



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

Miscarriage/Ectopic Pregnancies

"A person is a person no matter how small." -Dr. Seuss

"A loss is a loss, is a loss, is a loss." This is a phrase I have repeated numerous times in the support groups I facilitate. I began using this mantra within the first few months of directing M.E.N.D., when a mom alluded during discussion that her loss, a stillbirth, was more significant than those who had lost their babies early in their pregnancies. Admittedly, though, as those words came out of my mouth month after month, I secretly questioned myself, "Rebekah, do you *really* mean that?"

When I began M.E.N.D. in 1996, I had only experienced the loss of my son Jonathan, who was born still because of a cord accident. Six years later I endured a miscarriage ten weeks into my third pregnancy. My visit to radiology at the hospital the day before my scheduled D&C for an additional sonogram opened my eyes to how very different a miscarriage is viewed versus a later loss.

My husband, Byron, and I arrived at the outpatient center to have the death of our tiny baby confirmed. I was extremely emotional, and the technician could clearly see how upset I was. Instead of sympathetically and quietly performing the procedure, he struck up a conversation with my husband while manipulating the sonogram probe inside my body, as if we were merely there for the fun of it. He asked Byron where his dental practice was located and where he enjoyed eating lunch every day. With tears streaming down my face, I glanced at the screen and once again saw my little lifeless baby. The tech, hardly saying a word to me, then picked up a phone and jovially requested that a radiologist come to the room to "confirm a fetal demise." The doctor came in, looked at the screen,

wrote something on my chart, then left. Never did he acknowledge my presence.

If there was anything positive to take away from that experience, it was that I could now relate to other families who endured a loss that society tends to minimize very much. As mothers, we fall in love with our babies the minute conception is confirmed, and sometimes even before if the pregnancy was planned in advance. However, when those dreams are crushed in a single second, we are expected to suck it up, move on, and "try again." Additionally, we are quoted statistics suggesting that most women experience a miscarriage, usually without their knowledge. I guess that is supposed to make us feel better.

Having experienced a stillbirth and a miscarriage, I have to admit that yes, the circumstances surrounding the two types of losses are very different. However, the outcome is exactly the same: a baby died. My second common phrase I say at our support groups and when speaking to medical professionals is, "A baby is a baby, is a baby, is a baby."

If the loss of your baby happened early in the pregnancy, you may think it is less significant than if you had suffered a stillbirth or neonatal death. Maybe you even feel silly for mourning a baby that you do not even know was a boy or girl. Perhaps you have been mentally begging people, *someone, anyone*, to affirm your sadness. Well here's your validation: a loss is a loss and a baby is a baby. And yes, I *really* do mean that.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell, M.E.N.D. President/
Founder
Mommy to Jonathan Daniel and Baby Mitchell*

Nota Español: El artículo de Rebekah Mitchell aparece en cada emisión de nuestro boletín para la audiencia latina. Para ver el artículo de este mes en español, por favor vea la página número 12.

Volume 17, Issue 4 • July/August 2011
© Copyright 2011 M.E.N.D.

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

jennifer@mend.org

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).

M.E.N.D. Board of Directors

Rebekah Mitchell

Byron Mitchell, D.D.S.

DaLana Barsanti

Christine Oxendine

Brittney Fish

Shannon Outen

Brandee Dill

Marilyn Brown

State Coordinators/Chapter Leaders

M.E.N.D.—Dallas: Rebekah Mitchell

M.E.N.D.—Houston: Jaimie Crump

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana: Monica Davis

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa: Michele Wilson

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri: Heather Fann

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station:

Jennie Drude

M.E.N.D.—Amarillo: Becky Anderson

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington: Susan Crow

M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs: Amy Humphries

Advisory Board

Yvette Grau, Melissa Stephens, Paula Shear, Liz Walker, and Amber Zuckerman

Medical Advisor

Gonzalo Venegas, M.D.

