



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

## *Mother's Day and Father's Day*

Oftentimes the title of “mother” is only given to the one who physically gave birth to and/or raised a child in her home. However, Webster's Dictionary defines a mother as one who “cares for and protects.”

Commonly around Mother's Day and Father's Day parents who lost their only children struggle with the identity of whether or not they are truly parents. My answer to that question is always a resounding, “Yes!” We may not have been given the privilege of rearing our babies who died, but certainly we cared for and did our best to protect them from harm.

I have learned that it is absolutely not necessary to be biologically related to those we deem our “children” or to those we may consider our “second parents.” When my twin sister Rachael and I were two years old, a very special woman, Annie Mae Allen, became a part of our family. The titles “housekeeper,” “maid,” and even “nanny” are too demeaning in my opinion to label our Annie Mae. Rachael and I are several years younger than the older four kids in our family. So when Annie Mae came to us, they were in school all day, but we were home with her while our mom was busy driving carpool, grocery shopping, and everything else a mother of six is responsible for.

I was the more mischievous of the two twins and was affectionately called “wildcat” by Annie Mae. Rachael, on the other hand, was the sweet, quiet one. More times than I can count Annie Mae rescued me from the top of a tree, cleaned my kitchen concoctions, and endured my spunky tricks. Her protectiveness wouldn't let us walk home from school in elementary or stay home alone in junior high. In high school she gave us boyfriend approval (or not) and made sure potential boyfriends knew they would have to deal with her, if necessary. She mourned with my mother as if we had died when we went off to college. The weekends we came home, she sweetly came to the house on Saturday just to see us. At all six of our weddings she was ushered down the aisle and seated as a mother. She helped bathe us, feed us, and tend to us when we were sick. She sat in the waiting room for hours when I had a kidney transplant. When Rachael

and I both had two high risk pregnancies that required bed rest, she lovingly worked alongside our mom pampering and spoiling us as we prepared to become mothers ourselves.

When my little Jonathan was stillborn, Annie Mae mourned his loss like the rest of my family. She rode in the limousine to his funeral and sat under the big tent with us as my twin buried her head underneath Annie Mae's comforting arm. Just before the service was officially over, she escorted Byron and me back to the house because I wasn't up to greeting all the guests.

As I write this, it has been just over 24 hours since Annie Mae joined my sweet babies in heaven. My mom, Rachael, and I were able to spend many hours with her during the last weeks of her life. Joining with her biological children, we loved her, kissed on her, and thanked her for the many years she spent caring for and protecting us. The last day of her life the three of us got to say our final goodbye just hours before she met her “sweet Jesus.” Minutes after her passing we were able to love on her again. I gently caressed the arms and hands that had hugged me, patted on me, bathed me, rubbed down my high fevers, prepared snacks for me, and years later loved my baby, changed his diapers, and cared for him. Now Annie Mae is undoubtedly loving my two babies in heaven. I hope she has been given many rewards for caring for their wildcat mommy.

Assuredly this will be another different Mother's Day for me. I will recognize my mother, be celebrated by my son, think of my children in heaven, and for the first time, honor the memory of my Annie Mae.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell*  
*mommy to Jonathan Daniel Mitchell*  
*and Baby Mitchell*

In This Issue: Book Review (pg. 2), *Houston Walk Announcement* (pg. 2), *Reader's Corner* (pg. 3), *Time* (pg. 9), *The Poem* (pg. 10-11), *A Father's Grief* (pg. 11)

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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.

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Donations make the printing and distribution of this newsletter possible. Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated and should be sent to the address listed above. If your gift is made in memory of a baby, please include that baby's name (if named), date of birth and/or date of death, the parents' names, and the name of the benefactor. You may also include the cause of death (if known).

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M.E.N.D. is a member of  
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## *Book Review*

### *Mourning Sarah*

A case for testing group B strep

By Theresa Huttllinger Vigour

[www.radcliffe-oxford.com](http://www.radcliffe-oxford.com)

Author Theresa Vigour describes her journey of infertility, multiple miscarriages, and the heartbreaking loss of her newborn daughter, Sarah. The reader may find it difficult to not become extremely infuriated by the lack of care and consideration Vigour was given from several physicians and nurses. Sarah's death probably could have been prevented had the medical team listened to her well-informed and educated mother who desperately attempted several times to explain symptoms and abnormal pain she was experiencing.

