



Mother's Day and Father's Day

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m o m m i e s  
 f u n d a m e n t a l  
 a t a  
 d e a t h

As I sat at my desk brainstorming about what to write for this issue, I tried to remember what I did last year for Mother's Day. I thought and thought but could not remember. Just as I was about to search for my 2005 calendar, hoping it would jog my memory, it hit me. We were out of town for Mother's Day last year. Our son, Byron Jr., had a baseball tournament in Shreveport, Louisiana.

It was very strange to not be home, go to church, eat lunch with my mom, sisters, their families, and everything else we traditionally do on this day. Then again, Mother's Day hasn't been the same since 1996, which was my first Mother's Day after losing Jonathan. But Mother's Day last year was really different for me. Instead of getting up early Sunday morning and rushing to church, we awoke in a hotel room, threw on our sweats and rushed to the ball field.

I sat in my folding chair, snuggled beneath my fleece blanket, put on my sunglasses, and people-watched. Certainly I watched my son play ball, but I also observed those around me. I noticed most parents intently paid attention to the games, many of them coaching their children from the sidelines (and some making fools of themselves!). A few people ate hot dogs at ten o'clock in the morning, and a handful read the paper or a book, appearing completely uninterested in their children. What struck me the most though, were all the dads who were there without the moms. This was a tournament in which the vast majority of teams traveled out of state, or at least a few hours.

So, it was safe to assume the absent moms were not sleeping in at the Holiday Inn; they simply were not there.

In all fairness, some moms may have had very good excuses for not traveling to Shreveport with their sons. Still, I wondered how many of these ladies just wanted a day alone to do their own thing? I tried to not harshly judge these missing mothers and reasonably rationalized that coming to a ball tournament may have been an absolute impossibility for them. But it just didn't fly with me. I imagined myself lining them all up and introducing them to the thousands of heartbroken mommies that morning who did not have a child at home with whom to share this honorable day. I wanted to tell them about how quickly our children grow up; we parents should not miss a single event. Further, I questioned what mother would want to spend Mother's Day without her child? However, as the day wore on, my heart softened, and I realized that this was just another lesson my little Jonathan has taught me. As mothers who have lost children we "get it." We know and understand how to cherish life, treasure each day, and not take the little things (even a ball tournament) for granted.

This Mother's Day, even if your heart is broken, embrace the day! Honor your mother, encourage those around you to spend time with the special women in their lives, and be thankful for each day we have with those we love. ♥

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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## Being a Mother

by Sharlene Libby

Written on Mother's Day 2000

*"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem." Isaiah 66:13*

One thing that occurred to me this morning at about 5:00 as my two-year-old coughed, sneezed, whispered, tossed, and turned beside me, was that Mother's Day is all about honoring mothers for the sacrifices they make for their children. I do feel I sacrifice quite a bit of time, energy, and sleep for my two living sons. But it haunts me sometimes that I never have to do anything for my youngest son, Joseph. He is in God's care now, and my job is done.

Or is it? Just because my son isn't living here on earth, does that make me less of a mother? I don't change his diapers or feed him. I don't sing him lullabies or read him stories. But I love him, just as if he were here with me. And that is what being a mother is all about. All those sacrifices result from our love for our children, and that love doesn't change when our children aren't with us anymore.

As a matter of fact, I sometimes think that losing a child to death gives us a greater glimpse into true love than others have the chance to receive. After all, the greatest love in the world is the love that God has for us. We can't fathom a love that deep, but perhaps having a child die brings us closer to understanding it than we would otherwise. After all, God gave His Son in death for us. Think about that. Would you have willingly sacrificed your child for people who don't even love you, people who don't know your child at all? I don't think I could have. I didn't willingly give Joseph up. I held onto him with all my might, kicking and screaming that his death was very unfair. Yet, God let Jesus be taken by an angry mob to a cruel, painful death. He willingly sacrificed His Son for me. He loved me that much.

And that's one thing I'm so very thankful for this Mother's Day. Yes, I'd much rather have Joseph here with me, but God has shown me that his little life is precious. Through Joseph, I've learned what love is really all about. And my love for him makes me just as much a mother as anybody else who holds her child dear to her heart. Through my son, I have greater appreciation for God's Son. I have a much clearer understanding of the vastness of my Father's love for me, a love that comforts me "as a mother comforts her child."