General Counsel

Dennis G. Brewer, Sr., Attorney at Law

Newsletter

Editor: Jennifer Harrison

Co-Editors: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell

Newsletter Volunteers:

Heather Fann,

Sharlene Libby, Melissa Stephens,

Brittney Fish and Sara Elliott

M.E.N.D. is a member of

First Candle/SIDS Alliance

International Stillbirth Alliance

Leadership Conference 2011

The 6th annual M.E.N.D. Leadership Conference was held in Irving, Texas, on April 8-9, at the home of Byron and Rebekah Mitchell. Each chapter director spent some individual time with Rebekah on Friday, followed by a Tex-Mex dinner, during which 50 leaders and volunteers from all nine M.E.N.D. chapters had the opportunity to meet, fellowship and share with one another. Saturday was packed with sessions to help better our ministry. Session topics included: the newsletter, our website, public relations, leading a support group and fundraising.



M.E.N.D. Board of Directors pictured clockwise from bottom: Byron Mitchell, DaLana Barsanti, Marilyn Brown, Brandee Dill, Christine Oxendine, Shannon Outen, Rebekah Mitchell.

Not pictured: Brittney Fish.

Book Review

Wonderfully Made

By Jaclyn M Olson

iUniverse

www.iuniverse.com

Wonderfully Made, written by Jaclyn Olson, tells of the journey the author and her husband, Brett, traveled while losing their daughter, Mariah. Halfway through Jaclyn's pregnancy, Mariah was given the fatal diagnosis of 7Q34 deletion. The Olsons chose to carry Mariah until God called her to heaven. Olson includes many of her Caring Bridge updates as she chronicles her pregnancy and emotions and details the days following Mariah's death. *Wonderfully Made* contains many scripture references and includes the strong faith the Olsons held on to during Mariah's short life in her mother's womb.

♥ Review by Rebekah Mitchell, M.E.N.D. President/Founder

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

If you would like to submit a review of books, music, websites or other resources dealing with infant loss, please email them to our newsletter editor

Jennifer Harrison at jennifer@mend.org.

Medical Moment



Option Given to Costly Drug for Pregnancy

By Andrew Zajac
McClatchy Newspapers
Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON, *March 31, 2011*—The Food and Drug Administration took the unusual step Wednesday of inviting pharmacies to make a legal end run around a St. Louis company that obtained agency approval for a pregnancy drug and promptly raised the price from \$20 per dose to \$1,500.

The drug, a synthetic form of progesterone trade-named Makena, is recommended for women at high risk of delivering prematurely. And the price increase by K-V Pharmaceutical Co. ignited a firestorm of objections from patients, political leaders and medical organizations.

Now the FDA has declared it will not take enforcement action against pharmacies that fill prescriptions for the drug by compounding their own versions instead of using the version marketed by K-V.

The problem arises from an unusual situation. Until early this year, women obtained the drug from so-called compounding pharmacies that produced it on a made-to-order basis.

Although custom-made for each patient, it had been priced at only about \$20 per dose.

Then in February, K-V was granted exclusive rights for seven years to make Makena, ending, at least in theory, the need for made-to-order versions.

But the company's pricing announcement, coupled with letters that K-V sent to pharmacies warning them of possible FDA enforcement action if they kept compounding the drug, aroused a strong pushback from several members of Congress, including Sens. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., as well as from patients and obstetrical and pediatric groups.

Responding to the public and political pressure, the FDA said it had no intention of blocking pharmacies from selling their own versions of Makena.

“In order to support access to this important drug, at this time and under this unique situation, FDA does not intend to take enforcement action against pharmacies that compound [Makena] based on a valid prescription,” the statement said.

In a statement after the FDA's announcement, K-V said it would do more to make the drug affordable, though it did not say it would lower the price.

Makena is administered in weekly injections, usually beginning at 16 to 18 weeks into a pregnancy and continuing until 36 weeks.

