried August 7, 1998;

and Baby Cox II,

miscarried August 2001.

Brittney and David Fish**and big brother Landry**

of Saginaw, Texas,

joyfully announce the arrival of

Hudson Kelly,

August 22, 2003, at 1:22 p.m.,

8 lb., 2 oz., 20 1/4 inches long.

The Fish family lovingly remember

Logan Wayne,

September 17, 2002,

Skeletal Dysplasia.

Richard and Laurie Fantine,**along with big brother Alex**

of Carrollton, Texas,

joyfully announce the arrival of

Brandon,

born October 7, 2003,

7 lb., 20 inches long.

The Fantines lovingly remember

Hallie Anne,

stillborn September 22, 1997,

due to a cord accident,

and Baby Fantine,

miscarried March 2, 2001.

**Jan and John Heffley,
along with siblings Jonathan,
Jasmine, and Jillian**

of Denton, Texas,

joyfully, and proudly announce

the birth of

Jared Austin,

August 29, 2003,

9 lb., 10.5 oz., 20.5 inches.

The Heffleys lovingly remember

Jordan Ashley,

July 5, 1999,

Trisomy 13.

**Amanda and Kevin Hampton,
along with big brother Cameron**

of Aubrey, Texas,

proudly announce the arrival of

Coby Hampton,

born September 10, 2003,

8 lb., 10 oz.

The Hamptons lovingly remember

Cheyenne Renee,

October 6, 1999 - September 19, 2000,

Turner Syndrome/heart defect/
medical malpractice.**Ashley and Jennifer Brimpage**

of Farmersville, Texas,

are thankful to announce the birth of

Mark Alan,

September 29.

He weighed 8 lb., 2 oz.

The Brimmages lovingly remember

Angel Hope,

June 8, 2002,

Spina Bifada;

and Precious,

miscarried December 23, 2002.

**Thomas and Karen Hayden,
along with big brothers Nate and Daniel**

of Flower Mound, Texas,

joyfully announce the arrival of

Mark Edward,

born October 3, 2003,

8 lb., 4 oz., and 20 1/4 inches long.

The Hayden family lovingly remember

Anna Grace,

April 4, 2002,

Fetal Hydrops.

ARIZONA **Support Groups**

♥ *Arizona SIDS Alliance*
PO Box 85001-1111, Phoenix, AZ 85001, 1-800-597-7437
♥ *Mothers in Sympathy Support (M.I.S.S.)*
P.O. Box 5333, Peoria, AZ 85385, (623) 979-1000

CALIFORNIA

♥ *Helping After Neonatal Death*
PO Box 341, Los Gatos, CA 95031-0341
www.handonline.org, e-mail info@handonline.org
(408) 995-6102, toll free (888) 908-HAND
Support meetings in the California counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, and parts of the Central Valley - call for info

♥ *Good Mourning Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support*
3389 Via Dona, Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 733-5225, ctmontel@best1.net
601 East Ocean Ave Suite 6, Lompoc, CA 93436

♥ *HAND of Peninsula*
Sequoia Health and Wellness Services
702 Marshall St., Redwood City, CA
Celia Hartnett: (650) 367-6993

♥ *Mothers in Sympathy Support (M.I.S.S.)*
*Riverside Chapter

Attn: Mia-Riverside Facilitator
P.O. Box 7403, Riverside, CA 92513-7403
Phone: (909) 686-2686
Meet 2nd Monday of each month, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Hunt Park Community Center, 4015 Jackson St.
(Located next to ParkView Hospital --Major cross street: Magnolia Ave.)

*Merced Chapter (Central California)

Kim Lotz: kim.lotz@missfoundation.org

*Arcadia Chapter

Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:00, Church of the Good Shepherd, 400 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia, CA 91007
Kristin Jared: (626) 963-9120, kristin@missfoundation.org

ILLINOIS

♥ *Healing Hearts of Rockford*
c/o Rockford Memorial Hospital
Dept. of Maternal - Fetal Medicine
2400 N. Rockton Ave., Rockford, IL 61103
(815)971-5186 Lori Forelich
(815) 971-3737 (press number 3 for general information)

INDIANA

♥ *Resolve Through Sharing*
Community Hospital
901 MacArthur Blvd., Munster, Indiana 46321
Sue Armstrong: (219) 836-4571
Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday monthly.