So rejoice in your love for your children today. Your job isn't done. Keep loving them. That is what makes you a mother, and that is what today is all about. ♥

*In memory of Joseph Charles Libby*

*Stillborn May 26, 1999*

*Cord accident*

## Employer Charitable Giving Programs Benefit M.E.N.D.

Many employers offer ways for employees to donate to M.E.N.D. IBM, Wells Fargo, and AT&T/SBC have employee giving campaigns. Other companies like Frito Lay and Verizon offer programs in which companies will match their employees' donations to charitable organizations like M.E.N.D. If you are interested in donating to M.E.N.D. through your workplace, check with your employer to see if a charitable donation program is in place.

Sometimes M.E.N.D. receives donations from such companies but doesn't receive information about the babies in whose memory the gifts are given. If you participate in your employer's charitable giving plan, please e-mail Rebekah ([Rebekah@mend.org](mailto:Rebekah@mend.org)) so that she can make sure your baby's information is listed in our *In Loving Memory* section.

### *Father's Day Ideas for Bereaved Dads*

- ♥ Take a long walk or go fishing. Allow yourself a little time alone to cry if you need to.
- ♥ Build a picture frame or memory box for your baby's picture or memorabilia.
- ♥ Think of at least one commitment or responsibility you can give up. Vow to spend the extra time doing something nice for yourself or someone else as a tribute to your child.

## Remembering You on Mother's Day

by Jana Spigener

No little hugs or kisses to wake me on this morn.  
 No special cards or roses sent my way.  
 Bittersweet feelings, at least a thousand tears;  
 Quietly, I celebrated you this day.

I am not like the others,  
 Though I still wear the name.  
 I cannot hold you in my arms,  
 But I love you just the same.

I knelt beside your resting place,  
 Though I knew you were not there.  
 I prayed to God in Heaven;  
 I found peace in knowing, sweet child,  
 you're in His care.

When I see a mother with her baby,  
 My heart breaks in two;  
 But never would I trade this pain  
 If it meant there had not been you.

At times I feel I cannot go on—  
 Living this life without you.  
 Yet hidden behind my deepest grief  
 There is joy unexplainably true.

For my daughter you will always be  
 a blessing from above.  
 Your brief existence has bestowed on me  
 a name I cherish dear.

And although this day is not what I imagined it would be,  
 I will treasure it because of you—  
 MY FIRST MOTHER'S DAY.

*In memory of Mercedes Ruth Spigener  
 Stillborn September 21, 1995*

*Intramembraneous insertion of the umbilical cord  
 and Twin Blossoms*

*Miscarried July and August 1996  
 and Baby Spigener, miscarried 2004  
 Parents: Grant and Jana Spigener  
 Siblings: Wyatt, Ford, and Porter*

### July/August Topic

Long-Term Grief

(When grief revisits years later)

Deadline: May 31, 2006

### September/October Topic

Miscarriage

Deadline: July 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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## Mark Your Calendars

M.E.N.D.'s 2006 Walk to Remember will be Saturday, October 7, at 2:00 p.m. in Irving, Texas. We are requesting sponsors to help make our Walk possible. If your family or business would like to donate to this 2006 event, please make contributions by September 1, 2006, in order to be acknowledged in the program. Remember to put "Walk Sponsorship" on the memo line of your check. For more information contact Rebekah Mitchell ([Rebekah@mend.org](mailto:Rebekah@mend.org)).

M.E.N.D.—Houston will hold its Walk to Remember on Saturday, October 28, at Metropolitan Baptist Church from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Jaimie Crump ([Jaimie@mend.org](mailto:Jaimie@mend.org)).

## Tributes to Our Special Babies

### Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Happy 11th birthday, Jonathan! We love and miss you every day.



Love,  
Mommy, Daddy,  
and Little B

*In memory of Jonathan Daniel Mitchell  
Stillborn June 24, 1995  
Cord accident  
and remembering Baby Mitchell  
Miscarried December 2001  
Parents: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell  
Big brother: Byron, Jr.*



### ♥ Happy Birthday Sarah Ann King! ♥

We love you and will never forget you.  
Mom, Dad, Brooks, Kaylee and Brady



*Remembering Sarah Ann King  
Stillborn June 22, 1995  
Unknown cause  
Parents: David and Lori King  
Siblings: Brooks, Brady, and Kaylee*

### Happy 6th Birthday, Colten Benjamin Ballmer!

We love you and miss you, sweet boy. Celebrate your birthday with the angels and know that we will see you again some day.



Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, and Logan

*Colten Benjamin Ballmer  
Stillborn May 28, 2000  
Umbilical cord stenosis - congenital  
Parents: Jamieson and Regan Ballmer  
Little brother: Logan*



### Happy 8th Birthday, Tristen!

Love,  
Mom and Valerie



*Tristen Wayne Livermore  
Stillborn May 5, 1998  
Cord accident  
Mom: Cindy Livermore  
Sister: Valerie*

### HAPPY 3rd BIRTHDAY COOPER!

Dear Cooper,

It gets a little easier and a little harder with each year that passes. I know that with each passing year I get a little closer to holding you in my arms again. Watching Paxton grow up makes it a little harder. I wish you were there by his side - learning, laughing and loving. Paxton loves his friends. How he would love to play with his BEST FRIEND (YOU).