Although Sarah's death occurred in 1981 and healthcare providers have taken great strides to help prevent infant death resulting from group B strep, Mourning Sarah is a must-read for parents who lost a baby to this same bacteria so they will know what to insist on for a subsequent pregnancy. Additionally, all those who work in healthcare should read this to ensure the outdated protocol Vigour describes is no longer practiced in their places of employment.

♥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](http://www.mend.org).*

*If you would like to submit a review of books, music, Web sites or other resources dealing with infant loss, please email them to our newsletter editor Heather Fann at [heather@mend.org](mailto:heather@mend.org).*

## *Houston's Walk To Remember Announcement*

M.E.N.D.—Houston is excited to announce that Nancy Guthrie has agreed to be the guest speaker for the 2009 Walk To Remember on October 10, 2009.

Guthrie, a Christian author for more than 20 years, has published some of M.E.N.D.—Houston's favorite books: Holding On to Hope: A Pathway Through Suffering to the Heart of God; The One Year Book of Hope, a daily devotional for people who are hurting or grieving; and Getting Your Family Through the Loss of a Loved One.

The Houston chapter and Metropolitan Baptist Church's Women's Ministry will also be hosting "An Evening with the Guthries" on Friday, October 9, 2009.

Nancy, along with her husband David, will be sharing their story and some of the significant lessons they've learned through loss, followed by a time of questions from the audience.

The event is open to anyone who has lost, whether the loss is a baby, an older child, a spouse or a parent. This evening is also open to anyone in the Houston area and beyond! All M.E.N.D. members from other chapters as well as family and friends are welcome to attend. Please mark your calendar for this wonderful event. We know God will bless you through the comforting words of David and Nancy Guthrie. Event details will be given at a closer date. For more information, please email chapter director Jaimie Crump at [jaimie@mend.org](mailto:jaimie@mend.org).

## Medical Moment



**A systematic review examining the effects of therapeutic radioactive iodine on ovarian function and future pregnancy in female thyroid cancer survivors.**

*Sawka AM, Lakra DC, Lea J, Alshehri B, Tsang RW, Brierley JD, Straus S, Thabane L, Gafni A, Ezzat S, George SR, Goldstein DP.*

*Clin Endocrinol (Oxf).* 2008 Feb 13 [Epub ahead of print]

Division of Endocrinology and Department of Medicine, University Health Network Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

**Background:** For women with differentiated thyroid carcinoma (DTC), the effect of radioactive iodine (RAI) therapy on gonadal and reproductive function is an important consideration.

**Objective and Methods:** We systematically reviewed controlled studies examining the gonadal and reproductive effects of RAI therapy in women and adolescents surviving DTC. We searched nine electronic databases. All abstracts and papers were independently reviewed by two reviewers.

**Results:** After reviewing 349 unique citations and 61 full-text papers, sixteen papers including data from 3023 women or adolescents with DTC, were included. All studies were observational, with no long-term randomized control trial data. The age at first RAI treatment varied from 8 to 50 years and the cumulative activities of RAI administered for treatment varied from 30 to 1099 mCi. Transient absence of menstrual periods occurred in 8 to 27% of women within the first year after RAI, particularly in older women. Also, RAI-treated women experienced menopause at a slightly younger age than women not treated with RAI. In the first year after RAI therapy, several studies reported increased rates of spontaneous and induced abortions. However, RAI treatment for DTC was generally not associated with a significantly increased risk of long-term infertility, miscarriage, induced abortions, stillbirths, or offspring neonatal mortality or congenital defects.

**Conclusions:** In female survivors of DTC, there is little observational evidence to suggest important adverse effects of RAI treatment on gonadal function, fertility, or pregnancy outcomes beyond 12 months, with the exception of a possible slightly earlier age of menopause.

Source & full-text available at: <http://www.pediatrics.org>

## Reader's Corner

Thank you so much for this newsletter. It has helped so much since our daughter Phoebe passed away. Thank you for what you do!

♥ *Deb Knox,  
mommy to Phoebe Grace Knox  
June 20, 2008*

### July/August Topic

Teaching Subsequent Children  
about Their Siblings

Deadline: May 31, 2009

### September/October Topic

Who am I?—Finding a new  
identity in grief

Deadline: July 31, 2009

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](http://www.mend.org)



# Birthday Tributes

## Happy 1st Birthday, Hudson, Weston, and Jackson!

My Precious Boys—Hudson, Weston, and Jackson,

There is some part of every day when the three of you consume my thoughts and feelings. You are loved and missed by so many. I am so thankful that I was the one who was lucky enough to be called your mom. You have all made such a lasting impression on my heart and will forever be a part of who I am.

