



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

Keeping Marriage Strong After a Loss

Have you ever heard the statistics of divorce following the loss of a child? Within hours of the delivery our stillborn son Jonathan, someone felt the need to inform my husband Byron and me that 50 to 80 percent of marriages fail following this kind of tragedy. I did not allow myself to become fearful of this warning; instead I was completely confident that we would fall into the 20 to 50 percent of marriages that survive.

Two days after our baby's death, Byron's uncle called us at the hospital to express his condolences and, as a pastor, offer spiritual encouragement. I answered the phone. Still on high doses of pain medication, I began to ramble on to him about how "we ARE going to make it! Our marriage will for sure be stronger, and we'll love each other more in the end!" I look back on that day twelve years ago and laugh, not because I was wrong (actually, I was very right), but because Byron's uncle probably had no idea what I was talking about! Certainly Byron and I had our struggles while grieving, but nothing serious. Like most bereaved couples, we encountered the normal "men and women grieve differently" dynamic, but we did indeed come through closer and more in love.

Before we were married, I attended a women's marriage class at church. One point I remember learning is that the woman sets the mood of the home. Of course I know that now after 19 years of marriage, but as a young woman who had not yet experienced the role of a wife, that was a new concept to me. The teacher made it very clear she was not only referring to the emotional state of us wives. She truly meant that we set the mood of the house by creating the ambiance. As a woman with traditional values, she instructed that a house is only cozy and inviting if it's clean, tidy, and orderly, and it is our job as wives to ensure this happens. I have taken that piece of information very seriously throughout our marriage and have attempted to make our home warm and welcoming for my husband when he comes in after a long day at work. However, this was very difficult to achieve while I was grieving the loss of our baby. Byron has never demanded or expected this perfect environment when he comes home; it is just a personal goal of mine. One day I had not been able to pull myself off the couch for hours. The kitchen was a wreck, our three-year-old had basically been on his own for the day, and I had not given dinner plans a thought. When Byron walked through the door, I burst into tears and apologized for the state that the house and I both were in. He lovingly reminded me that I had put these "happy homemaker" demands on myself, and although he appreciated it, it was not going to hurt any of us if he came home to a tornado once in a while.

Not all our grieving episodes turned out that sweetly. In the beginning when my moods were never good and a smile was rarely seen on my face, Byron had a habit of asking me, "What's wrong?" That question always sent me over the edge and made my mood much worse, often leading to an argument. Finally, I made a rule. I told him never to ask me that again. He should just assume that any of my bad moods were about Jonathan. In the event I was mad or upset about something other than losing our baby, I'd let him know. That plan worked beautifully! When those bad moments arose, my husband knew instantly why I was grouchy, and his questioning no longer escalated into a fight.

I am deeply saddened when hurting moms contact our ministry or come to a support group and share their marital problems. Not by any means do I think they should feel pressured to keep these struggles private, but I ache for what they're going through. Grieving is difficult enough without having to struggle to keep a marriage strong at the same time. I often tell couples, "You made the baby together, you lost the baby together, and now you need to grieve the baby together." I am fully aware that is easier said than done, mainly because men and women truly do grieve differently. Therefore, it is very important to keep communication open. Wives, you should be able to express to your husband what you are feeling. If you had a bad day, tell him about it. If you had a good day, be sure to tell him about that, too. Don't only talk about the negative. Try to find additional things to discuss other than the loss of your baby. I realize other topics are hard to come by during fresh days of grief, but make an effort not to bombard your husband with 24/7 doom and gloom. Husbands, listen, listen, and listen to your wives! Don't convey a disinterested attitude, even if you've heard the same complaint a million times. Never be ashamed to tell her your thoughts and feelings. If you had to take a break at work today because you unexpectedly found yourself overcome with emotion, tell her! You'd be surprised how much it means to us women to hear our husbands admit their hurt. Don't think you have to be Mr. Tough Guy. You cannot fix this, so don't try. And when your wife pours out her heart to you, she's not asking for a solution, just a listening ear and sympathy. Couples, be a team, not rivals. You're not on opposite sides; you have to get through this to-

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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.

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The Risks of VBAC

by Yvette Grau

Fourteen months after Erika died, I was awakened to a world I did not want to be in. I was awakened by my three-year-old son to the reality of life without my daughter. What kind of life could I expect without my daughter in it? Although it was for Nik's needs that I awoke daily, I realized I was not living nor interacting, but rather just physically being and going through the motions of the day. The pain of knowing that Erika's birth and death were now part of a 'statistic' was too unbearable to endure up to this point. As my coping skills strengthened, so did my desire to increase the awareness of the risks that came with VBAC (Vaginal Birth After previous Cesarean) deliveries. At the time of Erika's birth, these risks were vaguely discussed and VBACs were strongly encouraged, especially for insurance purposes. The statistics note that less than one percent of VBAC patients will have a uterine rupture, and furthermore, that of those patients who experience uterine rupture, less than one percent have infant fatality.