K-V's pricing increased the cost of the drug to \$30,000 from about \$400 for that period.

September/October Topic

Heavenly Birthday Traditions

Deadline: July 31, 2011

November/December Topic

Holidays

Deadline: September 30, 2011

Stories, poems, thoughts, and/or feelings regarding these topics are welcomed. Submissions must be received by the deadline to be considered for publication in the newsletter. Unfortunately, there is not enough room to include all submissions. Choices will be left to the discretion of the editors. Please see page two of the newsletter for the appropriate address to send your submissions. Any submission printed in our newsletter will also be posted to our website indefinitely unless we receive notice in writing that you are only granting permission for your submission to appear in the printed version of the newsletter.

Reprint Policy:

Articles printed in the M.E.N.D. newsletter are copyrighted by M.E.N.D. and/or by the individual authors of certain articles. Articles may not be reprinted without permission from the editor, Jennifer Harrison, or president, Rebekah Mitchell. The newsletter may be reproduced for the purpose of providing it to pregnancy loss support group members or other bereaved families so that they may also have access to the information. The material may not be reproduced in any way, shape or form for profit. Some authors of articles included in the newsletter may carry their own copyright and their articles may only be reprinted with permission from the author.

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

Visit our Web site at:
www.mend.org



Birthday Tributes

Happy 7th Birthday, August!

I can't believe it's been seven years! The day is so clear in my memory: I remember your Daddy reading Psalm 27 in the car before we went in and found out you were gone. Your tiny life made such a huge impact on who your Daddy and I have become. We will miss you until we see your smiling face in heaven! Give your big brother a hug from us and your little sister.

Love,
Daddy, Mommy and Maddie

August Fann

August 13, 2004

Miscarried (8 weeks)

Also remembering Caleb Scott Fann

December 1, 2003

PROM

Parents: Jonathan and Heather Fann

Sibling: Madison Grace



Happy 1st Birthday, Annaya!

My angel baby, my butterfly kiss, who was born on my birthday whom I will always miss.

Love,
Mommy

Annaya Marie Edwards

August 27, 2010

Unknown Cause

Parents: Antoine and Nneka Edwards

Siblings: Travis, Antoine Jr., Jelani, and Symone



Happy 1st Birthday, Madison!

It's hard to believe you are turning one, and we know you will have a wonderful birthday in heaven! We love and miss you so much!! We feel very blessed to have you as our daughter and think of you every day. Can't wait to hold you in heaven, baby girl!

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

Madison Rose Balliette

July 14, 2010

Stillborn—Down Syndrome—Cord Accident

Parents: Michael and Megan Balliette



Happy 4th Birthday, Callie!

I can't believe it has been four years since we held you. I wonder what kind of birthday you are having in heaven today? We miss you so much and wish you were here with us. We love you, baby girl!

Callie Grace Hart

June 29, 2007

Unknown Cause

Parents: Matt and Mindy Hart

Siblings: Corban and Ellie



Happy 11th Birthday, Tiffany!

Tiffany fought hard during a difficult pregnancy and passed at 38 weeks in utero. She was born a beautiful girl.

Tiffany Ann Ritter

April 23, 1990

Stillbirth

Parent: Angela Carlotta

Siblings: Kayla Ritter, Cody Ritter

and Joel Carlotta



Happy 1st Birthday, Kason!

Happy Birthday to our angel up above. We love and miss you terribly.

Kason Clifton

August 4, 2010

Unknown Cause

Parents: Tricia and Trey Clifton

Sibling: Asher



Happy 1st Birthday, Jason!

Happy 1st birthday to our sweet son!

We wish we could hold you every moment of every day and can't wait to see you in heaven. We miss you and love you. May your legacy live on.

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

Jason Michael Murphy

July 29, 2010

Unknown Cause

Parents: Michael and Diana Murphy



Happy 4th Birthday, Gabby!