♥ *Healing Hearts*

Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center
801 East LaSalle Ave., South Bend, IN 46617
Melissa Barrett: (219) 282-2147, noahsmom@mivillage.com

KANSAS

♥ *F.I.S.H. (Friends In Sharing Hope)*
Contact Mary Hertach (620) 662-0355 or
Ginger Muller (620) 669-0185, gingermuller@earthlink.net

MASSACHUSETTES

♥ *P.A.R.E.N.T. (Parents & Relatives Enduring NeoNatal Tragedy)*
Contact: Trish McClean: (508) 427-3028
Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
at Good Samaritan Hospital, 235 N. Pearl St
Brockton, MA, Community Conference Room, 1st floor

♥ *A Ripple in Time*

Meets 1st Monday at 7:00 p.m. at St. Theresa of Lisieux Parish Hall, Room 6, Boston Rd., Billerica, MA
Contact Donna McDonnell, 978-663-5477

♥ *HOPE*

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at Baldwin Park I, Keating Conference Room, 1st floor, Woburn, MA
Contact Rindy Heubner, 781-273-2624

NEW JERSEY♥ *UNITE, Inc.*

Has groups in Turnersville, Trenton, and at Princeton.
Call (215) 728-3777 for more information.

♥ *MISS*

502 Montgomery Ave., Somers Point, NJ 08244
(609) 653-3046
www.geocities.com/Heartland/valley/1800/miss.html
MISSofNJ@comcast.net, Contact: Kathy Evans
♥ *MIDS (Miscarriage, Infant Death & Stillbirth Support Group, Inc.)* Contact: Janet Tischler
180 Jillian Blvd., Parsippany, NJ 07054
(973) 884-0061, mids1982@yahoo.com

NEW YORK

♥ *GAPS (Guardian Angel Perinatal Support Group) A SHARE Group*
Molloy College, Wm J. Casey Center, Room #107,
1000 Hempstead Ave, Rockville Centre, NY 11570
Meets 1st Friday of each month, 7:30—9:30 p.m.
Martha Weiss (516) 249-8589, martyk9@optonline.net

PENNSYLVANIA

♥ *UNITE, Inc.*
Has various groups across the state. Call (215) 728-3777.

TENNESSEE

♥ *Friends Helping One Another Through Loss*

♥ *Child Loss Support*

♥ *Teenagers Coping With Child Loss*
(Three different groups) Contact Person: Jean Stewart
42 Kilday Lane, Greeneville, TN 37445
Angel_Mommy_1999@yahoo.com
or Chrissy_poooh_99@yahoo.com
http://www.angelfire.com/tx2/angelbecca/

TEXAS

♥ *M.E.N.D.*
PO Box 1007, Coppell, TX 75019
(972) 459-2396
(888) 695-MEND (toll free)
http://www.mend.org
Rebekah@mend.org
Contact: Rebekah Mitchell
Meetings are held at 1159 Cottonwood Ln.
Irving, TX 75038, 2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

♥ *Mikela's Miracles SIDS Connection*

Mike & Chrissy Lipscomb
www.mikelasmiracles.org
2601 Thistle Ln., Rowlett TX 75089
1-866-286-SIDS toll free
972-463-9243 local

Meets 1st Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m.
at Reinhardt Bible Church. Dinner is provided.
2302 Northeast Pkwy, Garland, TX

♥ *Healing Matters I*

Miscarriage, Stillbirth, and Early Infant Death Through the First Year of Life
4th Monday of every month, 7:30pm
Plano Medical Center, Classrooms I & II
3901 W. 15th Street, Plano TX
Contact: Ginny Robinson: (972) 519-1588

♥ *Caring Hearts*

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month 7:00pm
Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas, Fogelson Forum, ground floor, Class C. Call 214-345-2613
Contact: Brooke Arnold, brookearnold@texashealth.org

♥ *Resolve Through Sharing*

Charlton Hospital
3500 W. Wheatland, Dallas, TX 75237
Meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
in Main Conference Room A

♥ *Resolve Through Sharing Denton*

119 N Elm St., Denton, TX
2nd Monday of every month at 7:00p.m.
Contact: Tracy Morris: 940-566-5666
♥ *Journey of Hope Support Center*
(children ages 3-18 and their caregivers)
2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month 6:30 p.m.
(972) 578-6634

♥ *Bereaved Parents of North Texas, Inc.*

3rd Monday of every month 7:15p.m.
First UMC, 201 S. Locust, Denton, TX
Cole Chapel Lounge

♥ *HAND (Houston's Aid in Neonatal Death)*

Meets 1st Sunday, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 20775 Kingsland Blvd., Katy, TX 77450.

