



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

The Holidays

I don't know about you, but I love to receive gifts. Oh, I know it's better to give than to receive, but I have to admit there's nothing like seeing a beautifully wrapped package and knowing there is a hidden treasure inside that someone has purchased just for me! I have vivid memories of running downstairs on Christmas morning and seeing gifts of all shapes and sizes waiting for me to tear into. And honestly, at 40 years old, I still have that same excitement on Christmas morning or any other occasion that warrants my getting a present.

When I began M.E.N.D. twelve years ago, I decided our support group format would be open sharing. We would not have a set topic, and never would we have a guest speaker. I feel it is important for the 1 ½ hours we are together to allow our families to share what is on their hearts, not what I or someone else decides will be the focus of the night. The mood of the group varies from month to month. I can never predict if the sharing will be somewhat light where no one or maybe a few cry, or if it will be an evening of deeply emotional, heart-wrenching stories. One particular night a few years ago the support group sharing became extremely emotional. There was a heaviness in the room, and most all had tears streaming down their faces. As the hour grew late I knew it was past time to dismiss, but I could not allow the families leave like this—undoubtedly feeling worse leaving than when they came. I prayed for wisdom, and instantly I knew what I was supposed to do. I explained to everyone that one of the goals of this ministry is to encourage our families to realize their baby's life was not in vain. No matter how short he or she lived, their baby's life had meaning and purpose. I further explained that it is up to us as parents to create a legacy for our children, since obviously they will not be able to do it themselves. After a few moments of thoughtful introspec-

tion, one by one parents began to testify of reconciled relationships within their family, new or re-dedicated lives to the Lord, and most commonly, they shared how they now have a sense of compassion they never had before. In essence, we were sharing the gifts we have received from the deaths of our children. This sharing of gifts is my favorite part of the evening, and is a practice we have continued in our support groups every night since.

As the holidays are here you may feel overwhelmingly burdened with the idea of having to purchase Christmas gifts. Thoughts of what to buy each one on your Christmas list and going to a mall may be more than you can bear this year. Rather than focusing on what you are required to give, I encourage you to instead dwell on what you have been given. What priceless gift have you received from your baby? Unification in your family? Healing of a relationship? Deeper love and compassion for those who are hurting? Think about it, then share it with others. Consider going to a nursing home and taking candy to the lonely residents. Participate in Project Angel Tree or something similar. Reach out to fellow hurting parents you can find on the M.E.N.D. guestbook or infertility blog. Basically, just give of yourself this holiday season despite your heartache, and I promise, as you give out healing will flow in.

♥ 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

M.E.N.D.

P.O. Box 1007

Coppell, TX 75019

Phone and Fax: (972) 506-9000

(Please call before faxing)

E-Mail: Rebekah@mend.org

Heather@mend.org

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So Close to Christmas...

When I found out I was due in January 2004, I was more focused on how the holidays would be after the baby was born. I wasn't worried about December 2003.

However, when my water broke and it appeared that we would most assuredly have a baby by Christmas, I allowed myself to begin to imagine what Christmas would be like. I knew the likelihood that Caleb would be home from the hospital was slim, but still...a baby for Christmas!

I never imagined that Christmas 2003 would be as heart-wrenching as it ended up being. When Caleb was born and returned home to the Lord on December 1, 2003, I thought to myself, "How will I ever survive this, let alone, make it through Christmas?" Admittedly, that Christmas was not my cheeriest. I love to sing and Christmas carols are my specialty. Not that year. In fact, it would be a full year before I'd even be able to feel the joy of the Savior's birth in song.

My wonderful husband, Jonathan, went out of his way to try to make my holidays happy. He gave me a beautiful jewelry box with an engraved plaque that read, "We love you, Mommy. Love Daddy and Caleb." Inside was a treasured ring with Caleb's birthstone.

Fast-forward 12 months: I survived a subsequent miscarriage in August 2004, and all the "firsts" of that year following Caleb's death. I thought, "Why, God? Why did you allow Caleb to be born too soon? Why did we lose two babies in less than a year? And why so close to Christmas? You know how much this time of year means to me."

I can't say that I've gotten a clear answer, but throughout the last few years I've learned how to enjoy the holidays and honor our babies at the same time.

We are approaching Caleb's fifth heavenly birthday, and we celebrate his birthday with some holiday twists! Each year I bake "Caleb's Eggnog Cheesecake." You can only get eggnog during the holidays, although my husband thinks it should be produced 12 months a year!

We also get small Christmas ornaments each year with Caleb and August's names. We have a special small tree to decorate only with their ornaments and the ornaments to honor their Grandpa Raymond, who's with them in Heaven.

Now that we have Caleb and Baby August's little sister Madison Grace here with us, the holidays have taken on new meaning, but our family remains the same. We still have all the stockings "hung with care," and anyone entering our home knows how much all our babies mean to us.

We recognize that while we're celebrating Christmas here, our babies are celebrating in Heaven with Christ. How jealous we should be! We know that someday we'll all be together again and that these days are temporary and miniscule if we maintain an eternal outlook.

The most valuable lesson I've learned: the loss of our first-born near the holidays gave me a new appreciation of how much pain God must have had to lose His Son the way He did. It made me realize how much God must love each of us as His children to sacrifice so greatly in order to spend eternity with us.

The love I have for my children, Caleb, Baby August, and Madison, pales in comparison with the love of Christ. And what a great time to realize Christ's love as when we celebrate His birth each December.

♥ Heather Fann,
Mommy to Caleb Scott, December 1, 2003 and
Baby August, August 13, 2004

Christmas In Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around
the world below
With tiny lights, like Heaven's stars
reflecting on the snow,
The sight is so spectacular; please wipe
away the tear
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus
Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people
hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare with
the Christmas Choir up here.
I have no words to tell you, the joy their
voices bring,
For it is beyond description, to hear the
angels sing.