Kiss the stars
and pray to God
Lift your head
No shakes no nod
From heaven's gate
Light will shine
And you my angel
Will forever be mine

Happy 4th birthday in heaven, Gabby. We remember you now and always. We love you so much.

Love always,
Mom and Dad

Gabriella Garcia
July 3, 2007

Miscarriage, Unknown Cause
Parents: Adam and Alex Garcia
Siblings: Kylie, Adayna, and AJ



Happy 7th Birthday, Zachary!

Mommy's little boy. I miss you so much every day. You are still my heartbeat.

Zachary Paul
August 7, 2004
Unknown Cause
Parent: Carrie Higgs



Happy 1st Birthday, Luke!

Dear Luke,

I know that you know how much I love you and how there isn't a day that goes by without me thinking of you and Hope. It is hard to see time go by so fast, because I wish I could still hear your heartbeat, hold you in my arms and smell your little self one last time. You have changed our lives forever, and forever you will be missed until I meet you up in heaven and hold your hand again. Daddy and I love you so much and cannot wait to see your face, our little man.

Mom and Dad

Luke Noe Johnson
July 26, 2010
Preterm Labor
Also remembering Jude Hope Johnson
Miscarried October 30, 2009
Parents: James and Merle Johnson



Happy 1st Birthday, Caelan!

Our Dearest Caelan,

We can't believe how quickly a year has passed. We think about you every day and try to hold you in our hearts. You are so handsome, and we look forward to holding you again one day in heaven. You are our firstborn son. We miss you so much. We love you with all of our hearts.

Love,
Dad and Mom

Caelan Matthew Wallace
July 30, 2010—August 3, 2010
Early Birth
Parents: Andy and Dana Wallace



Happy 5th Birthday, Livi!

Livi,

Five years old! We can't believe it has been five years since you went straight into the arms of Jesus. We know that you are well cared for, but we miss you dearly. One glorious day we will join you and get to be at your birthday party. But until then please accept these five kisses from your family. *****

You are a jewel like no other and forever our special
Baby Girl.
We love you,

Mommy, Daddy, Jaxson and Jaylynn Walker

Alivia Elizabeth-Grace Walker
July 24, 2006
Incompetent Cervix
Parents: Robert and Liz Walker
Siblings: Jaylynn and Jaxson Walker



Happy 7th Birthday, Jordyn!

To our sweet little angel, not a day goes by that we don't think about you. We will celebrate your precious life forever.

We love you always and forever,
Mommy, Daddy and Jada

Jordyn Lanae Johnson
July 13, 2004
Umbilical Cord Problems
Parents: Bruce and Debra Johnson
Siblings: Jada and soon-to-be baby brother



Happy 8th Birthday, Jonah Ky!

Jonah Ky, you are mommy's precious ANGEL baby, and I love you and miss you so much! I can't wait till one day we meet again! I am envious of how STRONG and COURAGOUS you were! Such a fighter trapped in that tiny body! I love you, Jonah Ky!

Jonah Ky Provine
May 29—August 28, 2003
Rare Chromosomal Birth Defects
Parent: Desa Marquez
Siblings: Kress O'Neal Provine, Kenzie Rae Provine,
and Kaemon Droan Marquez



Happy 3rd Birthday, Noah!

Not a day goes by that we don't mention your name and miss you with all our hearts. You had a greater purpose than to stay on this Earth, and we hope your 3rd birthday in heaven is spent shining down upon your twin sister. We love you, Noah!

Noah Powell
July 22, 2008
Stillbirth Due to Umbilical Cord Accident
Parents: Nate and Barb Powell
Siblings: Twin Sister Julia and Little Sister Sydney



Happy 1st Birthday, Christian!

We cannot believe you have already spent your first year with Jesus. How exciting it must have been to open your eyes for the first time and be looking into His face! We know we will see you again—our only hope is in Him. Our hearts are heavy and you are always in our thoughts. We have already seen blessings of your short earthly life!