Erika was part of a statistic that ultimately affected and changed the way in which doctors handle VBAC deliveries today. VBAC deliveries are far fewer today and are not encouraged by doctors or insurance companies as forcefully as they were ten years ago. I even found a hospital in which VBAC deliveries are not allowed. Some doctors have denied patient requests for this procedure. It was time, for with Erika and all the other cases which resulted in infant fatalities, to alert the medical world that VBACs in fact carry a risk. They no longer are supported as fervently as they were ten years ago.

To those still desiring and seeking a VBAC, I urge you to be aware of every detail about the risks involved and to know that the noted 'less than one percent risk factor of uterine rupture' does not discriminate. This same minimal risk factor could potentially become 100 percent to the family who is left to deal with the consequences of this risk, as it did ours. Leave no question in your mind and heart unanswered by your doctor. In addition and equally important, ask questions about the hospital's staff and their experience with VBAC deliveries. This would be my prayer and plea for you before you chose a VBAC delivery: that you fully understand the risks and have weighed all factors before deciding.

I have found solace in the fact that I know that Erika's death was not in vain, but that she was to do God's work in an area that needed attention. Ten years later, and through the works I have done in her memory, I know that our experience has provided many the confidence to go back to their doctors to ask more questions about a procedure. Whether anonymously or through articles I have written and shared with friends and family, I know Erika's mission and message continues.

Always remembering Erika,
Yvette Grau

Letters to the Editor

Just wanted to drop a line and thank you for last month's newsletter subject matter. I am not a pastor's wife, but my husband and I have found ourselves alienated at church. When we were told our youngest son had passed away, my husband called and left a message with our pastor. He never returned the call. We never went back to that church.

We have since moved out of the area. The newsletter came a couple of days before our new pastor was to visit with us. I felt so strange asking if we would be accepted in his church, having so many babies in Heaven. The newsletter gave me the courage to ask the question. We joined the church the next Sunday and have been very happy.

Of course, I do not dwell on our loss with the new people we meet. Most of the time it just does not come up in conversation. However, we have been led to a place where it is okay to share the pain of having Heavenly babies.

Thanks for the blessings,
Jennifer Johnson
Mom of Ethan Cole, Logan, Charlie, and Levi

A Mother's Song of Grief and Hope

By Melissa Maily

**Your sudden breath
From life to death,
A bitter grace,
A yielding peace.
Farewell brother, son,
Our small sweet one.
My baby boy,
Not born in joy,
In two days gone.**

**Lord, Yours are not our ways.
You give and take away.
Send Your love
Like a healing dove.
Though we bleed and cry
Yet death will die;
All will be restored
When we see our LORD.**

*In memory of Matthias Paul Maily
August 9—10, 2005
Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy
Complications of Group B Strep
Parents: Richard & Melissa Maily
Siblings: Grace & Moses*

Medical Moment



According to a study by Dr. Mark Hardt, Ph.D., and Dannette Carroll of Montana State University—Billings, erroneous statistics stating high divorce rates after the death of a child are seldom based on empirical evidence. Such reports demonstrate a need for the analysis of divorce rates among bereaved parents so that professional counselors can have a better idea of the risk of divorce when counseling bereaved patients.

Dr. Hardt and his team surveyed bereaved parents through the use of 253 questionnaires. 37 percent of the questionnaires were returned by fathers, while the rest were completed by mothers. More than half the sample reported having a college education. 51 percent of the sample surveyed reported having a household income of \$50 thousand or greater at the time of their child's death.

Only 9 percent of those surveyed went through divorce after their child's death. Of the remaining subjects, 24 percent reported that they had considered divorce but ultimately found that they drew closer to their spouse through grief.

The majority of parents surveyed reported seeking counseling after their child's death. Those who had not considered divorce were less likely to seek counseling.

Source: Bereavement Magazine,
Sept./Oct/ 1999

Couples who are undergoing the pain of losing a child can often benefit from professional marital counseling to help deal with the stresses grief can put on a marriage. If you live in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex area and would like the name of a Christian counselor, e-mail Rebekah at rebekah@mend.org.

M.E.N.D. is always in need of books for its lending library. We are looking for scripturally sound books about grief or loss that we can loan to bereaved parents. If you would like to donate books to M.E.N.D., contact Rebekah at rebekah@mend.org or any chapter leader. Make sure to include your baby's information with your donation so that it can be acknowledged in the newsletter's "In Loving Memory" section.

September/October Topic

Infertility and Pregnancy Loss
Deadline: July 31, 2007

November/December Topic

Getting Through the Holidays
Deadline: September 30, 2007

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 Web site 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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Letters to the Editor should be sent to sharlene@mend.org. All letters submitted to the editor are subject to be published in future issues, both in the print version and online, unless a letter's author expressly requests that it not be published.

Visit our Web site at:
www.mend.org



Birthday Tributes

Happy, happy birthday, Matthew!!

Matthew,
 Four years have now gone by
 Since you left here to live on high.
 Yet ev'ry day we think of you
 Sending our love strong and true.
 You're our beautiful big strapping boy
 Filling our hearts with eternal joy.
 Thank You, Lord, for our son Matthew,
 For strength'ning us these trials through.
 We miss him every day, that's true.
 But his life always points us to You,
 So we wait as days and years go by
 Til that reunion day at Home on high!