I know how much you miss me; I see the
pain inside your heart,
But I am not so far away, we really
aren't apart.
So be happy for me dear ones, you know I
hold you dear
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with
Jesus Christ this year.

I send you each a special gift, from my
Heavenly home above,
I sent you each a memory of my
undying love.
After all, love is a gift more precious than
pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories
Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other; as my
Father said to do,
For I cannot count the blessing of love He
has for each of you.
So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away
that tear;
Remember, I am spending Christmas with
Jesus this year.

Author Unknown---

We LOVE You, Jordan, Honey!
Have a Merry Christmas in Heaven!
Love,
Mommy and Daddy

*Jordan Alexander Booker
Stillborn January 11, 2007
True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker*



Federal employees can support M.E.N.D. through the annual Combined Federal Campaign each fall. Donations can be made through payroll deductions, cash, or checks through your employer.

Please be sure to select:
M.E.N.D. — 97896

If you have any questions about how to ensure your contributions support our efforts, please contact Rebekah for details at rebekah@mend.org.

Christmas Candlelight Ceremonies

Each year we honor our babies during the holidays with our Christmas Candlelight Ceremonies. We'd love to have you join us. Please RSVP to attend one of the following events.

Monday, December 3

M.E.N.D. - Texarkana,

6:30 p.m. at Beech Street First Baptist Church,
Texarkana, AR

Contact monica@mend.org to RSVP.

Friday, December 5

M.E.N.D. - Kansas,

7:00 p.m. at Twelfth Avenue Baptist Church,
2023 W. 12th Ave., Emporia, KS

Contact stephanie@mend.org to RSVP.

Saturday, December 6

M.E.N.D. - Houston,

7:00 p.m. at the "Truth Building,"

Metropolitan Baptist Church, 13000 Jones Rd,
Houston, TX

Contact jaimie@mend.org to RSVP.

Tuesday December 9

M.E.N.D. - Dallas/Irving,

7:00 p.m. at Calvary Church, Irving, TX

Contact rebekah@mend.org to RSVP.

M.E.N.D. - NW Arkansas

6:30 p.m. at The Jones Center for Families
Chapel, Springdale, AR

Contact april@mend.org to RSVP.

January/February Topic

Things I Wish I'd Known:

Advice for parents still in the
hospital and beyond

Deadline: November 30, 2008

March/April Topic

A Sibling's Perspective

Deadline: February 28, 2008

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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www.mend.org



Birthday Tributes

Happy 5th Birthday, Marissa Joy!

Sweet Marissa Joy, has it been five years since we held you in our arms? Seems like just yesterday in my heart.

You now have three little brothers as well as your older siblings. They will be sure to tell the little boys all about you. Season has really missed you, especially now that she has five brothers.

When people comment about it, sometimes we tell them about you. We tell about how special you are and how much we miss you, but that you are safe in the arms of Jesus until we can hold you again.

We love you, our wished for child,
dear, sweet Marissa Joy.

Marissa Joy Jordan
November 26, 2003
Thanatophoric Dysplasia
Also remembering
Baby Jordan

Miscarried October 8, 1999

Parents: Sean and Sarah Jordan

Siblings: Stephen, Season, Ethan, Marshall, Clay and Gavin



Happy 1st Birthday, Kenneth, Jr.!

What a miracle you are to us! After being told for many years that you could never exist, you surprised us all, and what a wonderful surprise you were!

I am so blessed to have had the experience of giving birth to you and holding you, if even for a very short time. This has been the toughest year without you, but at the same time it has been the best because I am now a mommy.

Your daddy and I are very proud to be your parents. I know that you are not alone and that your great-grandmother, Jesucita, will make sure that you are surrounded by all of your family on your birthday. Lots of hugs and kisses for our baby boy on this very special day.

We love you and miss you!!
Mommy and Daddy

Kenneth, Jr. Weddington
November 7, 2007
Unknown Cause

Parents:

Louisa Garza and Kenneth Weddington



Happy 2nd Birthday, Logan!

Dear Logan,

Happy 2nd heavenly birthday sweet baby boy!! Everyday we think of you. Before I put your little brother down for bed, I tell him that you are his special angel looking down from Heaven. We love and miss you so much!

Love,
Mom, Dad, and Landon

Logan James Brewer
December 18-22, 2006

Prematurity

Parents: Heather and David Brewer

Siblings: Landon James



Happy 3rd Birthday, Rylie Grace!

Our Precious Baby Girl,

What a big girl you are getting to be! Three years old! I can only imagine all of the mischief you would be getting into with your brother and sister.

I so deeply regret that they are missing out on getting to know you. We would give anything to see your beautiful face again, if only for a moment.

I pray you can feel how very much we all love and miss you. Our broken hearts will never fully heal until we are with you again one day.

We are so blessed to know you are waiting for us in Heaven. The thought of you running into my arms always makes me smile.

We miss you Rylie Grace—more than I could ever explain. We love you from the deepest part of our souls. We will cherish you in our hearts forever and ever.

Have a wonderful 3rd birthday celebrating with Jesus!

Loving you always,
Momma, Daddy, Blake and Landry

Rylie Grace Addison
Stillborn November 21, 2005
Parents: Blaine and Shannon Addison
Siblings: Blake and Landry

Also remembering:

Baby Addison

Miscarried December 22, 2004



Happy 2nd Birthday, Parker and Riley!

What a year it has been. Your little sister, Annalise, joined us this year. She has been trying to tell us about you since she arrived in February, but we can't understand a word she says.

We are so blessed that God sent all three of you to be a part of our family. We love you and miss you dearly.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and Annalise

*Parker Logan and Riley Carter Davis
November 14, 2006*

Prematurity

Parents: Cheryl and Rob Davis

Siblings: Annalise Elizabeth



Happy 3rd Birthday, Cooper!

You truly are our Glory Baby. We miss you every day and in every way. Until we're home with you, you will always be in our hearts.