Have a heavenly birthday, my dear sweet boy! We will celebrate you and Paxton here while you celebrate with Jesus. I am sending you all my love and kisses.

All my love,  
Mommy

*Cooper Graham Dill  
Stillborn May 26, 2003  
Cord accident  
Parents: Jim and Brandee Dill  
Siblings: Avery, Tate  
and Paxton (Cooper's identical twin)  
Also remembering Baby Dill  
Miscarried May 2002*

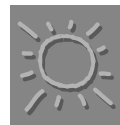


### Dear Ariana,

Not a day goes by that I don't think about my sunshine (that is the nickname you were given, because whenever my day wasn't going too well, if I could just see you I knew that everything was going to be okay). I often wonder who you would look like, if you would be crawling by now or trying to walk. I have a blanket of yours that is in my room, and whenever I am having one of my really bad days I hold it and try to remember your smell. I went ahead and made a scrapbook. You were only with me for 35 days, but I am truly grateful to God for allowing you to come into my life. You taught not only me but a lot of my family and friends what true, unconditional love is. The most special thing to me is the last day that we spent together ... the way you held onto my finger ... I often think that was your way of telling me goodbye. That is why on that Friday night when you got sick, I told you that if you had to go it would be hard on me but it was ok, because I knew that you were going to a much better place.

HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY May 20, 2006. Remember you will always be my sunshine, and you will have a special place in my heart.

Love always,  
Your mommy,  
family, and friends



*Ariana Grace-Monai Miller  
May 20—June 25, 2005  
Sepsis  
Parents: Lisa Miller and Charlie Darby*



♥ HAPPY 6th BIRTHDAY SYDNEY ♥

♥ HAPPY 5th BIRTHDAY ASHLEY ♥

### Lent for Awhile

"I'll lend you for a little time a child of Mine," He said,  
"For you to love the while she lives, and mourn for, when she's gone.  
It may be six or seven years, or twenty-two or three.  
But will you till I call her back, take care of her for Me?"

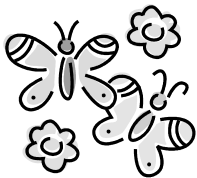
She'll bring her charms to gladden you, and should her stay be brief,  
You'll have her lovely memories as solace for you grief.  
I cannot promise she will stay since all from earth return,  
But there are lessons taught down there I wish this child to learn.

I've looked the wide world over in my search for teachers true,  
And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes I have selected you.  
Nor will you give her all your love, nor think the labor vain,  
Nor hate me when I come to call to take her back again?"

I fancied that I heard them say, "Dear Lord, Thy will be done,  
For all the joy Thy child shall bring, the risk of grief we'll run.  
We'll shelter her with tenderness, we'll love her while we may,  
And for the happiness we've known, forever grateful stay.

And should the angels call for her much sooner than we've planned,  
We'll brave the bitter grief that comes, and try to understand."

We miss & love you very much!  
Mama, Daddy, & brother Samuel



*Sydney Lynne Brown  
May 18, 2000*

*Unknown causes  
Ashley Mackenzie Brown  
May 18, 2001*

*Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome  
Parents: Marilyn and Brian Brown  
Sibling: Samuel*



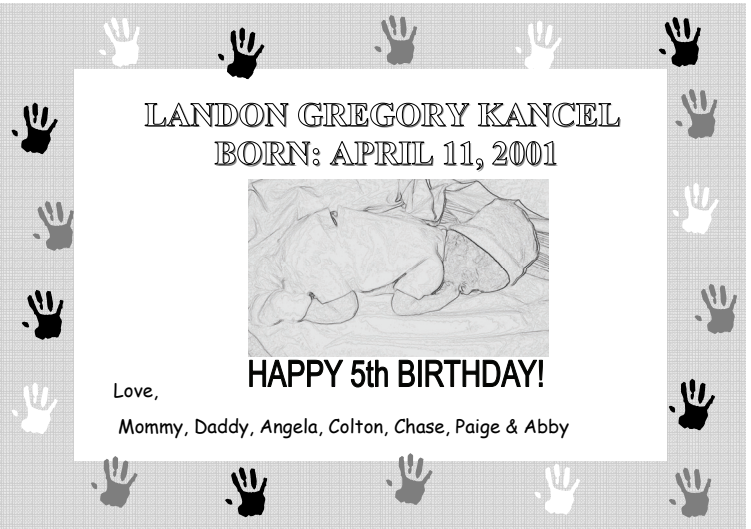
### Remembering Christian on his first birthday

One small soul, so full of promise, has taught us more about hope and life than we ever thought possible. Though we long to hold you again in this world, we ache more to see you as you were meant to be: perfect and whole in the arms of Jesus. We'll be with you again one day, sweet son. Until then, know that we love you.