Matthew Joel Mifflin
June 6, 2003
True Knot in Umbilical Cord
Parents: Dennis and Janet Mifflin
Siblings: Thomas and Michelle
Also remembering Little One
Miscarried February 6, 2006



James, Jr.

I carried James, Jr. for four months
 I carried him with pride
 With honor
 To be his mother—couldn't wait
 To see you.
 Never felt you kick
 Never heard you cry
 And I wonder why, why me,
 Why you.
 I love you
 Why did my first boy
 Have to go
 I know I have no right
 To question God, the Lord, but it hurts so bad
 But you left me full of love and tears and
 God gives me strength and love.
 James, Jr.
 You will always be in my heart,
 Our hearts.
 Love, Mommy

James B. Callahan, Jr.
August 5, 2006
Stillborn due to Unknown Cause
Parents: Shemeka Garner and James B. Callahan
Sister: Bryanna Garner



Dearest Noah,

Happy 3rd birthday our sweet little boy. I wish you were here with us; we miss you so much. Here is a poem I found for you.

Happy Birthday Noah

Birthdays do not end with death,
But last as long as love,
A maelstrom of memories
That grace and honor move.
And so we celebrate your day
By visiting your grave,
A place that you have left long since,
But is all that we have.

Dear spirit, come and join us here,
Your loved ones by your stone!
Come sweep across the barrier
To claim us as your own!

Happy birthday, dearest one!
Oh, happy, happy day!
Not even the most bitter night
Can take this joy away!

Love Always,
 Mommy, Daddy, Anthony, Damien, Nick and Abby,
 grandmas and grandpas and all your family

Noah Adam Barron
July 5-19, 2004
Hypoplastic Lung Syndrome
Parents: Lupe and Clem Barron
Siblings: Anthony, Damien, Nick, and Abby



Happy 5th birthday to our sweet little girl!

Dear Michelle,

What a tremendous blessing your short life continues to have on our family! We are thankful to have been your parents and to have had three precious weeks with you. Your little brother and sister are starting to talk of you. Though they don't quite fully understand, with time we know understanding will come, and they will love you though they never met you! What a sweet little girl we know you would be. You would be starting kindergarten this year. We continue to wait eagerly for the day when our family will be reunited in Christ again!

Love,
 Mom, Dad, Caleb, Audrey,
 and soon-to-be-born sister, Claire

Michelle Grace Stockdale
August 22—September 16, 2002
Ebstein's Anomaly
Also remembering Baby Stockdale
Miscarried Feb. 2003
Parents: Joe and Marie Stockdale,
Siblings: Caleb, Audrey & Claire (due in August)



Baby August,

You came into our lives so unexpectedly, but left even sooner than we could fathom. We knew so little of you, but love you more than you'll ever know.

You were the child that confirmed for us we could survive attempting to have more children after the loss of your big brother. Your brief stop in our lives made a lasting impact...one we remember every day as your little sister Maddie grows inside of me.

We miss you and love you,
Mommy & Daddy

Baby August
Miscarried August 13, 2004
Parents: Jonathan & Heather Fann
Also lovingly remembering
Caleb Scott Fann,
December 1, 2003,
PROM

**For HazelAnne Noelle**

August 16, 2006.

It was the day...

you met Jesus face to face.

It was the day...

you became whole and complete.

It was the day...

you felt eternal joy!

It was the day...

you left my arms.

Now Heaven's glory is your playground.

You run in the most beautiful of gardens

And laugh in the arms of Jesus.

Sweet angelic voices surround you each day and night.

We can only imagine the greatness that you embrace thru eternity.

We can only imagine...

John 14:1-6

"Let not your heart be troubled ... I go to prepare a place for you ..."

Happy Birthday HazelAnne Noelle! We miss you.

Love,
Meme, Daga, Aryana, Adelaide, and Joey

HazelAnne Noelle Sibley
August 16, 2006
Stillborn due to Olgohydramnios
Remembering Twin Sibley Babies
Miscarried June 11, 2002
Parents: Joe and Emily Sibley

**Happy 1st Birthday Theo!**

Dearest Baby Boy,

This is the most difficult birthday wish I've ever had to write. Your time with us was much too brief. We're continually amazed by how many lives you touched in such a short time. We miss you dearly every day and our hearts overflow with love for you.

Love,
Mommy and Daddy and family

Theo Fleurima Shannon
Stillborn August 10, 2006
Fetal Stroke
Parents: Ted and Geraldie Shannon

**Happy 2nd Birthday, DJ (David James)!**

I guess we can't call you "Baby DJ" anymore! Have a heavenly "Big Boy" birthday!

We wanted to let you know you have a brother on the way. He will be here just in time for your birthday. Although we are all very excited about this new family addition, he will never replace the love we will always hold in our hearts for you, our precious first-born son.

We love you and miss you!