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

Cooper Walker Purnell

December 28, 2005

Placenta Abruption from HELLP

Parents: Tim and Nicole Purnell



Happy 12th Birthday, Joshua and Jeromy!

Boys,

The tween years, girls, cell phones...that would be my life if you were here on this earth. Crazy as it sounds, I would not have wanted to miss a moment of it! I have missed so many things in the last 12 years! I missed your first steps, words and your first days of school.

You would be entering a new phase in your life, and I can only imagine how awesome it would have been to share those moments with you, too. I know that we have a lot to catch up on when we meet in Heaven. Till then, I live vicariously through your brothers in hopes of knowing what it would have been like raising you.

Happy Birthday in Heaven,
Mom

Joshua and Jeromy Barsanti

Stillborn November 21, 1996

Anencephaly

Parents: DaLana and Randy Barsanti

*Siblings: Taylor Wesley, Collin Timothy, Harrison Lee,
and Riley Keith*



Happy 7th Birthday, Catherine Mary!

You are always in our hearts, and we feel your angelic love every day. We miss you. Happy birthday darling.

Always and forever in love with you,
Mommy, Daddy, little brother Alex and baby sister Allison

Catherine Mary Martin

Stillborn December 15, 2001

Trisomy 18

Parents: Nancy and Glenn Martin

Siblings: Alex and Allison



Happy 3rd Birthday, Hopie!

We can hardly believe another year has gone by since your birth. How we wonder how your personality has developed and what you like to do.

We imagine that your great-grandpas are chasing you around in Heaven and that you have fun playing with your friends. Your spunkiness and zest for life is recalled frequently in conversation with family and friends. We all miss you very much and can't wait to hold you in our arms once again.

Much love, hugs and kisses,
Mama, Daddy and little brother Ian

Happy 3rd Birthday, Littlefoot!

Hope, I can't believe it was three years ago that you were born, our first little pink grand-bundle, great-grand-bundle, and niece.

Your magnolia tree has beautiful bows and balloons on it for your birthday. Your birthday flower candle will shine brightly on November 5th.

I'm sure you're keeping Pop-Pop busy up in Heaven! Lots of hugs and kisses!

Love,
Grammy and Teepa
Grand-Mimi, Uncle Ryan and Aunt Kasey

Hope Kirkpatrick

November 5-8, 2005

Amniotic Band Syndrome

Parents: Kirk and Aly Kirkpatrick

Little sibling: Ian



Happy 2nd Birthday, Janelle!

It is hard to believe that you're celebrating your second year in Heaven. We will celebrate your birthday here with cake and balloons, and I know you will have a Heavenly celebration with Jesus, Mary and all the saints and angels.

Our sweet princess, we wonder what your voice would sound like, whether your hair would have gotten darker brown like Mommy's or lighter like Daddy's, and what kind of personality you would have?

We look around at little girl things like dolls, princesses, and hair bows, and we think of you and wonder what types of toys would you like to play with.

We know you're praying for us in Heaven. Also, we know you will be a wonderful big sister from Heaven to your new baby brother, Isaac. Today, Mama Jan commented on how Isaac resembles you most of all.

Janelle, we love you and miss you everyday. Not a day goes by that we don't think of you.

Love,

Daddy, Mommy, Will, Andrew and Isaac

*Janelle Marie Gibson
Stillborn November 17, 2006
Possible placental blood clot
Also remembering*

*Gabriel
Ectopic pregnancy
October 31, 2007*

*Parents: Scott and Jodie Gibson
Brothers: Will, Andrew, and Isaac*



Happy 7th Birthday, Elizabeth!

We miss you and wish you were here growing big with your sisters, but we know you are in a much better place. Have a very happy birthday!

With love, hugs, and kisses,

Mommy, Daddy, Graceanne, and Jillian

*Elizabeth Ellen Cox
October 25, 2001
Multicystic kidneys
Parents: Kathryn and Scott Cox
Siblings: Graceanne Nicole and Jillian Faith*



Happy 1st Birthday, Cameron!

We miss you so and love you always,
Mommy, Daddy, Brayden, and Sydney

*Cameron
October 6, 2007
Blake
May 10, 2008
Protein S Deficiency
Parents: Stephanie and Dwayne Fritts
Siblings: Brayden and Sydney*



Happy 1st Birthday, Caley!

C herished and missed
A ngel in our hearts
L ove our precious daughter
E nduring life without you
Y ou are our pride and joy

B rave valiant warrior
R emembered everyday of our lives
I llness took you from us too early
A nd you were so small that we couldn't hold you
N ovember 12, 2007 - November 26, 2007
N ow you would be turning one year old
A nd we know that Jesus is watching over our birthday girl

Love,

Mommy and Daddy

*Caley Brianna Joyce
November 12 - 26, 2007
28 weeks due to Severe Preeclampsia
Prematurity, NEC
Parents: Jon and Jennifer Joyce*



Happy 5th Birthday, Caleb Scott!

Our Firstborn, Caleb,

Five years. It cannot have been that long ago. I'm at a loss to think of how we anticipated your arrival, prayed for your safe delivery, and held you after you returned home to the Lord.

I thought I understood all that we'd lost when you passed away, but it's amazing that I didn't truly realize all that we've missed until your little sister Madison joined us last year. I know that you'd be enjoying preschool and giving your cousins and Maddie a run for their money.

We miss you more than words can explain and love you with all our hearts.

Happy 5th heavenly birthday, my little man!

Love,

Mommy, Daddy, and Madison

*Caleb Scott Fann
December 1, 2003
PROM
Also remembering
Baby August
Miscarried August 13, 2004
Parents: Jonathan and Heather Fann
Little Sister: Madison Grace*



Happy 4th Birthday, Cole, Kaylyn, and Hannah!

Our sweet angels,

We love you and send our love, hugs, and kisses to Heaven on your 4th birthday! We miss you so much!

