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Getting Through the Holidays

A couple of years ago a friend of mine and I were walking around the track while our boys participated in a summer sports camp. She asked me, "Rebekah, how do you handle it when your prayers are not answered?" I knew she was referring to the loss of my two babies as well as some major health issues I have dealt with. I was silent for several moments. Then I explained that coming to terms with the fact that our plans are not always in sync with God's plans is not something that happens overnight. It may take years before we resolve those issues with our Creator. I further explained that I had to learn to focus on the blessings in my life instead of dwelling on what at the time I considered curses. I challenged her to do the same. She told me her counselor encouraged her to do this as well, but when she sat down to list all the good things in her life she could not come up with a single thing to write down. Trying not to show my shock, I gently pointed to both of her healthy, athletic sons and reminded her of her loving husband. She rebutted with complaints that her sons were a handful, not as smart and athletic as she would like, and her husband was not as easygoing as he appeared.

I have replayed that conversation with my sad friend over and over since that hot summer morning. As horrified as I was with her honest confession, I had to admit to myself that there was a season when I was just as bitter about life as she. I, too, had a beautiful son and a husband whom I adored, but when I was deeply grieving

the loss of our stillborn son Jonathan, not much in my life seemed good. Many times instead of cheering madly when Byron, Jr. scored a goal in soccer, I was assaulted with the realization that I would never see Jonathan put on cleats and do the same. When my little boy knocked the baseball off the tee, my rooting him on stopped abruptly when I remembered that he would never be able to teach his little brother how to hit the ball like him.

Without realizing it, I cheated myself of completely cherishing all of my living son's milestones because I was dwelling on my dead son. Instead of being thankful for what I did have, I lived in sorrow for what I did not have. The apostle Paul instructs us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16 to give thanks in all circumstances. Note he does not tell us to be thankful *for* everything but *in* everything. In other words, we are not required to thank God that our babies died, but we are to thank Him in our time of sorrow. I had to learn to praise him for what I did have, despite what I had lost.

If you find yourself in the same despair as my friend and I during our time of suffering, as we enter this holiday season of thanks and joy, I encourage you to take some time and list all the blessings you have been given. If, like my friend, you honestly cannot come up with any, ask the Lord to help you. After you have written them down, commit to giving Him thanks and praise and I promise you, your heart will begin to heal. ♥

Rebekah Mitchell

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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

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Donations make the printing and distribution of this newsletter possible. Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated and should be sent to the address listed above. 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).

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GIVING THANKS

by Melissa Stephens

In memory of David Atkins Stephens, 10/23/03

Written November 2004

Thanksgiving means different things to different people. For some, "Thanksgiving" is synonymous with "football." For others, Thanksgiving means family togetherness. And, of course, there are those for whom it's all about the turkey! While all of these things are enjoyable aspects of the holiday, most of us would agree that Thanksgiving is primarily a time to meditate upon the good things in our life and to give thanks to God for those blessings.

At this time last year, I had trouble seeing any of the good things in my life. Yes, I had supportive friends and a wonderful family, but I wanted my son. Yes, I lived in a beautiful house, but the nursery was empty. Yes, I had food on my table, but I was too depressed to eat. I had always been thankful for my many blessings, but I found myself bargaining with God that He could take all those things away if I could just have the one good thing that I desired – my son in my arms.

Of course, our idea of a "good thing" may be different than what God knows is good for us. This is something with which I've struggled tremendously in the last year. God promises to work out all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes. But as hard as I've tried (and oh, how hard I've tried!), I can't even begin to imagine how the death of my son, David, is working out for good. I know that David's life had a positive effect on many people, but surely he would have done many more wonderful things for the Lord had he been given the opportunity.

I have prayed fervently that God would reveal His purposes to me, or even give me a glimpse of David in heaven. But God has not answered my requests. Instead, He asks me to trust in His purposes - even if I don't understand them. He asks me to believe that David is now in heaven - even if I can't see him there with my own eyes. In short, He asks me to have faith.

It's important to remember that our faith cannot be based upon our feelings. Feelings are fleeting; faith must be unwavering. My feelings tell me that if God loved me, my son would be alive and healthy in my arms this Thanksgiving. But my faith reminds me that what was true before David's death is true after, and always will be. God does love me, and He is carrying me through this time – even if I don't feel Him. My faith tells me to rejoice and give thanks – even if I don't feel like it. My faith tells me that God's purposes are so great that I cannot begin to fathom His beautiful plan. So this Thanksgiving, I will look at my blessings and I will be thankful – for all of them. ♥