We love you precious boy,
 Mommy, Daddy and big brother Michael

Christian Graham Wells
July 11, 2010
Stillbirth - Unknown Cause
Parents: Glen and Mitzi Wells
Sibling: Big Brother Michael



Happy 1st Birthday, Henry!

Gone too soon.

Henry Dean Hays
August 21, 2010
Infection in Kidneys
Parents: Jeff and Jennifer Hays
Sibling: John Joseph Hays



Happy 1st Birthday, Henry and Sam!

To Our Sweet Angel Babies,

We love you and miss you very much! We can't believe it has already been a year. You taught us so much in your short time here with us. We know you are having a fun time running around together and playing ball in heaven. We can't wait to hug you again! Happy heavenly birthday!

We love you very much!
 Mommy and Daddy

Henry Franklin Forrest
July 24—25, 2010
Samuel Michael Forrest
July 24—August 8, 2010
Premature Birth, Unknown Cause
Parents: Peter and Julie Forrest
Sibling: Jack, due August 7, 2011



Happy 5th Birthday, Theo!

Dearest Baby Boy,

You are five years old! It has been five years, and I like to think that the pain has lessened because time has healed my wounds, my pain has made me stronger, and that everything happens for a reason.

But the simple truth is that the intensity with which I love and miss you has not diminished one bit. While my heart continues to ache in your absence, I can truly confess that my comfort comes from knowing that you are with the Lord and that I think of you whenever I see God's beautiful creations. And I know that you are one of them. Happy birthday, sweet boy.

Love
 Mommy, Daddy, Ysabel, and your entire family

Theo Fleurima Shannon
August 10, 2006
Stroke
Parents: Ted and Geri Shannon
Sibling: Ysabel



Happy 1st Birthday, Natalie Elizabeth!

To our Angel, Natalie Elizabeth,

Mommy, Daddy and Bubba, Joshua, think about you every day. We miss and love you very much. We know we will get to see you again someday. Some souls were just meant to fly!!!

Natalie Elizabeth Ballard
August 12, 2010
Placental Abruption
Parents: Mike and Elizabeth Ballard
Sibling: Joshua Ballard



Happy 1st Birthday, Casey Dean!

Dear Casey Dean,

Happy 1st birthday!! We can't believe it has been a year since you came into our lives. Time has gone by really fast. This has been a bittersweet year in which not a day goes by that we do not remember and miss you with all our hearts. We hope you have a wonderful birthday in heaven with God and your sister Rachel. Take care of each other and trust in the Lord that we will all be together some day in Paradise.

Love you forever, baby boy,
Your Mommy, Daddy and big brother Jacob

Casey Dean Boche

August 7, 2010

Incompetent Cervix

Also remembering Rachel Ann Boche

October 29, 2009

Incompetent Cervix

Parents: Shirley Starr and Gary Boche

Sibling: Jacob Boche



Happy 1st Birthday, Emmie!

How we wish you could be here to blow out your candle. I am sure your big sisters would have helped you!!! Mommy and Daddy miss you every hour of every day. Please hold your little brother tight!

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

Emmaline ila Legg

July 29, 2010

Full-term Placental Abruptio

Also remembering Baby "M" Legg

April 13, 2011

Miscarriage (13 weeks)

Legg Babies: 1999 and 2009

Parents: Jimmy and Ami Legg

Siblings: Mckinley and Madeline



Happy 8th Birthday, Abby!

We love you and miss you!
Daddy, Mommy, Cami, and Karli

Abigail Grace Crump

Stillborn July 1, 2003

Trisomy 18

Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump

Siblings: Little sisters Cami and Karli



Happy 2nd Birthday, Ainsley Kate & Averi Caroline!

We look forward to the day we will see our little angels again. We love you so much.

Ainsley Kate Tichenor

Averi Caroline Tichenor

July 24, 2009

Miscarriage (22 Weeks)

Parents: John and Angela Tichenor

Siblings: Clair, John Ryan, and Hayden



Happy 1st Birthday, Jonathan!