Happy 1st birthday, sweet boys!

We love you so much,

Mom, Karry, Binks, Bama, Muv, Pop, and so many more

*Hudson Wrenn Crumley  
Weston Cole Crumley  
Jackson Reed Crumley  
June 30, 2008  
Prematurity  
Mother: Alisha Crumley*



## Happy 3rd Birthday, Ryker Lee!

It has been three years since we last held you in our arms, yet it seems like just yesterday. Every time Daddy and I see a three-year-old we wonder what "our little monkey" would be like. Would you be shy, outgoing, athletic, mischievous? Would you look as much like your Daddy as Mariah, Derrick, and Kellen do? These are all questions that will be answered when God brings us together again. We do know one thing...you are not only being spoiled by grandma Jan, but you also have Great-Grandma "White Hair" to spoil you now.

So on this special day, we celebrate you, "our little monkey."

We love you and miss you always!

Mommy, Daddy, Mariah, Derrick, and Kellen

*Ryker Lee Serrano  
May 18, 2006  
Lost to CMV  
Parents: Carrie and Eduardo Serrano  
Siblings: Mariah, Derrick, and Kellen*



## Happy Birthday, Girls!

**Happy 9th birthday, Sydney!**  
We miss and love you very much.

**Happy 8th birthday, Ashley!**  
We missed and love you very much.

Until we meet again...  
Daddy, Mommy, and Samuel

*Sydney Lynne Brown  
Stillborn May 18, 2000  
Unknown cause  
Ashley Mackenzie Brown  
May 18, 2001  
Premature due to APL  
Parents : Brian and Marilyn Brown  
Sibling: Samuel Brown*



## Happy 1st Birthday, Kaden!

This little tiny baby  
Was sent from God above  
To fill our hearts with happiness  
And touch our lives with love  
He must have known  
We'd give our all  
And always do our best  
To give our precious baby love  
And be grateful and so blessed.

Dear K-Man,

Wow! We can't believe that you are having a birthday and turning one. We can't stop wondering what you would look like and what you would be doing if you were still here. Walking, talking, and being totally adorable! Love and miss you so much. Happy birthday, Kaden!

Love,  
Mommy and Daddy

*Kaden Christopher Walter  
April 24 - June 13, 2008  
SIDS  
Parents: Ryan and Ashley Walker*





## Happy 2nd Birthday, William!

We can hardly believe that it's your second birthday. We continue to miss you every single day. We have put up an arbour in our backyard and planted "William Baffin" climbing roses. I enjoyed watching them bloom last season and thought of you often. We were blessed in November with the birth of your baby sister Julia. She surprised all of us because we were told we were having another boy! Watching her grow makes me wonder more about you. I pray often that you know how much you're missed and loved.

Happy birthday our sweet baby boy... we love you.  
Mom, Dad, and Julia

*William Roland Pallant*  
*June 4, 2007*

*Severe pre-eclampsia and HELPP*  
*Parents: Andrew and Kristel Pallant*  
*Sibling: Julia Pallant*  
*Also remembering: Baby Pallant #2*  
*Miscarried September 2007*



## Happy 1st Birthday, Phoebe!

Dearest Phoebe,

I can't believe it has been a year since we awaited your arrival—since I held you in my arms, kissed your beautiful face, told you how sorry I was that I couldn't keep you safe inside me.

Things have changed in the last year. I have come to understand, believe, and accept that I could not have done anything differently. Whenever your big sister Catrina gets a helium balloon, she sends it up to you. We always watch until we can't see it anymore! We are expecting another baby—on your birthday!

Someone told Catrina that she was going to be a great big sister. She said, "I'm already a big sister." Catrina loves you as much as Daddy and I do.

Happy birthday, baby girl. We love you so much. Some day I will see you again and hold you in my arms again.

Happy birthday, Phoebe! We love you and miss you so much!