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, Lenny,  
Will, and Ariel

*In loving memory of Christian Allen Scott  
June 1, 2005*

*Bilateral Renal Agenesis  
and remembering Savanna Scott  
Miscarried January 7, 2003  
Parents: Scotty and Mary Scott  
Siblings: Lenny, Will, and Ariel*



*In memory of Landon Gregory Kancel  
April 11, 2001, possible blood clot on placenta  
Parents: Andy and Dawn Kancel  
Siblings: Angela, Colton, Chase, Paige and Abby  
and remembering Baby Girl Kancel, miscarried September 20, 2001  
Turner's Syndrome*

### To our son Benjamin

in remembrance of your 7th birthday

There is not a single day that goes by that we don't think of you and what might have been, could have been and should have been. As we light a candle in memory of you and what would have been your seventh birthday here on earth, we also know that you are with God, rejoicing with your heavenly family and all your loved ones who have come before you. In that and only that we can have peace...



We love you for all eternity.  
Mommy, Daddy,  
Samantha and Kailey



*In loving memory of Benjamin Thomas Mori  
Stillborn May 13, 1999  
Unknown cause  
Parents: James and Tracy Mori  
Big Sisters: Samantha Jean and Kailey Madison*

### For Joseph's 7th Birthday

Seven years without you seems like such a long time, and yet it feels like only yesterday that we saw your auburn hair and realized you looked so much like your brothers. Time has eased the pain but will never take away how much you matter to us. Happy birthday, Joseph. You are forever loved.



Love,  
Mom, Dad, Will,  
John, and Mary Grace

*Joseph Charles Libby  
Stillborn May 26, 1999  
Cord accident*

*Parents: Wim and Sharlene Libby  
Siblings: Will, John, and Mary Grace*



**Happy birthday, Matthew!**

As you now turn three, I hope you will see  
How much we still love you so terribly!  
You brought us only joy all of your days;  
Now to the Lord you always sing your praise.

We miss you and love you more and more each day.  
We hold you in our hearts in a most special way  
And wait patiently 'till we see you once more,  
When our Lord ushers us through heaven's door.

For now we live our days without you here  
But God is good and always near!  
Our hearts are healing only due to God's grace,  
But, oh, how we long to see your beautiful face!

Happy birthday, sweet baby!

*Matthew Joel Mifflin*  
*Stillborn June 6, 2003*

*True knot in cord*

*Parents: Dennis and Janet Mifflin*

*Siblings: Thomas and Michelle*

*Also lovingly remembering Little One,*

*Miscarried February 6, 2006*

**Sweet Baby Luke,**

Happy first birthday. We picture you in the loving embrace of Jesus and His angels. We miss you so very much. I always wonder what you would be doing if you were here, but I must remind myself that you are perfect and whole in heaven. I ache that as your mommy I couldn't "save" you, but Jesus reminds me that you have already been saved. Daddy says to slide down a rainbow for him. Elley talks about you often. And I am sure you know you have another little sibling on the way.

We love you.  
Mommy, Daddy, and Elley

*Luke Harlan Livensparger*

*May 6, 2005*

*PROM*

*Parents: Justin and Adria Livensparger*

*Sibling: Elley*

**Griffin Caleb McIntosh**

A birthday to remember...

As I sat thinking of how the last five years are starting to escape me, I realize that you are near. You leave me for hours, even days; still the same, you are here.

I think of memories we have together, even ones that are only wishes; still they become intertwined as though I remember them happening. Time and events are replaced by only memories. Days feel like years, sometimes years feel like days. Memories are no longer neatly placed in time. They are now sweet, collaged moments of memories of you.

So this year I want you to know that you feel the same in my heart and thoughts even though years have separated us from those days when you were with us. Oh, how sweet Heaven must be with our glorious Father there to be with you for eternity! I love you sweet angel. I wish you were here, but I see that your path was to be with Him there. Enjoy your eternity.

Your memory is alive in...