Daddy, Mommy, Carissa (and Baby Deason-on his way)

David James Nye
Stillborn July 19, 2005
Probable Cause: Umbilical Cord Accident
Parents: Christopher and Rachel Nye
Big Sister: Carissa
Little Brother: Deason, due July 2007

**Happy 4th Birthday Abby!**

We miss you and think of you everyday. Your two little sisters are so beautiful and they look so much alike. I see a glimpse of you in each of them, and I know how beautiful you are in Heaven. You have brought so much purpose into our lives. Every day I see God's perfect plan and glory slowly being revealed. How true is this promise.....*Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 1 Peter 4:12-13* Your memory fills me with joy!

We love you,
Mommy, Daddy, Cami and Karli

Abigail Grace Crump
Stillborn July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump
Little Sisters: Cameron and Karli

**Happy Birthday Alivia Elizabeth - Grace Walker**

Mommy and Daddy miss you so much! We can't believe it has been a year; it still seems like yesterday. Although we don't understand, we are thrilled to know you are in Heaven with Jesus and we will see you one day. Have a great party in Heaven.

Love and Kisses
Mommy, Daddy and "Walker"

Alivia Elizabeth-Grace Walker
July 24, 2006
Stillborn due to incompetent cervix
Parents: Robert and Ulizabeth Walker



Happy 1st Birthday, Micah!

We miss you so much and think of you every day. We wish you could be here to celebrate your birthday with us! We will be sending birthday balloons your way on August 29.

Sending you hugs and lots of kisses,
Mommy, Daddy & Ainsley

Micah Fibiger
August 29, 2006
Trisomy 18
Parents: Mary and Brian Fibiger
Sister: Ainsley



Erika's 10th Birthday

I reflect upon these past ten years and I realize the leaps and bounds I have made through this journey called grief; a journey that never ends. I also realize the depths and peaks of the valleys I have traveled through. I read my journal entries; I read the articles I have written. It all seems surreal. Did all this really happen? Instantly, my heartache tells me yes, this is my life; A life I would not change for the world. For 26 precious days, I held you in my arms, now I hold you in my heart Where I embrace your memories that God has blessed me with. Memories I deeply treasure and would never want to be without. I'll always wonder about your every milestone. You'd be turning ten years old! Double digits, that's a huge milestone. I can't help but wonder how we would be celebrating your 10th birthday. Would it be a surprise party like we gave your brother? Likewise, I'll always wonder what your heartfelt joys would be. What subject would you like best? What sport would capture your energy? Would you be taking sign language like your sister? I'll never know the answers to these questions. For now, I'll focus on what I do know. I know you are with our Heavenly Father. I know that He saw you before you were born and that all the days of your life were written in His book before they came to pass. (Ps139:16). I know that your death was not in vain, Even today, your mission and message continues.

Erika, I Love You! Happy 10th Birthday
Mom

Erika Brienne Grau
July 9 – August 3, 1997
Anoxic Brain Injury due to Ruptured Uterus
Parents: Ray and Yvette Grau
Siblings: Nikryan and Nataly



For Addie

Happy birthday, sweet girl. It is hard to believe it has been six years. You would be going to kindergarten this year. I wonder who your friends would be, or if you would enjoy school. We love you and miss you dearly. Enjoy Jesus each and every day!!

Daddy, Mommy, Colin, and Meg

Addie Grace Metzger
Stillborn August 1, 2001
Undiagnosed Vasa Previa
Parents: Philip and Stephanie Metzger
Siblings: Colin and Meg



Happy 2nd Birthday, Matthias

You are never far from our thoughts; you are remembered every day. We feel both the pain of your loss and the joy of having known you for those brief hours. Watching your new little brother grow causes us again to ache for you, our sweet boy. We are glad that where you are there is no crying or death or pain. Someday soon we, too, will end our journey here and join our voices with yours in singing the praises of the Lamb!

We love you so much, Matthias.
Papa, Mama, Grace and Moses

Matthias Paul Maily
August 9th, 2005-August 10th, 2005
Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy
Complications of Group B Strep
Parents: Richard and Melissa Maily
Siblings: Grace and Moses



For John Robert

Hey, buddy! I can't believe that it has been a year since we held you in our arms and said goodbye. Mommy and Daddy love you so much and think about you every day. We have so many questions that will never be answered. Would you have loved Baby Einstein as much as your big sister, or would you have had your own favorite? What would your favorite foods have been? What would your first words have been? The list goes on and on.

We will always treasure the thirteen hours that we had with you, and we will always wish that we had been given so much more time together. I know you would have grown into a wonderful man, and we would have been so proud of you. I'm so sad that you will never get that chance.

Please keep watch over us, especially your big sister. We miss you and remember, you'll be in our hearts, always.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and Beanie

John Robert Konkle
August 11, 2006
PPROM/Immature Lungs
Parents: J. and Shannon Konkle
Sister: Caroline



Resource Review

Our Baby, Our Love, Our Loss

By Kathi Evans

Wheatmark, April 2007

ISBN: 0310243092

<http://www.wheatmark.com/bookstore>



Our Baby, Our Love, Our Loss is a beautifully written book by Kathi Evans, who lost her precious baby boy Peanut at 16 weeks gestation. Kathi shares her loss not only from her personal experience, but also from the perspective of her profession as an obstetric nurse. This is a short, easy-to-read book that will not overwhelm the freshly grieving mom and is full of very helpful and pertinent information. Kathi covers many aspects of grief following the loss of an infant, including the father's sorrow and what he can do to help, sibling grief, ways to remember and acknowledge the baby, and most importantly, spiritual healing.