As the Holidays Near

By Kahlilia Woodlon, MIRA's mommy

This is a special time of year for many

There are presents and songs

and cheer aplenty

Dazzling colors so bright and new

Holiday festivities sharing family

and friendship so true

Although for one there is pain and sorrow

Not knowing how she will feel tomorrow

In the wake of mourning her child's death

Grief robs the joy and steals her breath

Moment by moment she walks the path

Trying to survive grief's awful wrath

Be gentle with her this time of year

Death has invaded, her cries please hear

Her heart is broken, shedding sorrow and tears

It will be this way for the rest of her years

Remember her child, as she surely will

The feelings she has, time could never kill

So light a candle to show you care

Buy a gift her child could share

During this time you should just be kind

She appreciates you kept her in mind

In memory of MIRA
July 23, 2003, Prematurity
© MIRA's Mommy Kahlilia

Another Christmas in Heaven

by *Samantha Iliff*,
in memory of Logan David, 5/5/00
Written December 2001

'Twas the night before Christmas, I'm asleep in my bed
When a long, white feather floats softly on my head
I awake to discover it's Christmas morn
And I see my baby boy, all cuddly and warm
He's smiling so sweet, he reaches out for me
I rush to his side, hugging and kissing him with glee
He takes my hand and guides me to the most glorious of sights
Another Christmas up in Heaven, complete with Heavenly lights
Halls are decked with boughs of holly
Boys playing with trucks, girls dressing up dollies
The most beautiful Christmas tree is shining so bright
For all the baby angels' holiday delight
Christmas bells are ringing, it's such a joyful day
I'm singing with my baby, and watching him play
He's playing with other babies, beautiful boys and girls
It must be Heaven, I think. There's nothing like it in this world
Stockings line the fireplace, filled with candy and toys
And moms hold their babies, hearts lifted up with joy
As children dance and sing and play around the Christmas tree
A special visitor comes by to visit, and to talk with me
It's Jesus our Lord, He wants to speak of things yet to be
He tells me that one day all too soon this will be reality
But for now my place is here on Earth without my precious son
And with that, I'm awake, I sit up in bed, my Christmas dream is done
Another Christmas in Heaven, without a doubt
Is a glorious sight to see
The most perfect Christmas imaginable
With my Lord, my son, and me

*Samantha's poem is a sequel to a poem she wrote December 2000,
originally printed in our November/December 2004 issue.
You can access it at www.mend.org/newsletters/2004nov-dec.pdf.*

January/February Topic

How Resources
Help Us Survive Grief
Deadline: November 30, 2005

March/April Topic

Making It Through
the Four-Month Mark
Deadline: January 31, 2006

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 page two 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.'s Annual Christmas Ceremony

Tuesday, December 6, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

Calvary Church (Formerly Calvary Temple)
4401 North Highway 161 Irving, TX 75038
(Hwy. 161 & Walnut Hill)

For more information or to RSVP, contact Rebekah Mitchell
(972) 506-9000 or Rebekah@mend.org

Visit our Web site at:
www.mend.org

Tributes to Our Special Babies

Happy First Birthday, My Son Kevin Paul



Oh how I love and miss my little boy, Kevin Paul! How proud I am to have such an adorable son! Ever since I heard you were coming into our world, I dreamed of so many things we would do: basketball, teaching you to ride your tricycle, going to church, hugs, kisses, lots of ice cream and so much more. Now you are our eternal angel and we keep you so close to our hearts.

Kevin Paul, I pray to God to do for you on this, your first birthday and always, the things I yearn to do.

Our Love Is Forever
 Forever Your Mommy
 xxxooo

P.S. Kevin Paul please watch over your sister, Cassandra, she loves and misses you too.



Kevin Paul Denuel
 Stillborn December 14, 2004
 Cord Accident
 Mother: Kathy Denuel
 Sister: Cassandra

Happy Birthday, Celeste!

It's been a year since you came into our lives,
 And touched our hearts.
 We will be thinking of you on your birthday,
 Just as much as every day we spend without you.

You taught us so much
 In the short time you were in our lives.
 And you continue to teach us,
 Because your memory remains.

We wish we were watching you take your first steps,
 And hearing you speak your first words.
 Mommy wishes she could smother you with kisses,
 And Daddy wishes he could see that big smile on your face.

We wish you the best birthday ever
 And send many hugs and kisses to you.
 Though you are not in our arms,
 You will always be in our hearts!!!



Love,
 Mommy and Daddy

Celeste Kimberly Reid
 December 7 - 8, 2004
 Neonatal Hemochromatosis
 Parents: Skip Reid and Andie Boston

Happy 4th Birthday Catherine Mary

Four years old is what you would be,
 running barefoot in the grass and gazing at trees.

I imagine your sweet face filled with delight
 and I imagine God hugging you ever so tight.

We miss you and love you my darling, my dear.

We send you this special birthday kiss
 as we honor another year.

Happy birthday sweet angel.

Love,

Mommy, Daddy and little brother Alex

In Loving Memory of Catherine Mary Martin
 Stillborn December 15, 2001
 Trisomy 18
 Parents: Nancy and Glenn Martin



Happy 1st Birthday to Our Precious Babies, Cole, Kaylyn, and Hannah!

We cannot believe a year has gone by. Our family still feels the void with each passing day. We wish this year had been different and you were home with us to stay. The angels took you quietly, but our memories will last a lifetime. You will be in our hearts forever and thought of each and every day. On this anniversary we again say, "We love you, we miss you, and happy birthday!"