Mommy, Daddy, and little sister Mya

*Griffin Caleb McIntosh*

*June 6, 2001*

*Stillborn at 32 weeks*

*Unknown causes*

*Parents: Matthew and Naomi McIntosh*

**Dearest Chrysanthemum,**

You are still our 'light of hope.' So many things happened this year. In July you became a big sister! How I wanted to get you a shirt that says, "I'm the big sister to twins!" I think I miss you even more now, because I know you would be such a big help to me with the boys and they would just adore their big sister.

PaPa joined you in heaven on Thanksgiving Day. We miss him so much, but know that you two are having such a wonderful time worshipping our Lord together.

Happy 6th birthday to our little flower.



*Chrysanthemum "Chrissie" Steen*

*May 3, 2000*

*Ectopic pregnancy*

*Parents: Lynn and Mary Steen*

*Brothers: John Morgan and William Gregory*

**Acknowledged as a Mother**

Mother's Day was just two and a half months after my precious little boy, Chandler, was stillborn. I just couldn't bring myself to go to church that day even though my husband was the pastor. I knew that they would be giving corsages to the youngest and oldest mothers present. I knew that I would definitely be the youngest mother there, but did others see me as a mother? I had no child on earth to prove it... Would I stand up as the youngest mother or would I not? I couldn't bring myself to do either one, so I just stayed home. My husband came home after church with a corsage. No, it wasn't the one for the youngest mother. It was the one given to the oldest mother present, a dear sweet woman named Mildred. When she was presented with the corsage for being the oldest mother there, everyone saw that she was already wearing a corsage given to her by her children. They asked her if she wanted to give it to the next oldest mother, and she immediately spoke up and said, "No! This corsage belongs to Amy!" My husband brought it home, and I wore it on my t-shirt the rest of the day, feeling like the proudest mother on earth. A fellow mother had given me the most precious gift that I could have received on Mother's Day: the gift of acknowledgement that I WAS indeed a mother!

*by Amy Allred, Chandler's mommy*

*Chandler Allred was stillborn March 4, 1999, due to neural tube defects.*

**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](mailto:joey@joeyo.com)

***Holding on to Hope***  
by Nancy Guthrie  
Tyndale House Publishers

***Holding on to Faith, Hope after Miscarriage and Loss***  
by Audrey Carney  
Available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.publishamerica.com](http://www.publishamerica.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](http://www.publishamerica.com)

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

***Safe in the Arms of God***  
by John MacArthur  
Nelson Publishing  
[www.gty.org](http://www.gty.org)

***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](http://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 ...**  
***Blessings of Barrenness, How to Surrender Infertility and Pregnancy Loss***  
By Christy Kari  
To order, go to [www.publishamerica.com](http://www.publishamerica.com)/  
bookstore. On the right side of the Web page  
under "Search," type "Blessings of Barren-  
ness."

***The Infertility Companion***  
by Sandra L. Glahan, TH.M.  
and William R. Cutrer, M.D.  
Published by Zondervan, 2004

***Longing for a Child: Devotions of Hope for Your Journey Through Infertility***  
by Kathie Winnenberg  
Zondervan Publishing House

***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.

**For Children ...**  
***Always My Twin***  
by Valerie R. Samuels  
For young children who have experienced the  
death of their twin sibling  
<http://www.trafford.com/05-0937>

***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

***I'm Still a Sister***  
by Brooke Lara Caputo  
[www.imstillasister.com](http://www.imstillasister.com)

***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](http://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





In Loving Memory

**Carter Patrick Outen**

Stillborn November 6, 2000  
Unknown Cause

**Baby Outen I**

Miscarried April 3, 2001

**Baby Outen II**

Miscarried October 5, 2001  
Parents: Chris and Shannon Outen  
Sister: Erin  
Given by Oh! For Keepsake

**Matthew Joel Mifflin**

Stillborn June 6, 2003  
True Knot in Umbilical Cord

**Little One**

Miscarried February 6, 2006  
Given by parents  
Dennis and Janet Mifflin  
and siblings Thomas and Michelle

**Brock Austin Kanayurak**

Stillborn February 6, 2006  
Unknown Cause  
Given by mommy  
Erica Nicole Hodge

**Luke Harlan Livensparger**

May 6, 2005  
PROM  
Given by parents  
Justin and Adria Livensparger  
and little sister Elley

**Chloe Wilson**

January 8, 2001  
Parents: Clay and Alicia Wilson  
Given by Laura Clow

**Gift of Support**

IBM Charities

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!**

**Christian Allen Scott**

June 1, 2005  
Bilateral Renal Agenesis

**Savanna Scott**

Miscarried January 7, 2003  
Given by parents Scotty and Mary Scott  
and siblings Lenny, Will, and Ariel