I fully endorse this book and I am confident it will be a blessing to every heartbroken parent who reads it. ♥

Review by Rebekah Mitchell

M.E.N.D. has a complete list of books, Web sites, organizations, and music resources available online at www.mend.org.

Helping a Man Understand Miscarriage

By Clara Hinton

Even though a miscarriage is a shared experience between a man and woman, this type of early pregnancy loss is also a highly personal loss to a woman because of the direct physical and emotional impact the miscarriage has on the mother.

When a miscarriage occurs, a woman will often seem different to those around her almost immediately. The changes will become very evident to her husband. He will often say, "My wife had a miscarriage," but then he will not know what to do or say beyond that statement.

It is important for a man to understand some of the immediate impacts a miscarriage has on a woman. Because of the rapid physical changes that had been taking place to accommodate a pregnancy, a woman's body is now just as rapidly moving in reverse back to a non-pregnant state. Hormone levels are changing rapidly, causing very noticeable mood swings. Tears often occur at the most unexpected moments. Outbursts of anger are also quite common. It can take several weeks for hormone levels to get back to a normal pregnancy state.

Aside from the most obvious, the feeling of emptiness that accompanies the non-pregnant uterus, a woman will often experience very heavy bleeding when having a miscarriage, along with passing large clots and tissue. This generally will last for a week, and these physical occurrences can be quite frightening. How much blood is too much? How large is a large clot? What is happening to my body? Often, a woman will say that aside from feeling empty, she feels like she is a failure, and has lost all control over her own body.

Depending on how many weeks along in the pregnancy she was, a woman may have some breast engorgement for several days. Her breasts will fill up just as though she had delivered a full-term baby, and her body will prepare for breast-feeding. Dealing with breast engorgement can be very painful, often requiring tight wrapping of the breasts to prevent the coming on of milk. This is also a very emotional time, reminding a woman that she will not be placing a newborn baby at her breasts, which are prepared to nourish a baby.

Many times the woman has seen the passing of the fetal sac, and this first sight of the developing child will reappear in the form of bad dreams for several weeks. Panic attacks, anxiety attacks, and depression are very common following a miscarriage. It is important for a husband to be very in tune to all of the changes—physical and emotional—that take place following a miscarriage.

Because there have been so many physical changes, a woman often wants to delay resuming sexual relations for a while following a miscarriage. Her body has gone through so many changes such as a feeling of fullness in her bladder, morning sickness, cessation of her menstrual period, enlargement and tenderness of her breasts, and extreme fatigue. It can take several weeks for the emotional and physical changes of a miscarriage to allow a woman to feel sexually desirable again. A husband's tenderness and patience greatly aid a woman's overall healing.

The experiences between a man and woman are very different when a miscarriage takes place. It helps so much when a man understands these differences. A husband's presence, understanding, and loving support can make an enormous difference in the emotional and physical healing following an early pregnancy loss. As an added bonus, the marriage will be strengthened, too! ♥

From www.SilentGrief.com, a ministry for all who have suffered miscarriage and later child loss.

Mark Your Calendars:

M.E.N.D. Walk to Remember will be October 6 at Calvary Church in Irving.
Our guest speaker will be Kathi Evans, author of *Our Baby, Our Love, Our Loss*.

In Loving Memory



Mason Bausch

April 24, 1997
Parents: Jane and Michael Bausch
Given by aunt Joy Crowl

Eleanor Jane Caffey

February 8, 2000
Cord Accident
Given by parents
Jeff and Elizabeth Caffey

Kaitlyn Nicole Castro

January 21 - February 5, 2007
Multiple Congenital Defects
Given by parents
Rhonda and Matthew Castro

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Given by parents
Jaimie and Gerald Crump
and little sisters Cami and Karli

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump
Sisters: Cami and Karli
Given by grandparents
Russ and Rosemary Massey

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump
Sisters: Cami and Karli
Given by grandparents
Tom and Alice Spencer

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump
Sisters: Cami and Karli
Given by Ryan and Amy Massey

Lyle Donald Dagget

September 18, 2002
Unknown Cause
Given by parents
Brad and Lisa Daggett

Faith Elizabeth Durham

Stillborn September 25, 1999
Triploidy
Given by parents Leighton and Lisa Durham
and little siblings Leighton, Olivia,
and Suzanna

Baby Edmonds

Miscarried December 5, 2005
Given by parents
Gregg and Stephanie Edmonds

Kyler Paul English

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

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

Jack Henvey

Stillborn July 4, 2001
Tetralogy of Fallot
Parents: Chris and Renee Henvey
Little brothers: Evan and Luke
Given by Grandpa and Grandma McLeskey