All our love,
Mommy, Daddy, and Ally

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



Happy 1st Birthday, Baby Girl!

A year has passed, you're one at last. We know you are having the best party up in Heaven with Jesus. We can't wait to see you again some day. We will always love you and never will stop. We swear!

Love you baby, Aamiyah!
Mommy and Daddy

Aamiyah Marie Davis
Stillborn November 2, 2007
Cord Accident
Parents: Stephanie Curry and Jedediah Davis
Siblings: Roman and Journey



Happy 2nd Birthday, Scarlett!

Our Little Baby Girl Scarlett,

We miss you more and more everyday! We wish you could be here to be a big sister to Benjamin. We think about you and what you would like and what you would be doing. We wonder what your first word would be and what your favorite book would be. We love you very much.

"I'll love you forever, I'll like you for always, as long as I'm living my baby you'll be."

Lots of love,
Momma, Dada, and little brother Ben

Scarlett Jean Lovejoy
Cause Unknown
November 24, 2006
Parents: Emily and Jeff Lovejoy
Sibling: Benjamin



Happy 4th Birthday, Celeste!

Today is your day—December 7th.

A day for us to celebrate **you**.

Although your life on earth was short,
You still live on in our hearts, memories, and actions.

Because of **you**, we have found a better way to think and live.
We've accepted that we can't always control what happens
in our lives,

But, we are always free to decide how we respond.
And that puts our life in perspective.

We cherish every moment and make the best of every situation.
And, in turn, we feel we've become better:
Better friends, co-workers, family members, and individuals,
All of this, because of **you**.

So, what are we celebrating today?

Today, we celebrate the gift;

The gift of **you**.

Thank you for touching our lives, Celeste.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, and Ally

Celeste Kimberly Reid
December 7 – 8, 2004
Neonatal Hemochromatosis
Also remembering Connor Boston Reid
Born to Heaven April 27, 2006
Parents: Skip Reid and Andie Boston
Sibling: Allyson Kate



Happy 2nd Birthday, Ian!

Ian, we love you so much and can hardly believe that two years have passed without you. We wish that you could have met your new baby brother, Gavin. We tell him about you often.

Calvin and Jordan remember you always and tell so many people about you. Daddy and Mommy miss you every day. Until we hold you in Heaven, we're sending you our love on the wings of an angel.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Calvin, Jordan, and Gavin

Ian Wesley Giger
August 3, 2006 - November 5, 2006
SIDS
Baby Giger
Miscarried February, 2007
Ectopic Pregnancy
Parents: Noel and William Giger
Siblings: Calvin, Jordan, and Gavin



In Loving Memory



Baby Ahner

Miscarried September 20, 2006
Given by parents Paul and Tiffany Ahner

Benjamin Kent Baack

Stillborn January 10, 2007
Cord Accident
Given by parents Karen and Kent Baack and siblings Ashlyn, Grace, Anna, Gabrielle, and Josiah

Fallon Elise Billingsley

Stillborn April 4, 2008
Placental Abruption
Given by parents Terri and Kent Billingsley

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007
True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker
Given by mommy Norma Jordan

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007
True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker
Given by Frank Fairbanks

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007
True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker
Given by Jeralyn Carter

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007
True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker
Given by Patricia Riddley

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007
True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker
Given by Abel and Tiffany Ramirez

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007
True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker
Given by Charles and Beth Thoele

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007
True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker
Given by Christopher and Julianne Rompel

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007
True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker
Given by Ashley Davis

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007
True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker
Given by Brent Anderson

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007
True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker
Given by Joe and Maria Nolan

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007
True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker
Given by Kim McDaniel

Julia Eileen Brown

May 1, 2006
Cord Accident
Parents: Rachel and Spencer Brown
Sibling: Sydney Elaine
Given by Monica Grilloit

Cole, Kaylyn, and Hannah Busker

Stillborn December 10, 2004
Ecoli Infection
Given by parents Kim and Mike Busker and big sister Allison

Travis Stone Cates

August 24, 1999
Abnormal Placenta
Given by parents Michael and Jodie Cates and siblings Sadie and Cooper

Baby Cox

Miscarried March 2000
Elizabeth Ellen Cox
October 25, 2001
Multicystic Kidneys
Given by parents Kathryn and Scott Cox and siblings Graceanne and Jillian

Abigail Grace Crump

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

Lyle Donald Daggett

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

Riley and Parker Davis

November 14, 2006
Prematurity
Given by parents Robert and Cheryl Davis and little sister Annalise

Aamiyah Marie Davis

Stillborn November 7, 2007
Cord Accident
Parents: Stephanie Curry and Jedadiah Davis
Siblings: Roman and Journey
Given by mommy Stephanie Curry

Kane Christopher DeLaTorre

Stillborn August 6, 2003
Cord Accident
Given by parents Lori and Aaron DeLaTorre and siblings Alex, Adyson, and Kolt

Kyler Paul English

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

Peanut Evans

Stillborn July 24, 1987
Placental Abruption
Given by parents Mark and Kathi Evans

Elizabeth Gentry

Stillborn August 24, 1996
Cystic Hygroma and Anasarca

Baby Gentry

Miscarried May 10, 1997
Meghan "Meggie" Elizabeth Gentry
Kidney Abnormality
June 3, 2001
Given by parents Shary and John Gentry and siblings Alison and Mark

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!