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, and Catrina

*Phoebe Grace Knox*  
*Stillborn June 20, 2008*  
*Cord accident*  
*Parents: Deb and Cliff Knox*  
*Sibling: Catrina*



## Happy 9th birthday, Chrissie!

Chrysanthemum  
Heavenly  
Radiant  
If only . . .  
Safe in God's arms  
So far from me, but  
In my heart  
Every day



Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, little twin brothers John Morgan and  
William, and Michael

*Chrissie Steen*  
*May 3, 2000*  
*Ectopic pregnancy*  
*Parents: Lynn and Mary Steen*  
*Siblings: John Morgan, William, and Michael*

## Happy 1st Birthday, Terrence!

It has been a year since we were able to hold you in our arms. We know you are in heaven with God and watching over us. We think about how much you would have grown and all the fun things we would have done. We miss you so much! You will always be in our hearts, our little angel and Daddy's first mate!

Love always,  
Mommy and Daddy

*Terrence Alexander Johnson*  
*April 9, 2008*  
*Cord Accident*  
*Parents: Terry and LaToya Johnson*



## Happy 1st Birthday, Fallon!

We love and miss you, precious girl! You'll always be our first and you'll always be "Big Sister." Just as your name means, you're "The Leader" and we'll never forget that! We'll see you in heaven!

Love,  
Mommy and Daddy

*Fallon Elise Billingsley*  
*Stillborn April 4, 2008*  
*Placental abruption related to preeclampsia*  
*Parents: Kent and Terri Billingsley*  
*Grandpa: Mack Turner*

*Also remembering Jamie Lynn Turner*  
*June 21—30, 1993*  
*Mal rotation of intestines*  
*Parents: Gene and Ruthie Turner*  
*Siblings: Emily and Josh*



*Continued on page 6...*

Continued from page 5...

### Happy 6th Birthday, Cooper!

Wow! Six years old. I cannot believe my baby boys are getting so big—Paxton here with us and you in heaven but always in our hearts. How is T-ball in heaven? You are a Dill boy so you must be playing. Or do you like basketball better? No matter which one, I know each moment of every day spent with Jesus is way beyond our wildest imagination. Have a happy, heavenly birthday my sweet boy.

Loving you forever and always,  
Daddy, Mommy, Avery, Tate, and Paxton

*Cooper Graham Dill*  
*Stillborn May 26, 2003*  
*Cord accident, Twin-to-twin transfusion*  
*Parents: Jim and Brandee Dill*  
*Siblings: Avery, Tate, and Paxton*  
*(Cooper's identical twin)*  
*Also Remembering: Baby Dill, miscarried May 2002*



### Happy 1st Birthday, Henry!

Precious Henry,

I can't believe it's almost been a year since you came and went so silently from us. Mommy and Daddy miss you more than we can ever express. Your little sister was born on March 4, and every time I look at her I think of you, too. I know you are completely healed and rejoicing in heaven, but we can't help but wish you were here with us. I love to think of you growing up with Jesus. We miss you, Henry.

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, and new little sister Kate

*Henry Ian Ilgenfritz*  
*May 5, 2008*  
*Cord accident*  
*Parents: Jody and Rhonda Ilgenfritz*  
*Sibling: Kate Isabel*  
*Also Remembering: Baby Ilgenfritz*  
*August 2007*



### Happy 1st Birthday, Blake!

Happy first heavenly birthday!  
We love you,  
Mommy and Daddy

*Blake Fritts*  
*May 10, 2008*  
*15-week demise: Protein S deficiency*  
*Parents: Dwayne and Stephanie Fritts*  
*Siblings: Brayden and Sydney*



### Happy 10th Birthday, Joseph!

Joseph,

Ten years is a long time to live without you. We wonder what shade of red your hair would be, who you would look like, what you would like to do...the questions will probably be with us until we see you again. It's okay, though, beloved boy, because we know you are exactly where you need to be, where we all long to be. We love you and will always keep your memory alive until we can see your face again. Happy birthday, sweet Joseph.

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

*Joseph Charles Libby*  
*May 26, 1999*  
*Stillborn due to cord accident*  
*Parents: Wim and Sharlene Libby*  
*Siblings: Will, John, and Mary Grace*



### Happy 2nd Birthday, Adrian James!

To our angel Adrian,

We can't believe two years have already gone by since you came into our lives. We think of you often, miss you daily, and love you with all our being. Your life has taught us so much about love and God himself. As we continue to live our lives without your presence, we often talk about what you would be doing, learning, saying, and how much you would be keeping us on our toes by now. And even though you are not physically with us, you know you are forever with us in our hearts.