All our love,
 Mom, Dad, and big sister Ally

Cole Michael Busker,
 Kaylyn Rial Busker,
 and Hannah Elizabeth Busker
 Stillborn December 10, 2004
 Ecoli Infection
 Parents: Mike and Kim Busker
 Big sister: Ally



We lovingly remember our little baby boy

Kyle Charles Walton

Families are Forever.

Kyle Charles Walton
 November 19, 1998
 Group B Strep

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



Happy Birthday Andrew!!

Today, November 11, 2005, would have been your fifth birthday, and I would have been planning a special birthday party for you. Andrew, I miss you dearly and I think of you daily and wonder how big you might be. The Lord has a plan for your life there in heaven, and some day I will join you, but until then I share the love I have for you with other children I baby-sit for. Remember, Andrew, you are always in my heart and soul.

I love you so much! Until then, love, your mother

Andrew Joseph Jack, stillborn November 11, 2000, heart attack during labor Mother: Patty Jack

Joshua and Jeromy,

My goodness how life has changed for your dad and I over the last nine years! Most of the changes have been for the better. For example, the addition of four more boys into our home has been a blessing. Your dad and brothers have converted me into a sports fan! This is a huge change! We now have a greater appreciation for life. That, of course, is a positive change. There are changes however that I struggle with on a daily basis. Like the fact that there is a hole in my heart that will never fill no matter how many other children I have. When you died a piece of me died with you. I sometimes miss the old me. The one who had faith and who was fearless. The one who saw good in everything. I have changed into a person who is scared, not trusting and often negative. The hardest change for me is that I cannot change the changes. I cannot fix everything. I don't have all of the solutions. I have had to come to terms with the fact that there are things out of my control!

No matter how many years pass I will never forget the greatest change in my life. Joshua and Jeromy, you two boys made me a mommy. I will cherish this change forever.

I love you so much.
Mom

Joshua and Jeromy Barsanti
Stillborn November 21, 1996, Anencephaly
Parents: Randy and DaLana Barsanti
Siblings: Taylor Wesley, Collin, Harrison, and Riley



Happy Birthday Lucas!

You are two years old. We all miss you very much. Seems like just yesterday, I held you in my arms. Your dad and I often wonder what you'd be like today. Lucas, you are always in our hearts. Have a great birthday.

Love you,
Dad, Mom, Dillon and Dalton



Lucas Burluson
December 9, 2004, Cord accident
Parents: Celina and Bradley Burluson
Siblings: Dillon and Dalton

Remembering Our Sweet Baby Charlie

For four years we have lived with our broken hearts
And not a day goes by that we don't think of you.

We miss you, Son.

Love,

Mom, Dad, big sister Jenny and little brother Tommy

Charlie Donald
November 10, 2001, Unknown cause
Parents: Mark & Amy Donald Siblings: Jenny and Tommy

Our Precious Caleb,



Our first-born child...that's you! It's hard to believe you'd be turning two. Some days it seems like only yesterday that we anticipated your arrival. Other days we remember the last time...the only time...we held you close and then had to let you go. But every day, we think of you and miss you more than words can say. We know you're being a great big brother to August, and we love you both very much. We long to be together again and pray that you know how much we love you.



Happy Birthday, Baby.

Love,
Mommy & Daddy

In loving memory of
Caleb Scott Fann
December 1, 2003
Premature Rupture of Waters
Also lovingly remembering
Baby August
August 13, 2005
Miscarried at 8 weeks



For Jameson



To our little man,

Four years ago, you left us behind as you were heaven bound. Although we miss you so very much, we see your soul in the clouds ... your smile in the sunshine ... and your handsomeness in the stars above. We carry our love for you in our hearts along with all the memories that will never be erased.

Happy 4th birthday, Jameson!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy,
Julianna, Jared, and Janelle



In loving memory of Jameson Cole Ripple
December 14-21, 2001
Campomelic Dysplasia
Parents: Dawn and Kevin Ripple
Siblings: Julianna, Jared and Janelle

Happy Birthday Cassandra



Love, Mommy, Daddy, Ryan, Eryn
and your little sibling in heaven

In memory of Cassandra Voulis
Stillborn November 11, 1992, Cord Accident
Parents: Gary and Michelle McHone Siblings: Ryan and Eryn
Remembering Baby McHone
Miscarried September 19, 2002

M.E.N.D. would like to recognize the following people and businesses for their part in making this year's Walk to Remember a reality. We are truly grateful for your support.

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Craig and Melanie Boyd
Little Beads
and Macaroni & Cheese

Photos of this year's Walk to Remember can be viewed at www.mend.org.

"A woman who loses a husband is called a widow. A child who loses parents, an orphan. There is not name for a parent who loses a child, because there is no word to describe the pain."

~ New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg
at a memorial service held on September 11, 2004

Canton in the City Benefits M.E.N.D.

If you have plans to shop at the Canton in the City holiday gift show in Grapevine, Texas, on Thanksgiving weekend, please complete the following coupon and present it at the door. For ever coupon received bearing M.E.N.D.'s information,

Canton in the City will donate \$1 to M.E.N.D.