Ethan Lloyd Gereke

Stillborn October 23, 2000
Group B Strep
Parents: Wendy and John Gereke
Siblings: Matthew, Will, and Celeste
Given by grandparents
Lloyd and Sandy Hoffman

Ian Wesley Giger

August 3 - November 5, 2006
SIDS

Baby Giger

Miscarried February, 2007
Ectopic Pregnancy
Given by parents Noel and William Giger
and siblings Calvin, Jordan, and Gavin

Alysa Tyler Hander

July 27 - August 24, 2005
Prematurity
Given by parents Jennifer and Lex Hander
and twin sister Alexa and little sister
Addison

Christopher Nolan Hold

Stillborn September 21, 2001

Rachael Leah Hold

Miscarried September 5, 2002
Given by mommy Amanda Hold

Marissa Joy Jordan

November 26, 2003
Thanatophoric Dysplasia
Baby Jordan
Miscarried October 8, 1999
Given by parents Sean and Sarah Jordan
and siblings Stephen, Season, Ethan,
Marshall, Clay, and Gavin

Marissa Joy Jordan

November 26, 2003
Thanatophoric Dysplasia
Baby Jordan
Miscarried October 8, 1999
Parents: Sean and Sarah Jordan
Siblings: Stephen, Season, Ethan,
Marshall, Clay, and Gavin
Given by Steve and Susan Troyer

Marissa Joy Jordan

November 26, 2003
Thanatophoric Dysplasia
Baby Jordan
Miscarried October 8, 1999
Parents: Sean and Sarah Jordan
Siblings: Stephen, Season, Ethan,
Marshall, Clay, and Gavin
Given by Stephen and Jacqueline Moore

Marissa Joy Jordan

November 26, 2003
Thanatophoric Dysplasia
Baby Jordan
Miscarried October 8, 1999
Parents: Sean and Sarah Jordan
Siblings: Stephen, Season, Ethan,
Marshall, Clay, and Gavin
Given by Emerson and Helen Diller

Marissa Joy Jordan

November 26, 2003
Thanatophoric Dysplasia
Baby Jordan
Miscarried October 8, 1999
Parents: Sean and Sarah Jordan
Siblings: Stephen, Season, Ethan,
Marshall, Clay, and Gavin
Given by Alton and Carol Stephens

Marissa Joy Jordan

November 26, 2003
Thanatophoric Dysplasia
Baby Jordan
Miscarried October 8, 1999
Parents: Sean and Sarah Jordan
Siblings: Stephen, Season, Ethan,
Marshall, Clay, and Gavin
Given by Trevor and Carey Hutchinson

Marissa Joy Jordan

November 26, 2003
Thanatophoric Dysplasia
Baby Jordan
Miscarried October 8, 1999
Parents: Sean and Sarah Jordan
Siblings: Stephen, Season, Ethan,
Marshall, Clay, and Gavin
Given by Allan and Heidi Schumacher

Marissa Joy Jordan

November 26, 2003
Thanatophoric Dysplasia
Baby Jordan
Miscarried October 8, 1999
Parents: Sean and Sarah Jordan
Siblings: Stephen, Season, Ethan,
Marshall, Clay, and Gavin
Given by John and Kathleen Hayward

Marissa Joy Jordan

November 26, 2003
Thanatophoric Dysplasia
Baby Jordan
Miscarried October 8, 1999
Parents: Sean and Sarah Jordan
Siblings: Stephen, Season, Ethan,
Marshall, Clay, and Gavin
Given by Mark and Pamela Phillips

Marissa Joy Jordan

November 26, 2003
Thanatophoric Dysplasia
Baby Jordan
Miscarried October 8, 1999
Parents: Sean and Sarah Jordan
Siblings: Stephen, Season, Ethan,
Marshall, Clay, and Gavin
Given by Tom McIntyre and Family

Marissa Joy Jordan

November 26, 2003
Thanatophoric Dysplasia
Baby Jordan
Miscarried October 8, 1999
Parents: Sean and Sarah Jordan
Siblings: Stephen, Season, Ethan,
Marshall, Clay, and Gavin
Given by Donna and Steven McAtee

Olivia Grace Hunt

February 8-9, 2000
Heart Defect
Given by parents Richard and Stacy Hunt
and siblings Mason, Cameron, and Addison

Ross Kennedy, III

Stillborn October 29, 2000
Cord Accident
Given by parents Nicole and Ross Kennedy

Joseph Charles Libby

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

Avery Merae L.

August 2-3, 2007
Possible Stroke
Parents: Neil and Jamie L.
Given by Bill and Lorie Smith

Scarlett Jean Lovejoy

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

Jack Malloy

Stillborn June 16, 2004
Unknown Cause
Given by parents
Stephanie and Terry Malloy
and siblings Patrick and Molly

In Loving Memory ... continued**Catherine Mary Martin**

Stillborn December 15, 2001
Trisomy 18

Baby Martin I

Miscarried June 14, 2002

Baby Martin II

Miscarried September 2002

Blighted Ovum

Given by parents Glenn and Nancy Martin and siblings Alex and Allison

Matthew Joel Mifflin

Stillborn June 6, 2003

True Knot in Cord

Little One

Miscarried February 6, 2006

Lil' Rosebud

Miscarried March 10, 2007

Given by parents Dennis and Janet Mifflin and siblings Thomas and Michelle

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

Baby Nall

Miscarried January 3, 2008

Kevin Nall, Jr. (Baby Nall's Twin)

March 8, 2008

Infection

Given by parents Keshia and Kevin Nall

Riley Paige Pittman

Stillborn August 28, 2007

Unknown Cause

Given by parents Chris and Amy Pittman

Hannah Grace Sherman

August 12, 2005

Cystic Hygroma

Given by parents Randy and Toni Sherman and big sister Kaitlin

Hannah Grace Sherman

August 12, 2005

Cystic Hygroma

Parents: Randy and Toni Sherman and big sister Kaitlin

Given by grandparents

Tommy and Patricia Sherman

Christian Allen Scott

June 1, 2005

Bilateral Renal Agenesis

Savannah Scott

Miscarried January 7, 2003

Given by parents Leonard 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

Mindy and Maggie Smith

Stillborn November 4, 1997

Twin to Twin Transfusion and

Polyhydramnios

Given by parents Scott and Karla Smith and little siblings Travis and Julia

Aiden Xavier Sohn

October 13, 2002

HELLP Syndrome

Hope

Miscarried May 2003

Whisper

Miscarried October 2003

Given by parents Doug and Angelique Sohn and siblings Josh, Sebastian, and Benjamin