**Christian Allen Scott**

June 1, 2005  
Bilateral Renal Agenesis

**Savanna Scott**

Miscarried January 7, 2003  
Parents: Scotty and Mary Scott  
Siblings: Lenny, Will, and Ariel  
Given by Wim and Sharlene Libby

**Colten Benjamin Ballmer**

Stillborn May 28, 2000  
Umbilical Cord Stenosis - Congenital  
Parents: Jamieson and Regan Ballmer  
Little brother: Logan  
Given by grandmother Kathie Menough

**Faith Elizabeth Durham**

Stillborn September 28, 1999  
Triploidy  
Given by parents Leighton and Lisa Durham  
and little siblings Leighton IV, Olivia,  
and Suzanna

**Alexis and Nicole Rudeen**

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

**Gift of Support**

Given by W. Kevin Faught

**Kyler Paul English**

Stillborn January 20, 2006  
Cord Accident  
Given by parents Bob and Laurie English  
and big brothers Justin, Kinser and Kelson

**Levi Daniel Johnson**

Stillborn February 24, 2006  
Cord Accident

**Ethan Cole Johnson**

October 13, 2000  
Skeletal Dysplasia  
Given by parents  
Jennifer and Danny Johnson  
and brother Logan

**Levi Daniel Johnson**

Stillborn February 24, 2006  
Cord Accident

**Ethan Cole Johnson**

October 13, 2000  
Skeletal Dysplasia  
Parents: Jennifer and Danny Johnson  
Brother: Logan  
Given by Trophy Club Baptist Preschool

**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

**Jonathan Daniel Mitchell**

Stillborn June 24, 1995  
Cord Accident

**Baby Mitchell**

Miscarried December 2001  
Given by parents Byron and Rebekah Mitchell  
and big brother Byron, Jr.

**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 Uncle Jamie and Aunt Brenda Barth  
and cousins Jamie, Jason, and Jeremy

**Timothy "Schuyler" Morren II**

Sept. 28, 1997 - Dec. 23, 1997  
SIDS  
Given by parents Tim and Pam Morren  
and little siblings Ashton, Alexa and Benjamin

**Timothy "Schuyler" Morren II**

Sept. 28, 1997 - Dec. 23, 1997  
SIDS  
Parents: Tim & Pam Morren  
Little siblings: Ashton, Alexa and Benjamin  
Given by Jamie and Jonathan Ragan

**Timothy "Schuyler" Morren II**

Sept. 28, 1997 - Dec. 23, 1997  
SIDS  
Parents: Tim & Pam Morren  
Little siblings: Ashton, Alexa and Benjamin  
Given by grandmother Mary Lynne Riebel

**Timothy "Schuyler" Morren II**

Sept. 28, 1997 - Dec. 23, 1997  
SIDS  
Parents: Tim & Pam Morren  
Little siblings: Ashton, Alexa and Benjamin  
Given by John Wilson /  
Presidential Conversions



In November M.E.N.D. will turn ten years old. To celebrate how God has used this organization and all the babies whose memories we honor, we are planning a special newsletter issue. We would love submissions from our readers about favorite M.E.N.D. memories or how M.E.N.D. helped you through the grief of losing your babies. Submissions can be made to the e-mail or mailing addresses listed on page 2 of this issue by September 30, 2006.

## I Saw Your Face

by *Danny Johnson*

I saw your face, even when others could not.  
 You were so tiny—you barely fit inside my hand,  
 but I saw your face.  
 You were so young and an accident cut your life short,  
 but I saw your face.  
 My heart broke when I realized I would never know you,  
 but I saw your face.  
 But I know I will meet you, it may take some time.  
 So until that glorious and perfect moment—  
 I will always see your face.

I love you and miss you, Levi Daniel Johnson.

Love,

Daddy, Mommy, and big brother Logan

*I loving memory of Levi Daniel Johnson*

*Stillborn February 24, 2006*

*Cord Accident*

*And remembering Ethan Cole Johnson*

*October 13, 2000*

*Skeletal Dysplasia*

*Parents: Jennifer and Danny Johnson*

## *In Loving Memory ... continued*

### **Whitney Leigh Grams**

Stillborn March 9, 1998

Unknown Cause

Given by parents

Brian and Patti Grams

and brothers Joseph and Elijah

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

July 1, 2004

Trisomy 18

Given by parents

Jaimie and Gerald Crump

and little sister Cami

### **Lauren Paige Grimes**

Stillborn March 6, 1999

Unknown Cause

### **Baby Grimes (Raleigh's twin)**

Miscarried January 25, 2001

Given by parents

John and Paula Grimes

and sister Raleigh

### **Joseph Charles Libby**

Stillborn May 26, 1999

Cord Accident

Given by parents

Wim and Sharlene Libby

and siblings Will, John,

and Mary Grace

## **Subsequent Births**

### **India Routt and Chris Sonnier**

of Grand Prairie, Texas,

joyfully announce the arrival of their son

Caleb James,

born March 1, 2006,

weighing 6 lb., 10 oz.,

and measuring 19 inches long.