2nd meeting is 2nd Sunday each month,
7800 building of Women's Hospital of Texas, Room 11. Both meetings held 6:30-8:30 standing time, regardless of holidays.
Subsequent pregnancy group meets at Katy location every 1st Sunday. (713) 529-4661

♥ *TAPS (Tiny Angel Parents Share)*

North Hills Hospital, Grapevine Hwy & Hwy 820
Meets 2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Lorin Koemel: (817) 595-0833
E-mail koemel@hotmail.com

♥ *SHARE Of The Mid-Cities*

HEB Harris Methodist, Hurst, TX
1st Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.
phone: 972-601-1676, fax: 419-735-2368
share_rts@yahoo.com

♥ *Angels Away*

c/o CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health Care
Spiritual Care Department
333 N. Santa Rosa Street, San Antonio, TX 78207
(210) 704-2181
Meetings are 3rd Thurs., 7 p.m., Spiritual Care Dept.

♥ *Alliance for Infant Survival, Inc.*

4351 Booth Calloway, Ste. 310
North Richland Hills, Texas 76180
(817)589-2124, Fax (817) 590-0060
Toll Free 1 (800) 650-7437

www.infantsurvival.org

e-mail info@infantsurvival.org

Executive Director, Sandi Wiggins
Development/Public Affairs, Juliet Holden
Meet 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

♥ *COPEs Angels*

Contact: Amanda Little, (361) 857-6533
Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meeting place is Driscoll Children's Hospital, 3533 S. Alameda, in Corpus Christi, on the basement floor in the private dining room of the cafeteria.

VIRGINIA

♥ *Empty Arms Support Group*

Sentara Women's Health Source
801 Volvo Pkwy, Ste. 120,
Chesapeake, VA 23320
2nd & 4th Monday, 7-8:30
Ann Prescott: 757-545-2667,
ahprnmsed@yahoo.com

♥ *The Perinatal Loss Support Group*

at Harbourview
(Located at Women's Imaging Ctr. Reception Area)
Harbour View Dr., Suffolk, VA 23435
(757) 673-5800, Contact: Terry Zawacki
(757) 398-4832 or Gayle Deas: (757) 398-4857
Held on the 3rd Thursday of every month

AUSTRALIA

♥ *Murraylands Lutheran Stillborn Infant Support Service*

11 Ida St., Murray Bridge, South Australia 5253
Lynne Schulz: (08) 85324627 or (08) 85324897

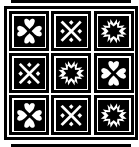
CANADA

♥ *Morning Light Ministries*

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church
11 Peter St. South
Mississauga, Ontario L5H-2G1
(905) 278-2058
morninglightministry@home.com

♥ *Perinatal Bereavement Services Ontario*

205 - 6060 Hwy. 7 E.
Markham, Ontario L3P 3A9
Tel: (905) 472-1807 or 1-888-301-PBSO
www.pbso.ca



Canton in the City

Indoor home/garden/craft show

November 29-30

Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 South Main Street

\$3 per person—\$1 of your admission fee will go to M.E.N.D. if you use the coupon below.



PLEASE PRESENT COUPON UPON ADMISSION AND RECEIVE A \$1 DISCOUNT **OR** A \$1 DONATION TO YOUR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WITH EVERY PAID \$3 ADMISSION TO "CANTON IN THE CITY" (indoor home/garden/craft shows). Please shop with CANTON IN THE CITY at The Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 South Main Street, Grapevine, TX 76051, (Mapsco 27R) on **October 25 & 26 AND November 29 & 30 - Saturdays from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm and Sundays from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm** Thank you, CANTON IN THE CITY, PO Box 754, Coppell, TX 75019; (972) 471-0601.

Shopper's Name _____ Show _____ Organization Mandatory
Date _____ I.D. Code MEND - 1

Organization Name M.E.N.D. (Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death) Organization Telephone (972) 459-2396

Organization's Complete Mailing Address P.O. Box 1007
Coppell, TX 75091

M.E.N.D. Fundraisers

As a non-profit organization M.E.N.D. is funded solely by private donations and fundraisers. Any assistance you can give us by participating in any or all of these fundraisers is greatly appreciated.