PRESENT COMPLETED COUPON upon admission to CANTON IN THE CITY "Holiday Gifts & More" shows and your Charity will receive a \$1 DONATION, per SHOPPER, per SHOW with every paid \$3 Adult admission. Shop CANTON IN THE CITY at the Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 South Main Street, Grapevine, TX 76051, Sat/Sun OCTOBER 15-16, 2005 and Sat/Sun NOVEMBER 26-27, 2005 (Thanksgiving weekend). Shop Saturday and Sunday 10-5. Parking is FREE!

Shopper's Name _____ Show Date _____ Charity Tax Identification No. 75-2670925

Charity Name M.E.N.D. (Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death) _____

Charity Contact Rebekah Mitchell _____ Charity Telephone (972) 506-9000

Charity Address P.O. Box 1007, Coppell, TX 75019 _____

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Understanding the Causes of Neonatal Loss

by Michelle McHone, BBA

In the past two issues of the M.E.N.D. newsletter (available at www.mend.org), Michelle has explained her reasons for researching causes of neonatal death. It is clear that many of us who have experienced the death of a newborn desire a better understanding of the physical anomalies that caused the demise of our children. In her final installment of this series, Michelle outlines a number of disorders or physiological causes of "fetal demise". They are listed alphabetically.

Spina Bifida- Spina bifida is the most common of all neural tube defects and happens in the first month of pregnancy when the spinal column doesn't close completely. Can be detected by AFP testing. (April 28, 2005 www.sbaa.com)

Tetralogy of Fallot- A large ventricular septal defect (VSD - hole in the wall separating the right and left ventricles), and Pulmonary stenosis (obstructed blood flow to the lungs). The pulmonary arteries may be small as well. This is caused by "blue blood," low in oxygen, from the right ventricle passing through the VSD directly into the aorta and then to the body. Less than normal amounts of blood go to the lungs because of the obstruction from the pulmonary stenosis and smaller size of the pulmonary artery. The stress of pumping against the narrow pulmonary artery causes the right ventricle to enlarge and thicken. (April 28, 2005 www.siumed.edu/peds/teaching/Cardiology/tetralogy.htm)

Triploidy- Triploid Syndrome is an extremely rare chromosomal disorder. Individuals with triploid syndrome have three of every chromosome for a total of sixty-nine rather than the normal forty-six chromosomes. Babies with Triploid Syndrome usually are lost through early miscarriage. However, some infants have been born and survived as long as five months. Affected infants are usually small and have multiple birth defects. Those that survive are usually mosaic, meaning that some cells have the normal number of 46 chromosomes and some cells have a complete extra set of chromosomes. (May 4, 2005 http://my.webmd.com/hw/raising_a_family/nord710.asp)

Trisomy-

13 -Infants born with Trisomy 13 have a recognizable pattern of physical features that often allow the health professional to make the diagnosis of the syndrome. Notable physical birth defects and, sometimes, anatomic changes of internal organs are present. Findings of significance include small head size (microcephaly); small eyes (microphthalmia) or sometimes absent eye or faulty development of the retina. Cleft lip or cleft palate or both occur in about 60% of children. In addition, there are a number of less medically significant physical findings that are helpful in diagnosis. These include variations of ear shape, changes on the palm of the hand, and extra fingers and toes. Changes in foot development, including changes to the heel, the so-called rocker bottom foot, can occur. Almost 80% of those with Trisomy 13 will have a congenital heart defect. (April 28, 2005 http://www.trisomy.org/html/trisomy_13_facts.htm)

18 -Infants born with Trisomy 18 usually have small size at birth. There is a recognizable pattern of physical features that often allow the health professional to make the diagnosis of the syndrome. These physical findings are not medically significant but provide clues. They include: prominence to the back part of the head, short eyelid fissures, small mouth and jaw, external ear variations, clenched fist with index finger overlapping the third and 5th finger overlapping the 4th, small fingernails, underdeveloped or altered thumbs, short sternum (breastbone), club feet and redundant skin at the back of the neck. (April 28, 2005 http://www.trisomy.org/html/trisomy_18_facts.htm)

21 -Commonly called Down syndrome, one of the more notable aspects is the wide variety of features and characteristics of people with Trisomy 21: There is a wide range of mental retardation and developmental delay noted among children with Down syndrome. Heart defects are common. (Len Leshin, M.D. "Trisomy 21: The Story of Down Syndrome" par 6, April 28, 2005 www.ds-health.com/trisomy.htm)

Twin-Twin Transfusion Syndrome- Twin-Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS) is a rare disorder that sometimes occurs when women are pregnant with identical (monozygotic) twins. It is a rare disease of the placenta, the organ that joins the mother to her offspring and provides nourishment to the developing babies. During the development of identical twins, there are often blood vessels in the babies' shared placenta that connect their blood circulations (placental anastomoses). In most cases, the blood flows properly through these vessels. However, in Twin-Twin Transfusion Syndrome, the blood begins to flow unevenly, with one fetal twin receiving too much blood (recipient) and one receiving too little (donor). The recipient twin may experience heart failure due to continual strain on its heart and blood vessels (cardiovascular system). The donor twin, on the other hand, may experience life-threatening anemia due to its inadequate supply of blood. Such an imbalance in blood flow (i.e., twin-twin transfusion) can occur at any time during the pregnancy, including during delivery. (May 4, 2005 http://my.webmd.com/hw/being_pregnant/nord1025.asp)

Unknown Causes- I felt it crucial to include this "condition" in the definitions. There are many parents grieving a loss who do not have the medical details to support what happened to their baby. The results of testing may have been inconclusive, or the baby may have been too small to determine the exact cause; it's important to consider these parents suffering the "unknown" upon the loss of their babies. When no diagnosis can be given, the loss is classified as "unknown cause."