And now we have two on your two...your baby brother and sister made it safely into our arms in February! We plan on telling them about you and the short but sweet time we spent with you. And how one day God will allow us all to be together again in heaven. So happy, happy birthday, baby.

Mommy and Daddy  
love you and send you kisses everyday!

*Adrian James*  
*June 23-July 14, 2007*  
*Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC)*  
*Parents: Fito and Jackie Hernandez*  
*Siblings: Adrina Faith and Julian Rossi*



### Happy 8th Birthday, Griffin!

Peace, hugs, and kisses float above  
To bring good wishes,  
To the birthday boy we love!  
We love you,  
Mommy, Daddy, Mya, and Aidan

*Griffin Caleb McIntosh*  
*Stillborn June 6, 2001*  
*Unknown cause*  
*Parents: Matthew and Naomi McIntosh*  
*Siblings: Mya and Aidan*



## In Loving Memory



### **Brandon Isaiah Alfaro**

October 19, 2007 - February 7, 2008  
Spinal Muscular Atrophy  
Parents: Tim and Diana Seynaeve  
Given by Jennifer Alfaro

### **Matthew and Mason Bass**

April 10, 2008  
Premature birth 22 weeks gestation  
Parents: Chad Bass and Leah Robilotto-Bass  
Given by Diana and Kirk Light  
Parents of **Jackson and Tyler Light**  
February 23, 2009  
Placental abruption

### **Jordan Alexander Booker**

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

### **Patricia Karla Cheshire**

Miscarried May 9, 1999

### **Christian Joseph Cheshire**

Miscarried April 3, 2004

### **Olivia Joy Cheshire**

Miscarried July 31, 2004  
Given by parents Leah and Vince Cheshire  
and siblings Nathan and Karla

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

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

### **Riley and Parker Davis**

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

### **Kyler Paul English**

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

### **Jason William and Mason Wilmer Fisher**

December 5, 2005  
PPROM, prematurity  
Given by parents Kendall and Lori Fisher  
and sisters Cori and Gabrielle

### **Elizabeth Gentry**

August 24, 1996  
Cystic Hygroma and Anasarca

### **Baby Gentry**

Miscarried May 10, 1997

### **Meghan Elizabeth "Meggie" Gentry**

June 3, 2001  
Kidney abnormality  
Given by parents Shary and John Gentry  
and siblings Alison and Mark

### **Lauren Paige Grimes**

Stillborn March 6, 1999  
Unknown cause

### **Baby Angel**

Miscarried January 25, 2001  
Given by parents John and Paula Grimes  
and Baby Angel's twin, Rileigh

### **Addison Caroline Halbrook**

May 10 - 15, 2007  
Complications from group A strep  
Given by parents  
Shawn and Jennifer Halbrook  
and siblings Cade and Ashlyn

### **Adrian James Hernandez**

June 23 - July 14, 2007  
Necrotizing Enter Colitis  
Given by parents Jackie and Fito Hernandez  
and little siblings Adrina and Julian

### **Taryn Kennedy**

December 11, 2008 - January 8, 2009  
TAPVR and ASD  
Given by parents Vi and Steve Kennedy

### **Joseph Charles Libby**

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

### **Andrew Mallette**

March 21, 2008  
CMV  
Parents: Michael and Nicole Mallette  
Given by grandma Kathy Rutherford

### **Ella Grace Medina**

Stillborn February 15, 2009  
Cord accident  
Parents: Tony and Lisa Medina  
Given by Heather Britt

### **Jonathan Daniel Mitchell**

Stillborn June 24, 1995  
Cord accident  
**Baby Mitchell**  
Miscarried December 2001  
Given by parents  
Byron and Rebekah Mitchell  
and big brother Byron, Jr.

### **Jonathan Daniel Mitchell**

Stillborn June 24, 1995  
Cord accident  
**Baby Mitchell**  
Miscarried December 2001  
Parents: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell  
Big brother: Byron, Jr.  
Given by grandparents  
Dennis and Sue Brewer

### **Charlie Moore**

July 9 - September 6, 2007  
Extreme prematurity/septic shock  
Given by parents  
Meridith and Michael Moore

### **Mindy and Maggie Smith**

Stillborn November 4, 1997  
Twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome and  
Polyhydramnios  
Parents: Scott and Karla Smith  
Siblings: Travis and Julia  
Given by AT&T Employee  
Giving Campaign

### **Aidan Shaw VanderCruyssen**

October 2 - December 3, 2005  
Polycystic Kidney Disease  
Given by mommy Shane VanderCruyssen  
and little sister Cameron

### **Gift of Support**

Metropolitan Baptist Church  
Houston, Texas

### **Gift of Support**

Wal-Mart Foundation

### **Gift of Support**

West Conroe Baptist Church  
Conroe, Texas

### 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!**



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

### Chapter Meeting Information

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

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 bi-monthly  
on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,  
led by Sarah Winebrenner  
(swinebrenner2004@yahoo.com).