Kroger grocery stores donate a percentage of all purchases of those shoppers who have and use a Kroger Share Card back to M.E.N.D. To obtain your Share Card, contact Rebekah via one of the ways listed on the last page of this newsletter and let her know how many you need. This program is valid in Texas, but residents of other states may need to check with store managers to see if they participate.

Tom Thumb also has a program in Texas that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you have a Tom Thumb Reward Card, please ask your Tom Thumb cashier to link your card with M.E.N.D. Our number is **6265**. If you are already linked to another organization, they will split a donation of one percent of your purchases between the organizations. It only takes about five minutes to get a Reward Card, and it can also be used at Rاندalls and Simon David stores.

Kathryn Padilla, a M.E.N.D. member, is an independent **Mary Kay** consultant who is donating 40 percent of all sales by M.E.N.D. if they are made by M.E.N.D. members. Members also get ten percent off their first online order. You can shop online at www.mymk.com/kpadilla1.

Kim Robinson, a **Pampered Chef** kitchen consultant and M.E.N.D. family member, is donating 40 percent of sales to M.E.N.D. members back to our organization. You can browse products at www.pamperedchef.com, then e-mail Kim at kimr@cheerful.com to place an order.

Stamps.com offers a \$10-\$20 referral program. If you would like to purchase stamps from home and receive a free postage scale, visit www.stamps.com, and use referral code C-4FTJ-TWR. Stamps.com will give the incentive money to M.E.N.D. in the form of free postage.

Heather Sanfacon is an educational consultant with **Discovery Toys** and will donate 15 percent of profits from sales to M.E.N.D. friends back to M.E.N.D. Contact Heather at sanfacon75@netzero.com or 603-742-8123. Must mention M.E.N.D. for donations to be made.

Kevah Kreations has developed a special Infant Memory Scrapbook Kit to help families develop their babies' memory scrapbooks. This is a very delicate and sensitive 20-piece kit. Cost is \$5 plus \$2 for shipping and handling. Info may be requested at Kevah955@cs.com or by calling 843-871-3071. All checks may be made payable to Kevah Kreations. Mention M.E.N.D. while ordering and a small percentage of the sale will be donated back to M.E.N.D.

Diana McNelly is a consultant for **Usborne Books at Home**, a children's book company. Diana is donating 10 percent of purchases made off her Web site by M.E.N.D. members back to M.E.N.D. You must e-mail Diana if you purchase from the Web site so that she'll know you are a M.E.N.D. member. The Web address is www.luvusborne.com, and you can e-mail Diana at rmcinely@hotmail.com.

Once Upon a Family offers beautiful keepsakes to keep memorabilia safe and sound. Consultant Amy Gill is offering M.E.N.D. 20 percent of sales of the Baby Keepsake Box, Tiny Treasure Box, and Memory Trunk made to M.E.N.D. members back to M.E.N.D. The items can be viewed at www.ouonafamily.net, and Amy can be reached at 214-725-6116 or texasgills@hotmail.com

Shannon Outen, a M.E.N.D. member and co-owner of **Paper Patch**, represents several lines of business stationery, specializing in customized holiday/Christmas cards at a discounted price. Shannon will donate 10 percent of her profits to M.E.N.D. from each Christmas card order. Contact Shannon at (817) 557-4733 or email outencs@aol.com to receive a current catalogue.

Christine Oxendine is now a representative of **Avon**. She has offered to give to M.E.N.D. 10 percent of any orders placed by M.E.N.D. members. To receive a catalogue, contact Christine at 940-381-6617 home or 682-365-7448 cell or e-mail bearpals@charter.net.

M.E.N.D. is a Christian nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to reach out to those who have lost a child to miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death and offer a way to share experiences and information through monthly meetings, this newsletter, and our web site.

For inquiries, subscription requests, deletions, and submissions to the newsletter, contact us at
M.E.N.D.
P.O. Box 1007
Coppell, TX 75019
(972) 459-2396
1-888-695-M.E.N.D.
Fax (972) 459-2396
E-Mail: Rebekah@mend.org,
Sharlene@mend.org

Donations make the printing and distribution of this newsletter possible.

Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated and should be sent to:

M.E.N.D.
P.O. Box 1007
Coppell, TX 75019.

If your gift is made in memory of a baby, please include that baby's name (if named), date of birth and/or date of death, the parents' names, and the name of the benefactor. You may also include the cause of death (if known).

Visit our web site at:
<http://www.mend.org>

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