Savannah Kate Stanley

January 3, 2004

Prematurity / Incompetent Cervix

Baby Stanley

Miscarried November 10, 2004

Parents: Joel and Calli Stanley

Siblings: Colton and Danika

Given by IB Roof Systems

Savannah Kate Stanley

January 3, 2004

Prematurity / Incompetent Cervix

Baby Stanley

Miscarried November 10, 2004

Parents: Joel and Calli Stanley

Siblings: Colton and Danika

Given by grandparents

Timothy and Debra Obrien

David Atkins Stephens

October 23, 2003

Omphalocele

Baby Stephens

Miscarried June 30, 2008

Ectopic Pregnancy

Given by parents Rob and Melissa Stephens and brother C.J.

Baby Theaman

Miscarried July 28, 2008

Parents: Cheryl and Erich Theaman

Given by Aunt Karen Popeszku

Aiden Shaw Vander Cruyssen

October 2 – December 3, 2005

Polycystic Kidney Disease

Given by mommy Shane Vander Cruyssen and little sister Cameron

Alivia Elizabeth-Grace Walker

July 24, 2006

Incompetent Cervix

Parents: Robert and Liz Walker

Little brother: Jaxson

Given by Theodore and Amy Speas

Kyle Charles Walton

November 19, 1998

Group B Strep

Parents: Jason and Kristen Walton

Siblings: Jessica, Laura, and Joshua

Given by Joshua's Pest Control

Shauna Elisabeth Winebrenner

Stillborn April 12, 2003

Trisomy 18

Parents: Sara and Tim Winebrenner

Siblings: Saul and Ella

Given by Matt and Dena Hanks

A.J. Zuckerman

Stillborn March 30, 2007

Cord Accident

Given by parents Al and Amber Zuckerman and big brother Eli

Gift of Support

Metropolitan Baptist Church of Houston, Texas

Gift of Support

The Social Concerns Committee of Bethany Lutheran Church of Fredericksburg, Texas

Gift of Support

Given by Robert and Shane Barron

Gift of Support

West Conroe Baptist Church in Conroe, Texas

Gift of Support

First Baptist Church of Tulsa, Oklahoma

12th Annual Walk To Remember

Our 12th annual Dallas/Irving Walk to Remember was a great success! There were more than 400 people remembering 165 babies. Each family received an ornament of a porcelain angel holding a baby. Tied around the angel was a ribbon that had the babies name and birth / death date inscribed on it. All 165 baby's names were read aloud as families came forward to hang their ornaments on the M.E.N.D. tree that is planted at Calvary Church in Irving, Texas. Jennifer Hander, author of *A Place of Peace* was the guest speaker. There was beautiful music, and the ceremony concluded with nearly 700 blue, pink, and white balloons flying in the air, symbolizing our babies going to heaven.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell*



Top Left: Parents remembering their little baby Avery, support one another while watching the balloon release.

Top Right: Sharon Glosso and family, remembering Drew Charles, after placing their angel on the M.E.N.D. tree. **Right:** Balloons were released for 165 babies to conclude the 12th Annual Walk To Remember. (Photos by *Brittney Fish*)

M.E.N.D.—**Houston** would like to thank Metropolitan Baptist Church of Houston, Lisa Johnson of JAG Photography, Jenni Trent and Tim Winebrenner. Your support made our Walk To Remember truly memorable.

Walk to Remember Sponsors

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M.E.N.D. Chapter Corner

Chapter Meeting Information

M.E.N.D. - NW Arkansas

Meets the 1st Tuesday from 6:30—8:00 p.m.
Jones Center for Families, Room 206,
922 East Emma Avenue,
Springdale, AR 72765
Director: April Moreton
April@mend.org, (479) 524-3500

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 via phone and email contact.
Director: Marie Stockdale
Marie@mend.org, (678) 634-3686

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

M.E.N.D. - Hill Country

Meets the 1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Gillespie County Historical Society Building
312 W. San Antonio St.
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Director: Larissa Hallford
Larissa@mend.org, (830) 456-4178

M.E.N.D. - Tulsa

Meets the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Canyon Crossing
1651 E Old North Rd.
Sand Springs, Oklahoma 74063
Michele Wilson
michele@mend.org, (918) 694-4325 (HEAL)

M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates

NW Arkansas

M.E.N.D. -NW Arkansas rejoices with one of our very first moms and her third subsequent birth, and we anticipate another subsequent birth from a current family in mid-November. We continue to meet each month to walk through the difficult valley of grief together and to share our fears and reflections as some of us embrace new pregnancies and then subsequent births. I am so blessed by the women whom I spend this time with each month—their honesty, grace, and determination to move forward encourages me every time. We're busy planning and looking forward to our Christmas Candlelight Ceremony to be held on December 9th.

April Moreton

Kansas

We are in the planning stage for our first Candlelight Ceremony that will take place on Friday, December 5. For more information call Stephanie at 620-343-0045 or email stephanie@mend.org.

Stephanie Metzger

Houston

What a beautiful day in Houston to celebrate the lives of our babies at our 3rd Annual Walk to Remember! We recognized 87 precious babies with beautiful music and a wonderful guest speaker. Thank you Jan Freeman for your words of hope and encouragement! Please go to our Web site, www.mendhouston.org, to view/download your pictures. Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 6th at 7 p.m. for our Christmas Candlelight Ceremony at the Truth Building at Metropolitan Baptist Church.

Jaimie Crump

Georgia

The Atlanta Chapter continues to minister to hurting families through email and by phone. It is our prayer that God will once again open the door to resume our support group meetings. Please pray about ministry opportunities available through M.E.N.D.-Georgia. If you feel led to apply as a chapter leader or assistant, please email Rebekah@mend.org or Marie@mend.org for more information, or call Rebekah Mitchell at 972-506-9000.