Mary Elizabeth Howell

Miscarried April 19, 2006
Anembryonic Pregnancy
Given by parents Davie and Mari Howell
and sister Emma

Gifts of Support: IBM Charities

Kennady Ann League

Stillborn January 17, 2007
Unknown Cause
Given by parents Jason and Jeanelle League

Joseph Charles Libby

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

Scarlett Lovejoy

Stillborn November 24, 2006
Unknown Cause
Given by parents Emily and Jeff Lovejoy

Scarlett Lovejoy

Stillborn November 24, 2006
Unknown Cause
Parents: Emily and Jeff Lovejoy
Given by grandparents Bill and Jean Wallwin

Scarlett Lovejoy

Stillborn November 24, 2006
Unknown Cause
Parents: Emily and Jeff Lovejoy
Given by Denise Hadley

Jack Malloy

June 17, 2004
Unknown Cause
Given by parents
Terry and Stephanie Malloy

Zachary Neal Matthews

February 24, 2002
Triploidy

Baby Matthews I

Miscarried April 11, 2001

Baby Matthews II

Miscarried January, 2003
Given by parents Nick and Marsha Matthews
and siblings Katherine and Alexander

Gift of Support:

Metropolitan Baptist Church of Houston

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 aunt and uncle
Mark and Rachael McClelland
and cousins Mark and Mia

Loukas Upton Mulkey

October 25, 2005
Two Vessel Cord
Given by parents Bruce and Elaine Mulkey
and siblings Atticus, Aspasia, Demetrius, Ariadne,
and Briseis

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!

*In Loving Memory...continued***Jack Collier Oldner**

September 18 – 19, 2006

Prematurity

Given by parents Chris and Cissy Oldner
and big sisters Claire and Olivia**Gift of Support:****Rebecca Potebaum of Memory Jewelry****Ethan Brian Read**

Stillborn June 3, 2005

Parents: Brian and Chantelle Read

Given by David and Charleen Read

Hannah Rachelle Ries

February 6 - 8, 2007

Trisomy 18

Parents: Anthony and Kristin Ries

Given by Billie Sue Verhoeff

and remembering 6 Verhoeff Angel Babies

Alexis Leigh and Nicole Leigh Rudeen

Stillborn March 11, 2002

Unknown Cause

Given by parents Sherri and Randy Rudeen

and sisters Julie, Sara, Jordyn Leigh

and Sydney Leigh

Avery McKenzie Schambacher

March 10 - April 4, 2002

Unknown Cause

Given by parents

Scott and Charlotte Schambacher

and siblings Taylor and Ashley

Christian Allen Scott

June 1, 2005

Bilateral Renal Agenesis

Savannah Scott

Miscarried January 7, 2003

Given by parents Scotty and Mary Scott

and siblings Lenny, Will, and Ariel

Carson Mitchell Shaw

Stillborn April 1, 1999

Unknown Cause

Given by parents Randy and Aimee Shaw

and siblings Blake and Brooke

Hannah Grace Sherman

August 12, 2005

Cystic Hygroma due to Turner Syndrome

Given by parents Randy and Toni Sherman

Mindy and Maggie Smith

Stillborn November 5, 1997

Twin Transfusion Syndrome

and Polyhydramnios

Given by parents Scott and Karla Smith

and siblings Travis and Julia

Savannah Kate Stanley

January 3, 2004

Prematurity/Incompetent Cervix

Baby Stanley

Miscarried November 10, 2004

Given by parents Calli and Joel Stanley

and siblings Colton and Danika

Kelly Lynne Turner

September 22 - 23, 1997

ARPKD

Given by parents Cheryl and John Turner

and siblings Matthew and John

Aidan Shaw Vandercruyssen

October 2 - December 3, 2005

Polycystic Kidney Disease

Given by mom Shane Vandercruyssen

and grandmother Jean Vandercruyssen

Kyle Charles Walton

November 19, 1998

Group B Strep

Given by parents Jason and Kristen Walton

and siblings Jessica, Laura, and Joshua

Gift of Support

West Conroe Baptist Church

Elaine Kelly Wilson

Stillborn February 28, 2000

Unknown Cause

Given by parents Bryan and Brandy Wilson

and siblings Emma, Evelyn, and Eli

Elaine Kelly Wilson

Stillborn February 28, 2000

Unknown Cause

Parents: Bryan and Brandy Wilson

Siblings: Emma, Evelyn, and Eli

Given by Josh and Jill Betz

Elaine Kelly Wilson

Stillborn February 28, 2000

Unknown Cause

Parents: Bryan and Brandy Wilson

Siblings: Emma, Evelyn, and Eli

Given by Scott Bunker

Elaine Kelly Wilson

Stillborn February 28, 2000

Unknown Cause

Parents: Bryan and Brandy Wilson

Siblings: Emma, Evelyn, and Eli

Given by grandparents

Roger and Sharon Dickson

John C. Woolf, IV (Jack)

May 5 – June 5, 2005

Osteogenesis Imperfecta

Baby Wolf

March 2007

Parents: Paige and John Wolf, III

Given by Stacy and Laura Hunter

Subsequent Births**Mary and Lynn Steen,
along with twin big brothers****John and William,**

of Plano, Texas,

joyfully announce the arrival of

Michael Andrew,

born April 10, 2007,

9 lb., 5 oz., 20 3/4 inches long.