Many of us continue to search for a reason why we lost our children. In my case, the explanations made sense, yet the spiritual "whys" still linger. I've finished the research of many of the causes of loss that have been listed in our newsletter, and it is my hope that we can better understand the medical reasons behind the various conditions to continue to support each other. We are all members of this exclusive club: parents who have lost their precious children. It's not a membership we desired, yet it ties us all together with such empathy and compassion. Matthew 18:20 reads, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them." Let us take comfort in the fact that God, too, lost a Child that we might be here to support each other during our time of need. ♥



Garrett Anthony Mayer
 October 12 - December 18, 1999
 Tetralogy of Fallot
 Parents: April and Tony Mayer
 Little sister: Samantha
 Given by Darlene and Mike Whitten

Kevin Paul Denuel
 Stillborn December 14, 2004
 Cord Accident

Twin Babies
 Miscarried December 31, 1992
 Given by mommy Kathy Denuel
 and sister Cassandra

Catherine Mary Martin
 Stillborn December 15, 2001

Baby Martin I
 Miscarried June 14, 2002

Baby Martin II
 Miscarried September, 2002
 Blighted Ovum
 Parents: Nancy and Glenn Martin
 Little brother: Alexander
 Given by Barron Vending

Baby Laws
 Given by Stephanie Simpson

Gift of Love
 Given by Fontaine Laughlin

David James (DJ) Nye
 Stillborn July 19, 2005
 Cord Accident
 Given by parents
 Chris and Rachel Nye
 and big sister Carissa

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 page 2 of this newsletter for more information regarding where to send your donations and what information to include.

Thank you so much!

Alexis and Nicole Rudeen
 Stillborn March 11, 2002
 Unknown Cause
 Given by parents Randy and Sherri Rudeen
 and siblings Julie, Sara, Jordyn, and Sydney

David Atkins Stephens
 October 23, 2003
 Omphalocele
 Given by parents Rob and Melissa Stephens
 and little brother C.J.

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

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 Dentistry of Las Colinas

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

Erika Brianne Grau
 July 9 - August 3, 1997
 Anoxic Brain Injury due to Ruptured Uterus
 Given by parents Ray and Yvette Grau
 and siblings Nikryan and Nataly

Kyle Charles Walton
 November 19, 1998
 Group B Strep
 Parents: Jason and Kristen Walton
 Siblings: Jessica, Laura, and Joshua
 Given by Moxie Pest Control of Georgia

Maria Kettrey
 May 10, 2001
 Complications of Amniocentesis
 Given by parents Claudia and Billy Kettrey
 and siblings Dalila and Aiden

Timothy "Schuyler" Morren
 September 28 - December 23, 1997
 SIDS
 Parents: Pam and Tim Morren
 Little siblings: Ashton, Alexa, and Benjamin
 Given by aunt Linda Lester

Ryland Michael Dixon
 August 12, 2005
 Infection
 Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
 Big sister: Leighanne
 Given by Ed and Dale Tadelman

Ryland Michael Dixon
 August 12, 2005
 Infection
 Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
 Big sister: Leighanne
 Given by Robert and Lois Olsen

Ryland Michael Dixon
 August 12, 2005
 Infection
 Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
 Big sister: Leighanne
 Given by Robert and Nancy Scott

Ryland Michael Dixon
 Stillborn August 12, 2005
 Infection
 Parents: Kelly and Bryan Dixon
 Big sister: Leighanne
 Given by Anna Smith

Ryland Michael Dixon
 Stillborn August 12, 2005
 Infection
 Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
 Big sister: Leighanne
 Given by Tracey Carter

Ryland Michael Dixon
 Stillborn August 12, 2005
 Infection
 Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
 Big sister: Leighanne
 Given by Julia Maywald

Ryland Michael Dixon
 Stillborn August 12, 2005
 Infection
 Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
 Big sister: Leighanne
 Given by Julie Stith

Ryland Michael Dixon
 Stillborn August 12, 2005
 Infection
 Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
 Big sister: Leighanne
 Given by Albert and Josephine Dale

Ryland Michael Dixon
 Stillborn August 12, 2005
 Infection
 Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
 Big sister: Leighanne
 Given by work friends of his uncle Ron

*In Loving Memory**continued***Gabriela Faith Gregory**

January 24, 2002
Anomaly of Umbilical Cord
Given by parents Chris and Monica Gregory
and siblings Daniel, Amarise, and Eliana

Michael Garabedian, Jr.