India lovingly remembers her daughter

Epiphany Christine Ware,

February 13 - 16, 1999,

Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome/VATERS Disorder.

### **Lance and Amanda Turner,**

**along with siblings Hannah and Sophia,**

of Mesquite, Texas,

joyfully announce the birth of

Liliana Mae,

January 24, 2006.

She weighed 4 lb., 15 oz., and was 18 inches long.

The Turners lovingly remember

Ava Grace,

stillborn February 5, 2005,

due to a cord accident/placental abruption.

## **The Promise**

by *Kristi Beard*

Broken hearts and broken dreams,  
 We think of you each day.  
 I cry and imagine what would have been;  
 I fall to my knees and I pray.

“Dear God,  
 Why does this keep happening?  
 It just isn't fair ...  
 You have my children in Your arms,  
 Yet mine are empty and bare.”

I look to Heaven and there I see ...  
 Christ Jesus, arms stretched open wide.  
 A promise sent to comfort me  
 When upon the cross He died.

The time on earth may go by slow,  
 But what a day it will be ...  
 When God in all His glory,  
 Reunites my children and me.

*In memory of Taylor and Kaden*

*August 19, 2005*

*Unknown cause*

*and babies miscarried*

*February 2004*

*and February 2005*

*Parents: Steve and Kristi Beard*



## M.E.N.D. Chapter Corner

### Chapter Meeting Information

#### M.E.N.D. - NW Arkansas

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday from 7:00—8:30 p.m.  
Jones Center for Families, Room 114,  
922 East Emma Avenue,  
Springdale, AR 72765.  
Director: April Moreton  
April@mend.org  
(479) 524-3500

**Subsequent pregnancy group** meets in the same place the 4th Tuesday, 7:00—8:30 p.m., 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.  
HEALTHSOUTH Houston  
Rehabilitation Institute  
17506 Red Oak Drive, Houston, TX 77090  
Director: Jaimie Crump  
Jaimie@mend.org  
(281) 374-8528

#### M.E.N.D. - Georgia

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

#### M.E.N.D. - Texarkana

##### **Opening June 15, 2006**

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:00 p.m.  
CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehab Hospital  
2400 St. Michael Drive  
Texarkana, TX 75503  
Director: Kari Westbrook  
Kari@mend.org  
(903) 490-1210

To find other organizations that offer support groups in your area, visit [www.mend.org](http://www.mend.org).

M.E.N.D. chapter leaders met in Dallas recently for the first annual M.E.N.D. leadership conference.

Clockwise from bottom left are Kari Westbrook (Texarkana), April Moreton (NW Arkansas), Marie Stockdale (Georgia), founder and president Rebekah Mitchell, Stephanie Metzger (Kansas), and Jaimie Crump (Houston).



## M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates

### NW Arkansas

The Northwest Arkansas chapter of M.E.N.D. celebrated its one-year anniversary on March 1, 2006. We have truly had a blessed year as more and more families join us in their journey for a "new normal." Though none of us would have opted to be a part of M.E.N.D., we are grateful for the opportunity to share each other's sorrow and to encourage one another. Since our first meeting, we have also added a subsequent pregnancy support group and have several members who are expecting subsequent babies who attend on a regular basis. It's a privilege to walk through this uncertain but exciting time with them. I would personally like to thank those families and physicians who have made this year possible: The Maddocks; Angela Fangmeier, M.D.; Community Physicians Group; Todd Hannah, M.D.; and Amy Sarver, M.D. Without the generosity of these individuals, we would not have been able to begin our chapter with as much ease as we did. Thank you! Later this year, we will begun further fundraising efforts, and we hope to host our first M.E.N.D. candlelight service in early December. To God be the Glory....

*April Moreton*

### Kansas

M.E.N.D.—Kansas participated in the Lawson Dody Walk, hosted by the Emporia State University Health and Physical Education Department, on April 20. Lawson, stillborn January 8, 2006, is the son of M.E.N.D. members Aron and Blythe Dody. Participants in the one-mile walk also enjoyed lots of fun activities afterward, and we all were blessed by a special time of remembrance for our babies. We hope this will become an annual event.