How can we miss someone we never met?
The smiles, the sounds, the hugs we didn't get.

We can't believe it's been a year,
Since we found out you wouldn't stay here.

We'd like to sing you "Happy Birthday,"
But unfortunately we have to do it this way.
Happy birthday to you, you would have been one,
Your family really loves you, and misses you a ton!

Happy 1st birthday!

Love,
Daddy, Mommy, Laura, and Jackson

Jonathan Eli Moore

August 23, 2010

Cystic Hygroma

Parents: Phillip and Michelle Moore

Siblings: Laura and Jackson



Happy 1st Birthday, Bryston & Colton!

"A family is a circle of love, not broken by loss but made stronger by the memories." We remember. Forever loved and forever missed. Forever our boys. We carry you both in our hearts until the day comes when we will see you again. Fly high, our sweet angels.

Bryston and Colton Cortez

August 15, 2010 (born and passed a few hours later)

Prematurity

Parents: Shawn and Trena Cortez

Siblings: Tianna and Aubrianna Cortez



Happy 1st Birthday, Hope and Faith!

My darling beautiful Apple and Blueberry,

A year has gone by since you were born into spiritual perfection, yet not a day goes by where we don't ache for you tremendously. It's impossible to imagine how two tiny and precious lives could make such a huge impact on the army of people who have supported us this past year, but you have blessed so many with your fighting spirits. While our pain seems insurmountable, we know our love for you will guide us through.

Thank you for all the comforting signs over the past year; we look forward to little reminders that you are still with us. Thank you for watching over your big sister. She is so proud to know that her sisters are special angels, and she has the sweetest stories of what you two are doing up there, but she still misses you so very much (She wants me to tell y'all to "Stay out of trouble, but have lots of fun! I love you!"). We find peace in knowing that we will be reunited again, and until then, you are always with us. We are so proud to be your family. Happy Angelversary, my darling, sweet ,precious little girls.

Love you forever,
Mama & Daddy

Hope and Faith Barrientos

July 7, 2010

Premature Birth

Also remembering Baby Barrientos

March 2001

Parents: David and Priscilla Barrientos

Sibling: Violet



Happy 1st Birthday, Munchkin!

We love you and will never forget you, Munchkin! We are so glad you can sit in the heavenly Father's lap. We can't wait to see you and hold you one day!

Munchkin Cannaday

August 31, 2010

Miscarriage

Parents: Dan and Elisia Cannaday



Happy 1st Birthday, Paityn!

Happy birthday to our angel baby!
You are forever in your hearts!
We love you!

Paityn Shea Rogers

August 10, 2010

Stillborn

Parents: Tyler and Jessica Rogers



Happy 2nd Birthday, Leigha!

I can't believe it has been over a year since you left us, baby girl. We love and miss you so much. We think of you each and every day as if you were here with us. Keep watching over Mommy and Daddy! We love you!

Leigha Marie Jefferson

August 18, 2010

Trisomy 18

Parents: Tara Anderson and Gregory Jefferson



Happy 1st Birthday, Oz!

Oz - our sweet boy. You fought so hard that day. What an amazing gift God gave to us - those ten precious hours we spent with you...we love you and miss you every day. We see the beautiful gifts you send us from heaven. Thank you for all that you have and continue to teach us.

Mommy and Daddy

Osmund "Oz" Kidd-Ward

July 21, 2010

Diaphragmatic Hernia

Parents: Kendrah Kidd and Chris Ward



Happy 5th Birthday, Brydon!

Mommy's little bubble maker... I miss you, son. Every day. Please show your sister her way around heaven. I love you the both of you so much.

Until we are together again.

Love,
Mommy

Brydon Taylor Aitken

July 25—August 14, 2006

Barnes Syndrome

Also remembering Annabella Grace Aitken

April 18, 2010

Barnes Syndrome

Parents: Truett and Monica Aitken

Siblings: Jenny, JT, Jacob, Addie ,and AnnaBella



Happy 1st Birthday, Londyn!