Stillborn February 2, 1998
Cord Accident/Velamentous Cord Insertion
Adam Michael Garabedian
Stillborn July 25, 2001
Cord Accident
Parents: Cindy and Mike Garabedian
Sisters: Victoria, Elizabeth, and Catherine
Given by Garabedian Properties

Logan Wayne Fish

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

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 Sterling Sales & Solutions

Michelle Grace Stockdale

August 22 - September 16, 2002
Ebstein's Anomaly
Parents: Joe and Marie Stockdale
Little Siblings: Caleb and Audrey
Given by Lori and Samuel Blaney

Michelle Grace Stockdale

August 22 - September 16, 2002
Ebstein's Anomaly
Parents: Joe and Marie Stockdale
Little Siblings: Caleb and Audrey
Given by aunt Angie and uncle Tom Haynes
along with cousin Jake

Michelle Grace Stockdale

August 22 - September 16, 2002
Ebstein's Anomaly
Parents: Joe and Marie Stockdale
Little Siblings: Caleb and Audrey
Given by grandparents
Harry and Brenda Stockdale

Michelle Grace Stockdale

August 22 - September 16, 2003
Ebstein's Anomaly
Parents: Joe and Marie Stockdale
Little Siblings: Caleb and Audrey
Given by friends Brian and Melody Duvall

Olivia Grace Wayne

Stillborn May 11, 1995
Jesse Wayne
Miscarried April 20, 1996
Angel Wayne
Miscarried July 23, 1998
Given by parents
Richard and Jeanette Wayne
and sisters Emmaline and Chloe

Cole Michael Busker

Kaylyn Rial Busker
Hannah Elizabeth Busker
Stillborn December 10, 2004
Ecoli Infection
Given by parents
Mike and Kim Busker
and big sister Ally

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump
Little sister: Cameron
Given by friends R.N. and Linda Cates

Hallie Anne Fantine

Stillborn September 22, 1997
Cord Accident
Baby Fantine
Miscarried March 2, 2001
Given by parents
Laurie and Richard Fantine
and little brothers Alex and Brandon

James Jackson "Jack" Henvey

July 4, 2001
Tetralogy of Fallot
Baby Henvey
Miscarried October, 2003
Parents: Renee and Chris Henvey
Little brother: Evan
Given by grandparents
Jim and Sandy Henvey

Kane Christopher DeLaTorre

Stillborn August 6, 2003
Cord Accident
Parents: Lori and Aaron DeLaTorre
Siblings: Alex, Adyson, and Kolt

Jameson Cole Ripple

December 14 - 22, 2001
Campomelic Dysplasia
Given by parents
Dawn and Kevin Ripple
and siblings Julianna, Jared, and Janelle

Abigail Joy Boyd

Miscarried June 22, 1999
Hannah Elisabeth Boyd
Miscarried October 21, 1999
Michael Aaron Boyd
Stillborn April 23, 2000
Baby Christian Boyd
December 17, 2000
Baby Hope Boyd
February 26, 2004
Given by parents
Craig and Melanie Boyd
and siblings Samuel and Emma

Joseph Charles Libby

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

Kassandra Voulis

Stillborn November 11, 1992
Cord Accident
Baby McHone
Miscarried September 19, 2002
Given by parents
Michelle and Gary McHone
and little siblings Ryan and Eryn

Jordan Claire James

September 29 - October 15, 2003
Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome
Parents: John and Julie James
Siblings: Bailie and Lauren
Given by Verizon Foundation/
Employee Matching Program

Matthew Joel Mifflin

Stillborn June 6, 2003
True Knot in the Umbilical Cord
Given by parents
Dennis and Janet Mifflin
and siblings Thomas and Michelle

Elizabeth Ellen Cox

October 25, 2001
Multicystic Kidneys
Given by parents
Kathryn and Scott Cox
and siblings Graceanne and Jillian

M.E.N.D. would like to recognize McDonough Christian Church for their help in establishing M.E.N.D.'s new Georgia chapter. Thank you for your generous donation.

HELPFUL READING ...***A Deeper Shade of Grace***

by Bernadette Keaggy.
Sparrow Press, Nashville, TN, 1993.

Empty Arms: Emotional Support for Those Who Have Suffered a Miscarriage Stillbirth, or Tubal Pregnancy

by Pam Vredevelt.
Multnomah Press, Sisters, OR, 1984

Empty Cradle, Broken Heart – Surviving the Death of Your Baby

by Deborah L. David, PhD.
Fulcrum Publishing, 350 Indiana St., Golden, CO 80401, 1991

Grieving the Child I Never Knew:

A devotional companion for comfort in the loss of your unborn or newly born child

by Kathie Winnenberg
Zondervan Publishing House

Heaven's Not a Crying Place

by Joey O'Connor.
To order, visit his website at
<http://www.joeyo.com/>
or e-mail joey@joeyo.com

I Can't Find A Heartbeat: Hope and Help for Those Who Have Lost an Unborn Child

By Melissa Sexson Hanson
Review and Herald
Publishing Association

I'll Hold You in Heaven

by Jack Hayford.
Regal Books
Ventura, CA

In Search of Hope

by Susan R. Lowe
AmErica House
www.publishamerica.com

Letters to Gabriel

by Karen Garver Santorum,
wife of Senator Rick Santorum
To order, call 800-935-2222.