Marie Stockdale

Texarkana

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana has set our date for our 2nd Christmas Candlelight Ceremony for December 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Beech Street First Baptist Church, Texarkana, Arkansas. We continue to reach out to families who are going through this storm.

Monica Davis

Nacogdoches

Families are receiving comfort and encouragement in beautiful ways as members reach out to each other with the comfort they themselves have received from God.

Lori De La Torre

Hill Country

M.E.N.D.—Hill Country is now meeting at the Gillespie County Historical Society Building. We still meet the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. We are continuing to receive donations from the community, and I am still searching for an individual who can assist me with the group. God is doing good work through M.E.N.D. It is my hope that we can become better known in our community so that all grieving parents can benefit from our ministry.

Larissa Hallford

Tulsa

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa would like to thank First Baptist Church of Tulsa for making us their mission action project for September and collecting journals, purple pens, tissue and note cards for our care bags. M.E.N.D.—Tulsa continues to minister to hurting families of Oklahoma who have lost babies.

Michele Wilson

Julian's First Christmas

by Rachel Prado Wall

April 1, 2007 my son Julian David Rodriguez was born prematurely. As the holidays approached that year I couldn't help but wonder how my son would have fit into our holiday traditions had he still been physically with us.

Let me tell you—my son was probably spoiled the most that Christmas holiday!

It had always been a tradition on Thanksgiving evening that the Christmas tree would be put up at my parents' house. My mother had told me my father had a dream about my son wanting a Christmas tree, and he promised Julian he would get him a tree. My parents were so excited. Two days before Thanksgiving they went to the store and bought my son a miniature tree full of decorations and planted it at the cemetery. Every weekend until Christmas my family took turns putting toys under his tree.

Julian David Rodriguez

April 1, 2007

Prematurity due to fibroid tumors

Parents: Rachel Prado Wall and Javier Rodriguez



Prayer For the Grieving

We give back to you, O God, those whom you gave to us.

You did not lose them when you gave them to us and we do not lose them by their return to you.

Your dear Son has taught us that life is eternal and love cannot die, so death is only a horizon and an horizon is only the limit of our sight.

Open our eyes to see more clearly and draw us close to you that we may know that we are nearer to our loved ones, who are with you.

You have told us that you are preparing a place for us; prepare us also for that happy place, that where you are we may also be always.

O dear Lord of life and death.

William Penn, 1644-1718
Founder of the State of Pennsylvania

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: Brittney@mend.org

Subsequent pregnancy group

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

Led by Liz Walker:

rlw8121@sbcglobal.net

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 Cheryl Davis:

C-c-davis@att.net

For families experiencing infertility after a loss.

Wings as Eagles

On November 19, we will celebrate our son's tenth birthday. The past few months I have thought of him daily as I have tried to determine how to best mark this special day. Nothing seems fitting. I have come to realize that I celebrate him along the way, as I journey through daily life and have opportunities to serve and lift others in their time of need, as I have been served and lifted in mine.

When I think of him, I don't really think of what I lost. Rather, I can't help but think of the journey over these years and the blessings that his short life has brought into my life. Every day since we found out I was pregnant, he has blessed our lives.

My journey began in 1996 with my first pregnancy. I learned then that I had two uteri and that having children would be difficult, although not impossible. We lost that first pregnancy (which was in my right uterus) to miscarriage at 14 weeks, but were not deterred from trying again. In 1997, I gave birth to my daughter, Jessica. Although the pregnancy was very difficult and we almost lost her at one point early in the pregnancy, I was able to carry her to 37 weeks. She was in my left uterus.

We were buoyed by this successful pregnancy and tried again in 1998. I got pregnant, this time in my right uterus. I was so hopeful that the pregnancy would go well that after I passed my first trimester, I naively thought everything would be fine. My pregnancies were high risk due to my uterine malformation, and therefore, I saw a specialist every two weeks for an ultrasound to measure growth and check for any problems. At 22 weeks, everything was going great, so at our 24-week appointment, my husband Jason and I took our daughter Jessica with us so she could see her baby brother on the ultrasound. I will never forget that moment when the doctor put the sonogram wand on my belly and he couldn't find a heartbeat. I was stunned...then devastated. The days that followed were dark days. We buried his tiny body at a local cemetery, and we mourned for our son. But it is here that my life came to a crossroads. I slowly realized that I was no longer the same person. I was changed. Because of my son, I was more.

In the fall of 1999 I got pregnant for the fourth time. Because this was my first subsequent pregnancy after Kyle, I was terrified, no longer blissfully blind to what can go wrong. Now I knew too much, had read too much, and I was completely neurotic. But, the baby was in my left uterus (which had already proven to work), and this gave us hope. In June 2000, I gave birth to another beautiful daughter, Laura.

In March 2002, we were ready to try again. We knew the risks, and we put our trust in God. My favorite scripture was Proverbs 3: 5-6: *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* We got pregnant, and as soon as we knew I was pregnant, I went in for an ultrasound to determine the position of the baby. I was alone at the doctor's office that day. My mom was watching my kids. Jason was out of town. We were all on pins and needles. Again, I was dealt a blow. The baby was in my right uterus. I remember driving to my mom's house to pick up the girls, getting out of my car and walking up her walkway. She opened the door before I got to it because she was waiting for me. She asked, "Where is the baby?" When I told her, the tears started falling from her eyes, and we both cried. Then I told her to dry her tears, because I had a feeling we would need them in the weeks and months to come.

Our son Joshua was born a few short months later at 25 weeks. Many of my dear M.E.N.D. friends were gathered around during that time. There were difficult days. For weeks we didn't know if the Lord would let Joshua stay with us. But he did live, and he is the joy of my life. That experience is a whole different story. But I believe that Kyle was watching out for me and for his brother. I drew strength from him and from the many women from M.E.N.D. who had walked the path before me and with me.