*Stephanie Metzger*

### Houston

It will be one year in June since the M.E.N.D.—Houston chapter opened. In May we will be moving our meeting place:

HEALTHSOUTH Houston Rehabilitation Institute  
17506 Red Oak Drive, Houston, TX 77090  
(.6 Miles from FM 1960, on the right hand side)

I believe God has blessed this chapter abundantly with new-found friendships, serving hearts that help our chapter grow, and a love for the new families who come to us each month looking for that common bond. I thank each woman who has had any part in serving in this ministry and each family who had allowed us to help comfort them during their darkest time. I look forward to many more years doing the work God has called me to do in the Houston area.

*Jaimie Crump*

### Georgia

Word is getting out about our M.E.N.D. chapter in Georgia. We were recently featured on a local television channel as well as a local newspaper. We were blessed to sponsor and participate in a grief conference and memorial service at Clayton State University on April 27. We pray word continues to get out about M.E.N.D. so that our resources will be made available to hurting families in our area.

*Marie Stockdale*

### Texarkana

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana will have its first meeting on June 15. I hope and pray that we can comfort those with the comfort we ourselves received from God, and I believe that we will be able to achieve this with God's guidance. God continues to bless us every day as plans for this group fall into place. God is good.

*Kari Westbrook*

## A Father's Perspective

by Byron Mitchell

Our second son, Jonathan, was stillborn due to a cord accident on June 24, 1995. Many of the following days were a difficult time of understandable disbelief, heart-breaking grief, and soul-searching. Today I'd like to address this struggle from a father's perspective.

I internalized my grief early on because that is how I tend to deal with deep things. I stayed so busy with my business and other commitments that burying my feelings became the natural way for me to deal with it all. Even so, there were many times when grief would just hit me while at my office or driving my car. I would dwell on Jonathan and become quietly emotional and tears would well up in my eyes - but others rarely knew what I was going through. I think that most men probably grieve in this way, holding our feelings inside and being somewhat uncomfortable when situations arise that make us deal with the emotions we're trying to keep under control.

In a different way, I believe that fathers also grieve over the realization that family life will never again be the same. I know that I felt this way. For me, it was truly troubling that we would never and could never get back to normal. But as Rebekah says, we now go "forward to normal" because there is no going back. And to be honest, I want to see life in its true colors, not one of fantasy or idyllic thinking for God never promised a life of pain-free utopian living.

In James 1:12, it reads "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him." And because of the assurance of His love, we can all rest in knowing that God understands our grief as fathers and mothers and gives us the strength and peace to endure this most difficult time in our lives. ♥

Byron Mitchell, D.D.S.  
Daddy to Jonathan Daniel  
Stillborn June 24, 1995

Reprinted from the January/February 1998  
M.E.N.D. newsletter

## Walk to Remember T-Shirt Order Form

Send your order to the address on the back of this page.  
Deadline is September 1 (no exceptions).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City : \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Monogram: (ex. Celia Jones Remembering Jason Alexander)

Please Circle Size (Adult sizes only): M L XL XXL

Price per T-shirt: \$25.00 with monogram, \$15.00 without  
Sales Tax: \$ 1.88 per monogrammed shirt,  
\$ 1.13 per shirt without monogram

Check here if you will be picking up your t-shirt: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you would like your t-shirt shipped to you: \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$3 per order for S&H)

Make checks payable to M.E.N.D.

# of shirts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ Sales Tax (7.5 %) = \_\_\_\_\_

# of shirts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ Postage & Handling = \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month  
from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

**Our Daddies group**  
meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 (lorid@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](http://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 in the Grapevine, Southlake, or metroplex area, Glenn will place, stock, and service the equipment and give M.E.N.D. 35 percent of the proceeds. Glenn can be contacted at (817) 874-5366 or [glmartin@attg.net](mailto: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. 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. M.E.N.D. will be automatically receive of all money you earn.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.arbonne.com). Use Tiffany's consultant ID #15111516 to shop online. Tiffany can also be reached at [gr8skin@hotmail.com](mailto: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*.

**GoBaby Maternity** makes maternity tops that answer most questions regarding your baby. Owner Lori DeLaTorre will donate \$1 per shirt to M.E.N.D. Find out more at [www.akaexpressions.com](http://www.akaexpressions.com) or call 972-259-5697.

**Mary Kay** independent beauty consultant Michele Walton will donate twenty percent of all sales made online at [www.marykay.com/](http://www.marykay.com/) [MicheleTWalton](mailto:MicheleTWalton) to M.E.N.D. Simply mention M.E.N.D. in the correspondence section of the online order form. To find out more, call Michele at 804-752-4905 or e-mail her at [micheletwalton@marykay.com](mailto:micheletwalton@marykay.com).

M.E.N.D. Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

P.O. Box 1007, Coppel, TX 75019

USA

(972) 506-9000

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