**Daddy's group** meets quarterly on the 3rd  
Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,  
led by Tim Winebrenner  
(swinebrenner2004@yahoo.com).

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

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

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

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. - 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 continues to minister to those hurting families in and around the Fayetteville/Springdale area. We pray God continues to bless this ministry throughout the coming year.

*April Moreton*

### *Kansas*

M.E.N.D.—Kansas continues to desire to serve those hurting families in our area. If you know of parents with losses in need of help, please contact Stephanie at [stephanie@mend.org](mailto:stephanie@mend.org).

*Stephanie Metzger*

### *Houston*

M.E.N.D.—Houston is excited about our Fourth Annual Texas Hold'em Fundraiser on May 16. If you are interested in playing, donating prizes or being a sponsor, please email me at [jaimie@mend.org](mailto:jaimie@mend.org). We look forward to seeing how God will provide for our chapter during 2009 and 2010.

*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](mailto:rebekah@mend.org) or [maries@mend.org](mailto:maries@mend.org) for more information or call Rebekah Mitchell at 972-506-9000.

*Marie Stockdale*

### *Texarkana*

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana continues to minister to hurting families. We are excited about our results from our first rummage sale. A huge thank you to Tania Greer, Toni and Randy Sherman, Dawn and Zac Kennedy, Melissa Thomas, and Shawn Davis for all the long hours of working the sale. We would also like to thank First Baptist Church Nash and Coca-Cola Texarkana for their donations./

*Monica Davis*

### *Hill Country*

M.E.N.D.—Hill Country continues to pray for those parents who have had losses, and I hope they can reach out for the help that is offered to them. We will continue to work on spreading the news about M.E.N.D. to our community and the surrounding area.

*Larissa Hallford*

### *Tulsa*

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa continues to minister to families of Oklahoma who have lost babies. This chapter is still growing as word continues to spread to the surrounding communities about this vital ministry available to grieving families.

*Michele Wilson*





### *Subsequent Births*

**Jason and Jennie Drude**  
of Montgomery, Texas,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Maxwell "Max" Malachi,  
born March 3, 2009,  
measuring 7 lb., 5 oz.,  
and 19 3/4 inches long.  
The Drude family lovingly remembers  
Dharma Lucille,  
March 31-April 1, 2008,  
Anencephaly.

**Jody and Rhonda Ilgenfritz**  
of Spring, Texas,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Kate Isabel,  
born March 4, 2009,  
measuring 7 lb.  
and 19 1/2 inches long.  
The Ilgenfritz family lovingly  
remembers  
Henry Ian,  
stillborn May 5, 2008,  
Cord accident  
and Baby Ilgenfritz ,  
miscarried August 30, 2007.

**Fito and Jackie Hernandez**  
of Mesquite, Texas,  
joyfully announce arrival of twins  
Adrina Faith  
and  
Julian Rossi,  
born February 9, 2009.  
Adrina measured 5 lb., 1 oz.,  
and 17 inches long.  
Julian measured 5 lb., 2 oz.,  
and 18 inches.  
The Hernandez family lovingly  
remembers  
Adrian James,  
June 23-July 14, 2007,  
Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC).

**Andrew and Kristel Pallant**  
of London, Ontario, Canada,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Julia Faith,  
born November 6, 2008,  
measuring 7 lb., 10 oz.  
The Pallant family lovingly remembers  
William Roland,  
stillborn June 4, 2007,  
and Baby Pallant #2,  
miscarried September 2007.

**Edwin and Sharon Glosson**  
of San Antonio, Texas,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Bria Grace,  
born April 4, 2009,  
measuring 6 lb., 2 oz.,  
and 18 1/4 inches long.  
The Glosson family lovingly  
remembers  
Drew Charles,  
stillborn December 27, 2007,  
and Baby Twin Glosson,  
miscarried September 2008.