On March 4, 2005, my nephew, Andrew Luis Walton, was born in Ft. Worth, Texas, with a heart defect. After two surgeries and weeks in the ICU, he died on April 24...Oh, how I wish I could have spared my sister and brother-in-law this pain! I anguished as I watched them grieve by their son's bedside. I felt like God had given our family too much to bear. As if there should be some 'collective suffering bank' with God, I felt we had suffered enough for our entire family. But, with all the sadness of Andrew's loss, there was also so much joy. When I see a picture of sweet Andrew I am filled with peace. Now, the cousins are buried near each other in Dallas, and I am sure they are kindred spirits in Heaven.

Life is a journey. Sometimes that journey takes us to places we never **thought** we would go and places we never **wanted** to go. But I do know that through it all I have been lifted up as if on eagles wings. *"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles"* (Isaiah 40:31). My life has been blessed with greater understanding, greater compassion, deeper friendships, and limitless opportunities to serve others. The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away...but mostly, He just giveth.

♥ Kristen Walton, mommy to Kyle Charles Walton, November 19, 1998



Subsequent Births

John and Julie James
of Flower Mound, Texas,
along with big sisters
Bailie and Lauren,
excitedly announce the arrival of
Claire Jessica,
born September 25, 2008,
measuring 7 lb., 8 oz.,
and 19 inches long.
The James family lovingly
remembers
Jordan Claire,
September 29 - October 15, 2003,
Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome.

Chris and Shannon Outen
of Arlington, Texas,
along with big sister Erin,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Charlie Page,
born September 30, 2008,
measuring 6 lb., 11 oz.
The Outens lovingly remember
Carter Patrick,
stillborn November 6, 2000,
unknown cause,
Baby Outen I,
miscarried April 3, 2001,
and Baby Outen II,
miscarried October 5, 2001.

Sean and Sarah Jordan
of Columbus Grove, Ohio,
along with their children
Stephen, Season, Ethan,
Marshall, and Clay,
joyfully announce the birth of
Gavin Cole,
born at home February 2, 2008,
measuring 10 lb., 5 oz.,
and 20 3/4 inches long.
The Jordans lovingly remember
Marissa Joy,
November 26, 2003,
Thanatophoric Dysplasia,
and Baby Jordan,
miscarried October 8, 1999.

Helisha and Christopher Klipp
of Irving, Texas
joyfully announce the arrival of
Zachary Christopher,
born September 24, 2008,
measuring 6 pounds,
and 19 inches long.
The Klipps lovingly remember
Andrew Carl,
stillborn June 21, 2006,
unknown cause.

Michele and Sabry Samuel
of Avon, Indiana,
along with big sisters
Daniela Faith and Christina Hope,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Matthew Alexander,
born August 21, 2008,
measuring 7 lb., 8oz.,
and 21 inches long.
The Samuels lovingly remember
Gabriela Lael,
October 8, 1999,
Potter's Syndrome.

Dustin and Daphne Petrey
of Fleetwood, North Carolina,
along with big sister Ruthie,
joyfully announce the arrival of
LeeAnne Abigail,
born July 11, 2008,
measuring 7 lb., 11 oz.,
and 20 inches long.
The Petreys lovingly remember
Daniel Lee,
January 26, 2007,
unknown cause.

Erica Gonzalez and Adam Saenz
of Houston, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Adalyn Michelle Saenz,
born August 21, 2008,
measuring 5 lb., 12 oz.,
and 18 inches long.
Erica and Adam lovingly remember
Ayden Michael Saenz,
stillborn September 12, 2007,
unknown cause.

Scott and Melanie Harper
of Houston, Texas
along with big brothers
Oliver and Mitchell,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Anna Catherine,
born on August 8, 2008,
measuring 6 lb., 9 oz.,
and 19 inches long.
The Harpers lovingly remember
Molly Catherine,
stillborn May 18, 2007,
unknown cause.

Jodie and Scott Gibson
of Ponder, Texas,
along with big brothers
Will and Andrew,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Isaac Luke,
born August 22, 2008,
measuring 7 lb., 9 oz.,
and 19½ inches long.
The Gibsons lovingly remember
Janelle Marie,
stillborn November 17, 2006,
clot in placenta,
and Gabriel,
miscarried October 31, 2007,
ectopic pregnancy.

Geri and Ted Shannon
of Eules, Texas
joyfully announce the arrival of
Ysabel Fleurima,
born October 7, 2008,
measuring 6 lb., 3 oz.
The Shannons lovingly remember
Theo Fleurima,
stillborn August 10, 2006,
due to a stroke.

Dana and Jay Graves
of Springdale, Arkansas,
along with big siblings
Xander and Ellie,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Jackson David,
born September 19, 2008.
The Graves family lovingly remembers
Isabella,
February 6-9, 2003,
coartation of the aorta.

M.E.N.D. Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death
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"... that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:4)

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 in Texas and Louisiana who have their Kroger Plus Card linked to M.E.N.D. To link your card, contact Rebekah (Rebekah@mend.org) to obtain the Kroger Customer Letter. You must only present this letter one time to link your card to M.E.N.D.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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. Just go to the Web site 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.
- **Little Beads & Macaroney & 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.
- **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*.
- **GoodSearch.com** is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Powered by Yahoo!, it is used like any other search engine. To earn money for M.E.N.D. using Goodsearch.com, go to www.goodsearch.com and designate M.E.N.D. as your charity of choice.
- **Ebay** has a charitable giving program that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you sell items on Ebay and would like to designate a percentage of your revenue to M.E.N.D., visit www.missionfish.org to find out how.
- **Top to Toe Designs**, owned by M.E.N.D. member Heather Klaassen, offers custom hand-painted frames and room décor. She would like to donate 10 percent of purchases made at www.toptotoedesigns.com that mentions our charity.