The Steen family lovingly remembers

Chrissie,

miscarried May 3, 2000,

ectopic pregnancy.

Jason and Amy Ruge

of Emporia, Kansas,

joyfully announce the arrival of

Owen Dylan,

born April 24, 2007,

9 lb., 5 oz., 20 1/2 inches long.

The Ruge family lovingly remembers

Dylan Glenn,

stillborn October 2, 2005.

Spencer and Rachel Brown

of Houston, Texas,

joyfully announce the arrival of

Sydney Elaine.

born June 6, 2007,

6 lb., 2oz., 19 inches long.

The Browns lovingly remember

Julia Eileen,

stillborn May 1, 2006.

**Tim and Sarah Winebrenner,
along with big brother Saul,**

of Tomball, Texas,

joyfully announce the arrival of

Ella Elisabeth,

born May 24, 2007,

6 lb., 15 oz., 19 1/2 inches long.

The Winebrenners lovingly remember

Shauna Elisabeth,

stillborn April 12, 2003,

due to Trisomy 18.

**Bob and Natalie Fletcher,
along with siblings Lexie and Bobby,**

of Carrollton, Texas,

Joyfully announce the arrival of

Aidan Matthew,

born May 8, 2007,

7 lb., 3 oz.

The Fletchers lovingly remember

Margaret Grace,

July 28, 2001,

incompetent cervix and chorioamnionitis,

and Angelica Faith,

September 2, 2005,

incompetent cervix and PROM.



M.E.N.D. Chapter Corner

Chapter Meeting Information

M.E.N.D. - NW Arkansas

Meets the 1st Tuesday from 7:00—8:30 p.m.
Jones Center for Families, Room 206,
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 107
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
Subsequent pregnancy group meets in the
same place the 1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.,
led by Sarah Winebrenner
(swinebrenner2004@yahoo.com).

M.E.N.D. - Georgia

Offers peer support through phone
and e-mail contact.
Director: Marie Stockdale
Marie@mend.org, (770) 954-1115

M.E.N.D. - Texarkana

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m.
CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehab Hospital
2400 St. Michael Drive
Texarkana, TX 75503
Director: Monica Davis
Monica@mend.org, (903) 490-1210

M.E.N.D. - Nacogdoches

Meets the 2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
The Badders Law Firm
4002 North St., Nacogdoches, TX 75961
Director: Lori De La Torre
Lori@mend.org, (936) 569-1739

To find other organizations that offer support
groups in your area, visit www.mend.org
or call Rebekah at (972) 506-9000.

M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates

NW Arkansas

As our chapter enters its third year of ministering to families in the NW Arkansas area, I'm once again humbled to be a part of such a vital organization and to see first-hand how supporting one another has a life-long impact. Our chapter began with one set of families and now, with a few exceptions, has moved to a totally different group of moms and dads.

This is actually encouraging to me as it is testimony that God uses M.E.N.D. to heal and move people through and beyond their grief. We are beginning a new endeavor this summer to re-introduce M.E.N.D. to local physicians, churches, and hospitals to hopefully help more families. In September, we'll host a Texas Hold'em fundraiser in memory of Christopher Peplinski II (son to Chrissy and Christopher), and our second annual Candlelight Ceremony will be in December.

April Moreton

Kansas

Our group is experiencing the blessing of more and more babies! Our third subsequent baby since January is due early in July, and we are anxiously awaiting his arrival. We have been saddened to hear of several losses in our area in the past few months and hope we can be of some comfort to those families in the coming months. I am reminded of the verse "Mourn with those who mourn, and rejoice with those who rejoice."

Stephanie Metzger

Houston

The 2nd Annual M.E.N.D. - Houston Texas Hold'em Fundraiser was a great success. A very special thanks those who worked the event, our players, our sponsors, and those who donated prizes.

We are excited to begin work on our upcoming second annual Walk to Remember on Saturday, October 6. The event will take place at Metropolitan Baptist Church. Please mark your calendars as this is such a special time to remember our babies. There will be special music, a beautiful balloon release, poetry, and each baby's name will be read and their families will receive an ornament to commemorate the day.

Jaimie Crump

Georgia

The Georgia chapter has been making new contacts each month through e-mail. I am thankful God continues to put those in our path who are in need of e-mail support. We continue to offer newsletter subscriptions, books through the mail, and continuous e-mail support for those who contact us. We are blessed to have had two subsequent births from members of our M.E.N.D. group in recent months.

Marie Stockdale

Texarkana

God continues to bless our group. We are excited about getting the word out to our community through letters and through our upcoming fundraiser. We look forward to seeing God work in the future.

Monica Davis

Nacogdoches

Moving into our fourth month in Nacogdoches, I'm very excited to see what and who God brings to us. We are starting to prepare for our first annual Texas Hold'em fundraiser in hopes for a success.