### *Time*

Time cannot steal the treasures...  
That we carry in our hearts.  
Nor dim the shining thoughts  
Our cherished past imparts.

For the memories of the ones we loved  
Still cast a gentle glow,  
To grace our days and light our paths  
Wherever we may go.

♥ *Author Unknown*

### *M.E.N.D. Support Group Meetings*

Join us for a time of sharing experiences.

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

**Daddies group**  
meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of  
March, June, Sept. and Dec.,  
from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

*A time for dads to meet together and  
discuss topics relevant to them as fa-  
thers. 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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday  
from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
Led by Liz Walker:  
liz@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 Paula Schear or Brandee Dill for  
more info: pkschear@yahoo.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 Paula Schear:  
pkschear@yahoo.com  
*For families experiencing  
infertility after a loss.*

## The Poem

By Terri Billingsley

*“All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”* This beautiful passage taken from Psalms 139:13-16 is a comforting reminder to my husband and me that God had His plan for our daughter, Fallon Elise, before she was ever born, just as He has His plan for each and every one of us.

It had been just days since we had the funeral service. My husband brought in the stack of mail that contained several handwritten envelopes. For the past week and a half, we had been receiving sympathy cards on a daily basis...such an outpouring of love...every card, letter, and floral enclosure card now a cherished treasure kept in a box so full the lid must be tied to keep it closed. Among the cards received that day was a larger envelope. This was one of those legal-sized manila envelopes with a metal clasp on the seal.

As I opened the envelope to remove the contents, the pages were turned over, and I could see handwriting through the upside-down page. I immediately recognized this handwriting. It was my mother’s handwriting. My mind briefly swirled with confusion, because my mother had gone to be with our Lord years ago, on June 22, 2001. Turning the stack of three pages over, I found on top a letter from my cousin, Gene’s wife Ruthie.

*“Gene and I are so sorry to hear of your loss. As soon as I heard about your baby, I remembered this poem that your mother had written for us when our baby passed away. I have enclosed a copy of the original for you...”*

The second page was a poem typed in pink script on beautiful parchment paper. Ruthie had copied the poem written by my mother and personalized it with my daughter Fallon’s name in the fourth of its six stanzas. The bottom of the poem said, “Love, Karen.” Karen was my mother. I wept as I read each meaningful line, feeling as though my mother was right there comforting me with her very own words. I was overwhelmed with emotion, but I also felt the warm love of my mother that I needed so much during this time of grief. I knew this was not an accident. I knew that God in His perfect wisdom had reminded Ruthie of this poem my mother had written for her and Gene on the occasion of the death of their baby daughter, Jamie Lynn, fifteen years earlier on June 30, 1993. Ruthie knew that she was to now send it to me and my husband.

The third page was the photo copy of the original poem that my mother had written so many years ago in the beautiful handwriting that I had immediately recognized. I read her words again, this time with Jamie’s name in the fourth stanza as it was first written. I cried reading my mother’s thoughtful words, remembering her sweet and caring spirit, thinking how precious she was to write this comforting message to Gene and Ruthie. I also couldn’t help but think, “God knew she was writing this to me, too—even fifteen years ago!” God knew *“as He knit her in her mother’s womb”* that my mother would die when she was 56, when I was 34 years old, and He knew *“as He was knitting her in my womb”* that my first child, Fallon, would be stillborn when I was 41.

God also knew in 1993, when my mother was writing this poem, how much I would need her love and comfort so many years later, though she would not be here in person to give it. He already had His plan. I never knew about this poem my mother had written, and she had no idea at the time what the future would hold for me or that her words were being written for me and my husband as well as for Ruthie and Gene...but God did.

My husband Kent said, “I feel like I know your mother a little more now,” after reading her words. Both of our mothers, Karen and Marie, had passed away in 2001, as did Kent’s father Ray in April 2002, before we met in June 2002. We’ve always felt like our moms met in heaven and worked with God to plan that the two of us would meet. Among her many other purposes, we also wonder if perhaps Fallon was created as a very special gift to her grandmas and granddad in heaven. That may be just the kind of incredible presents God gives in heaven. We can only imagine until it is all explained to us in Glory. We do know a part of our DNA is already in the presence of God and she is well taken care of for eternity! We will hold her in heaven!

What a beautiful girl and gift from God that Fallon was, and what a blessing she continues to be in our lives! God carried us through the tragedy of her stillbirth and He continues to bless our lives. We now wait with great expectancy and trust in Him. We trust in His plan for us and for the arrival of Fallon’s little brother this July.