Silent Grief

by Clara Hinton.
Published by New Leaf Press

A Silent Sorrow

by Ingrid Kohn.
Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc.,
666 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10103, 1992

36 Hours with an Angel

by Lindsay Roberts.
Richard and Lindsay Roberts Ministries,
P.O. Box 2187, Tulsa, OK 74171

Time Piece

by Richard Paul Evans.
Simon and Schuster, Rockefeller Center, 1230
Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020,
1995-1996

When God Doesn't Make Sense

by Dr. James Dobson.
Published by Tyndale House Publishers,
Wheaton, IL, 1993

SIDS ...***The SIDS Survival Guide***

by Joani Nelson Horchler and
Robin Rice Morris.
To order, call 301-773-9691.

Subsequent Pregnancy ...***Another Baby? Maybe ...***

Thirty Questions on Pregnancy After Loss
by Sherokee Ilse and Maribeth Wildre Doerr.
Contact Centering Corporation
www.centering.org
402-553-1200

Pregnancy After a Loss – A Guide to Pregnancy After a Miscarriage, Stillbirth, or Infant Death

by Carol Cirulli Lanham.
Berkley Books, a Division of Penguin Putnam,
Inc., 375 Hudson St., New York, NY. To order
directly, call toll-free 1-877-853-3595.

Trying Again--A Guide to Pregnancy After Miscarriage, Stillbirth, and Infant Loss

by Ann Douglas and John R. Sussman, M.D.
Taylor Publishing, 2000.
<http://www.having-a-baby.com/tryingagain.htm>

Infertility ...***When the Cradle Is Empty - Answering Tough Questions About Infertility***

by John and Sylvia Van Regenmorter
To order, call Focus on the Family at
1-800-232-6459.

Longing for a Child: Devotions of Hope for Your Journey Through Infertility

by Kathie Winnenberg
Zondervan Publishing House

For Children ...***The Cherry Blossom Tree – A Grandfather Talks About Life & Death***

by Jan Godfrey.
Augsburg Fortress, 426 S. Fifth St., Box 1209,
Minneapolis, MN 55440, 1996

Let's Talk About Heaven

by Debby Anderson.
Chariot Books, David C. Cook
Publishing Co., Elgin, IL, 1991

Molly's Rosebush

by Janice Cohn, D.S.W.
Albert Whitman & Company,
Morton Grove, IL 1994

Mommy, Please Don't Cry – Tender Words for Broken Hearts

by Linda DeYmaz.
Multnomah Publisher, Bend, OR
Contact www.multnomahbooks.com

Holiday Grieving ...***The Christmas Box***

by Richard Paul Evans.
Simon and Schuster, Rockefeller Center, 1230
Avenue of the Americas,
New York, NY 10020, 1995-1996



Most books available at www.amazon.com. To see more reading suggestions, visit www.mend.org or contact Rebekah at rebekah@mend.org. The views expressed by authors on this page do not necessarily reflect M.E.N.D.'s views, and their listing here does not equate an endorsement by M.E.N.D.



I am not alone at all, I thought. I was never alone at all. And that, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the word seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses.

~ Taylor Caldwell

Subsequent Births

Moses and Robin Medero,
along with big sisters **Megan Kathryn**
and **Rebecca Jannette**
of Woodlynne, New Jersey,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Jacqueline Rose,
born May 13, 2005.
She weighed 7 lb., 5 oz.
The Mederos lovingly remember
Matthew,
miscarried June 27, 2001,
unknown cause.

Jerry and Suzanne Schramm,
along with big sister **Morgan**
of Flower Mound, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Garrett James,
born September 6, 2005.
He weighed 8 lb., 8 oz.,
and measured 20 1/2 inches long.
The Schramm family lovingly remembers
Molly René,
March 10, 2004,
diaphragmatic hernia.

Shane and Allyson Smith,
along with big sisters **Hannah and Mia**
of Flower Mound, Texas,
are thrilled to announce the arrival/
adoption of their son,
Isaiah Moses,
born October 2004,
arrived into the Smith family
at nine months old.
Moses was adopted while the Smiths
were in Zambia this summer.
The Smiths lovingly remember
Troy Carlin,
Feb 19, 1999,
bladder obstruction.

Gary and Mary Beth Duke,
along with big sister **Erin**
of North Richland Hills, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Garrett Wesley,
born September 16, 2005.
He weighed 7 lb., 11 oz.,
and was 18 inches long.
The Dukes will always remember
their first son,
John,
December 22, 2001,
unknown cause.

Melissa and Rob Stephens
of Flower Mound, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
C.J.,
born September 29, 2005.
He weighed 7 lb., 3 oz.,
and was 20 1/2 inches long.
The Stephens family
lovingly remembers
David Atkins,
October 23, 2003,
Omphalocele.