Lori De La Torre



M.E.N.D. "players" and workers at the recent M.E.N.D.—Houston Texas Hold'em tournament: Sarah Winebrenner, Shane Vander-cruyssen, Brandy Wilson, Jaimie Crump, and Jeanelle League.

M.E.N.D. would like to thank the following for their tremendous help in the recent M.E.N.D.—Houston Texas Hold'em fundraiser.

Sponsors:

Jamie Savona, CAbi; Roger & Sharon Dickson; Stibbs & CO., P.C.; Jon Rawson, M.D., The Woodlands Fertility Center; Kyle Sherburne of State Farm; Bryan Baker of OnSeeker.com

Prize donations:

Weingarten Realty, Tara and Bryan Murray, of Arbonne, Lupe Tortilla, Lady Luck Hair Salon, Shane Vandercruyssen, Longwood Golf Club, Home Depot, Urban Retreat, Cypress Creek YMCA Denice Foose, The Methodist Hospital, Tim and Sarah Winebrenner, Houstonian Hotel and Spa, Interior Design Specialist Dena Hanks, Sun and Ski Sports

... continued from page 1

Chapter Spotlight: Nacogdoches

Director: Lori De La Torre

My husband, Aaron, and I met our senior year of high school. A year later we had our first son, Alex. After being apart for a few years, we decided it was time to grow up and be parents together. In July 1999, we got married and started adding to our family right away. Our daughter, Adyson, came a year later in September, 2000. We felt our family was not quite complete, so we decided to have one more child. We found out in February 2003 we were expecting a baby boy, Kane Christopher, due in September. My pregnancy with Kane was no different than my previous ones: morning sickness, severe fatigue and lots of discomfort.

On August 5, 2003, with only a few weeks to go, that all changed. I woke up from a deep sleep and felt that something was wrong. I could not get Kane to move. It was soon discovered that Kane did not have a heartbeat, and I was rushed to the hospital. After several hours of labor, Kane Christopher De La Torre was born at 12:48 a.m., with his umbilical cord wrapped around his neck twice. He was perfect, weighing four pounds and fourteen ounces.

Finding M.E.N.D. was such a blessing to me and helped me survive the grief of losing my son. I originally attended meetings in the Dallas area, but after moving to Nacogdoches, I knew it was time to bring M.E.N.D. to grieving families in my new home town. Through working with M.E.N.D. I hope to help others here in Nacogdoches. ♥

gether. Sometimes professional counseling may be necessary if you feel you cannot work through your differences alone. Do not be ashamed to take this step. Your marriage is worth fighting for. Don't let a failed marriage be the legacy of your baby who died.

In 2003, M.E.N.D. published a newsletter very similar to this one. At the time I mentioned an estimate of a 5 percent divorce rate among our members, thankfully nothing even close to the purported 50 to 80 percent. Four years later I would say that 5 percent estimation remains true. Often I wondered if that frighteningly high number pertained to couples who have lost a toddler or young child, not an infant. However, while researching this topic, I have discovered that the huge divorce statistic is incorrect. It's really not that high. Whew! A book was written in the 1960s in which the author's words were taken way out of context and exploited by the media for dramatics. So what is the actual number? We really don't know. To our knowledge, there has not been an extensive study conducted on parents who have lost a baby and how it affects their marriage, though smaller studies have been conducted. If a person does take on this big task, where will you fall? Let's do all we can to make the M.E.N.D. 5 percent statistic a National statistic and dispel the 50 to 80 percent theory. With the support of family, friends, possibly a marriage counselor, and most importantly the Lord, you CAN keep your marriage strong! ♥

Rebekah Mitchell

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.

Daddies group

meets the 2nd Thursday of

March, June, Sept. and Dec., 7:30—9:00 p.m.
A time for dads to meet together and discuss topics relevant to them as fathers. Our moms and dads meet together for introductions before dividing into two groups for discussion.

Food and Fellowship

A time to relax and meet with other M.E.N.D. parents in a social setting
Contact Brittney Fish: brwniefish@aol.com

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

Led by Melissa Stephens:

Melissa@mend.org

For families who are considering becoming pregnant or are currently pregnant after a loss.

Playgroup

For families with children born prior to or subsequent to a loss. Meeting at various locations.
Contact Mary Steen or Brandee Dill for more info: Mary.Steen@hotmail.com
or dillsforchrist@yahoo.com

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.

Infertility group

Meets the 3rd Monday from 7:30—9:00 p.m.

Led by Suzanne Schramm:

Suzanne@mend.org

For families experiencing infertility after a loss.

Walk to Remember T-Shirt Order Form*Send your order to the return mailing address listed below..**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): S M L XL XXL

Price per T-shirt: \$25.00 with monogram, \$15.00 without

Sales Tax: \$2.63 per monogrammed shirt, \$1.24 per shirt without monogram

\$3 per order for shipping and handling (only for orders being shipped to you)

Check here if you will be picking up your t-shirt: ____ Check if you would like your t-shirt shipped to you: ____

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

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

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Total \$ _____

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

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