*“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”* Ps 139:13-16

Poem on page 11...



Dearest Kent and Terri,

The Lord hath delivered a precious soul  
By His graciousness, mercy and love  
To forever live with Him in heaven  
In His beautiful home up above.

Here on earth we are not abandoned  
For God knows the love we prepared  
For the wonderful blessing He sent us  
By His precious Son's life that He shared.

Our comfort will come in just knowing  
In His infinite love and grace  
He has higher hopes for our baby  
Than the life we know here in this place.

Oh, how our hearts ache with longing  
To hold our baby in our arms  
But God is now caring for Fallon  
There is no cause for alarm.

And someday we'll be reunited  
Though today we wept and He heard  
We'll hold our sweet baby in heaven  
For He promised it's so in His Word.

We'll understand more when we see Him  
We only know now just a part  
But because of God's wonderful plan for us  
In time there'll be peace in our heart.

Love,  
Karen

♥ *Written by Karen Turner for  
Gene and Ruthie Turner at the time of their  
daughter Jamie's death on June 30, 1993.*

## Watching A Father's Grief

So often over the last six years, I've taken for granted my husband's grief. Selfishly, I have focused more on what Mother's Day means for me than what Father's Day means for him.

Each year, Jonathan has gone out of his way to ensure that Mother's Day is exactly what I do—or don't—want it to be. Even after all these years, he recently asked me if I was okay with being on vacation visiting family in California on Mother's Day rather than here where I can go to the cemetery.

Obviously, Mother's Day and Father's Day are difficult for both of us. After losing two children, I thought it couldn't get any worse. Then we unexpectedly lost Jon's father to a heart attack—two hours before Father's Day 2005.

Now my husband is not only grieving the two children he has in heaven, but also his father—the grandfather our subsequent daughter Madison would never get to meet. But his grief is so much different than mine! He's not a blubbering mess on Father's Day, as I so often have been on Mother's Day. He makes plans for big barbeques and family events; I want to be alone, and before Maddie came, I surely didn't want to be around any children.

After nearly 13 years of marriage, I can see the occasional far-off stare, and I'm certain that his thoughts are lingering on who's missing from the celebration. But his thoughts don't last long, and when I ask if there's something wrong or if he'd like to visit the cemetery where his father's buried, he simply says with a smile, "No, I'm doing okay. When are the brats going to be ready?"

It occurs to me that these differences in how Mother's Day and Father's Day affect men and women are not too different from every other day we are grieving. Men and women simply grieve in different ways, and these two holidays are just poignant reminders of that fact. Many times since we lost Caleb, August, and even Grandpa Raymond, I've seen my reactions and Jon's in such stark contrast to each other. I'm crying and then angry and then guilty. He's angry and then proactive and then humorous.

Whatever the differences, I've seen us both grow in our grief. We are taking those unique responses to our pain and loss and turning them into love and support for others who are walking this road behind us. Just last week I had a woman ask me, "Did Jon just get over this faster than you? My husband seemed to be okay after a few weeks, and I'm still a mess." I'm always clear to point out that while men and women grieve differently, none of us "get over this"—we "get through it." And yes, there seems to be a different timeline for men and women, but the Lord created us all with these characteristics and wants us to bring our pain to Him. He knows it already and can give us peace and contentment when we seek it.

♥ *Heather Fann,  
mommy to Caleb Scott and Baby August*

M.E.N.D. Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death  
 P.O. Box 1007, Coppell, TX 75019  
 USA  
 (972) 506-9000  
*Return Service Requested*

Nonprofit Organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Coppell, TX 75019  
 Permit No. 139

*"... 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](mailto: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](mailto:glmartin@attg.net).
- M.E.N.D. can now earn funds through **i.think inc.**, an online marketing research firm. You can help by signing up as a survey panel member and designating us as the recipient of your fee. 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 and Macaroni and Cheese**, owned by M.E.N.D. member Marilyn Brown, offers custom jewelry. Her keepsake angel bracelets are \$20 each, and ten percent of each angel bracelet sale will be donated to M.E.N.D. Marilyn can be reached at (817) 996-1920 or [msbrown16@hotmail.com](mailto:msbrown16@hotmail.com).
- **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](http://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](http://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](http://www.toptotoedesigns.com) that mentions our charity.