Kim and Joe Rosales
along with big sister **Mikaela**
of Irving, Texas,
announce the arrival of
Zachary Nathan,
born September 13, 2005.
He weighed 4 lb., 14 oz.
and measured 16 3/4 inches long.
The Rosales family lovingly remembers
Joey Alexander,
November 23, 2004 –
February 17, 2005,
hypotension caused by septic shock.



M.E.N.D. Chapter Corner

Chapter Meeting Information

M.E.N.D. - NW Arkansas
Held the 1st Tuesday of every month
from 7:00—8:30 p.m.
at the Jones Center for Families, Room 114,
922 East Emma Avenue,
Springdale, AR 72765.
For information, call 479-524-3500
or e-mail april@mend.org.
Subsequent pregnancy group meets in the
same place the 4th Tuesday, 7:00—8:30,
led by Pam Morren (pam@mend.org).

M.E.N.D. - Kansas
Meets the 2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
at Cora Miller Hall/Newman
Division of Nursing, Room 1007
1127 Chestnut, Emporia, KS 66801
Director: Stephanie Metzger
Stephanie@mend.org
(620) 343-6357

M.E.N.D. - Houston
Meets the 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
at South Montgomery County
Community Center
2235 Lake Robbins Dr.
The Woodlands, TX 77380
Director: Jaimie Crump
Jaimie@mend.org
(281) 374-8528

M.E.N.D. - Georgia
Meets 2nd Monday at 7:00
McDonough Women's Club
199 Turner St., McDonough, GA 30253
Director: Marie Stockdale
Marie@mend.org
(770) 954-1115

To find other organizations that offer support
groups in your area, visit www.mend.org.

M.E.N.D. Support Group Meetings

Join us for a time of sharing experiences.

M.E.N.D. main chapter meetings
are held the 2nd Thursday of every month
from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

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.*

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

*For families who are considering becoming preg-
nant or are currently pregnant after a loss. Led by
Lori DeLaTorre (lolid@inyourfaceshirts.com).*

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.)*

**Mommies AND daddies are both welcome
at all M.E.N.D. meetings.**

All main chapter support group meetings are held at:

Suggs Law Firm
1522 W. Airport Freeway, Suite 200
Irving, TX 75062

(Located on the south side of the highway,
Between MacArthur Boulevard
and Story Road)

For more information, call (972) 506-9000.

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 (Rebekah@mend.org) and let her know how many you need.

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**. Reward cards can also be used at Randalls and Simon David stores.

Shannon Outen, a M.E.N.D. member, operates **Oh! For Keepsakes**, which offers photographic keepsakes and quilts. For every order that is placed in which the purchaser mentions M.E.N.D., Shannon will donate \$2 to M.E.N.D. Visit her business at www.ohforkeepsakes.com.

Glenn Martin is looking for M.E.N.D. families willing to grant space for small gumball machines in order to raise funds for M.E.N.D. If you have a retail business or connections to a high traffic location, Glenn will place, stock, and service the equipment and give M.E.N.D. 35 percent of the proceeds. His business has most of its route in the Grapevine and Southlake areas and could travel further into the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex for a high traffic location. Glenn can be contacted at (817) 874-5366 or glmartin@attg.net.

M.E.N.D. can now earn funds through **i.think inc.**, an online marketing research firm. You can help by signing up as a survey panel member and designating us as the recipient of your fee. Every time you complete a survey M.E.N.D. will be automatically credited. Go to the website at <http://www.ithink.inc.com> and choose "Sign up to become an i.think inc. panel member." Fill out the sign-up survey. Under the "Funds for Charity" section, select M.E.N.D. from the list of names. Once you have completed the sign-up survey, including a valid email address, you'll be contacted with an Internet address and password for specific surveys for you to take part in. At the end of the survey, press the "Submit" button, and M.E.N.D. will be automatically credited as the recipient of all money you have earned.

Bob Nordberg is owner of www.buildatee.com in San Antonio. BuildATee.com is dedicated to providing customers with quality customized shirts, ballcaps, athletic wear, and gift items. Ten percent of online sales at BuildATee.com will be donated to M.E.N.D.

Little Beads & Macaroni & Cheese, owned by M.E.N.D. member Marilyn Brown, offers custom jewelry. Her keepsake angel bracelets are \$20 each, and ten percent of each angel bracelet sale will be donated to M.E.N.D. Marilyn can be reached at 817/996-1920 or msbrown16@hotmail.com.

Tiffany Chalk is a consultant with **Arbonne International**, offering pure Swiss skin care, color, nutrition and aromatherapy. Tiffany will donate twenty percent of all sales by M.E.N.D. members back to M.E.N.D. To find out more, call 302-658-3775 or visit www.arbonne.com. Use Tiffany's consultant ID #15111516 to shop online. Tiffany can also be reached at gr8skin@hotmail.com.

IBM employees may now make charitable donations to M.E.N.D. through automatic payroll deductions. Choose Charity Code 0M562 from the [IBM Employee/Retiree Approved Charity List](#).

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