Our baby girl was taken too early,
but not before we fell in love with her.

Londyn Isabelle Schmitter

August 24, 2010

Fetal Demise

Parents: Kurt Schmitter and Amber Howard

Siblings: Tyce and Chloe Rogers



Happy 5th Birthday, Ryan!

R.I.P. Ryan Marcel Brown 8-25-06
I never knew I could love so much,
until the day I felt your touch.

I softly kissed your cheeks

And from under your lashes I saw you peek.

Your beautiful eyes, so small and green.

My sweet little baby, just brand new to the world.

It hurt so much when I lost you

My son, My love, My little joy.

I will never get to see you grow up and shine

Because God has taken you from me.

I promise I will never forget you

And there'll always be a place in my heart for you.

Even though I only got to spend 18 hours with you,

I still can feel your pitter patter in my belly.

My eyes fill with tears every time I look at your pictures

Because I miss you so much.

You brought me joy,

Every time that I looked at you.

All the things that you did,

Brought a smile to my face.

I was so glad when God gave me you,

But I was upset when He took you away from me so quick.

It broke my heart and I took the blame.

One day when my time has come,

We'll be together again.

I'll always love you -Mommy (Jami)

Written in loving memory of Ryan Marcel Brown

Ryan Marcel Brown, born August 25, 2006,
weighing 11lb. 4oz. 12' 1/2" long.

Died August 26, 2006, at Toledo Children's Hospital.

Ryan was born at 5 months, 28 days
gestation, and lived for 19 hours.

His expected life expectancy was 1-3
hours with a 9% chance of survival.

R.I.P. Ryan, We will always love you and
never forget our short time with you!!!

Mommy, Kaden, & Keira

Ryan Marcel Brown
August 25—26, 2006

Pre-term Delivery

Parent: Jami Brown

Siblings: Kaden Erickson and Keira Brown



Happy 1st Birthday, Julia!

Our precious little Angel,
We will always know your face.
In our hearts and stars forever,
You will always have a place.

Julia Madisyn

July 25, 2010

Cord Accident

Parents: Joe and Kristina DeLaVega

Sibling: Jakeb



Happy 1st Birthday, Grady!

For my precious Angel,

You were only with us for a short time, but you touched all
of us deeply. You will be loved and missed forever, my
sweet boy.

Grady Wayne Herman-Dh

July 1—13, 2010

Cardiac Arrest

Parents: Jason and Rebecca Herman

Sibling: Jason



Happy 1st Birthday, Jackson!

Wow, we can hardly believe that it has been a year since
you slipped away. We miss you and think about you
always. As your due date passed, it was hard, knowing that
we could not hold you. We cried as we thought of all the
“what ifs” and “might have beens.” We know we won't get
to see your first tooth, your first steps or hear your first
words, but we know that your firsts were far more than we
could ever imagine. You were the first to enter into the
kingdom of heaven and into the waiting arms of Jesus. You
were the first to hear the angels sing as you received your
wings. Your sister and brother will grow up knowing you,
and you will always and forever be a part of our family.
We know that we will all be together again, and that brings
us peace. Happy heavenly birthday, little man!

We love so much,

Mommy, Daddy, Sissy and Bubba

Jackson Charles Sikes

August 12, 2010

Unknown

Parents: Amanda and Scott Sikes

Siblings: Madison and Matthew



A Hard Lesson Learned

In 2003, I became the “pregnancy trailblazer” among my friends. Pregnant with my first child, I knew my risk for miscarriage was high, so I read a lot of books and did a lot of web-surfing, researching every little ache and pain. I was extremely fearful when I experienced spotting from weeks 6 to 13. At week 14, I breathed a sigh of relief. I was through my first trimester. My bleeding had stopped. I thought I was free and clear. Sadly, my first pregnancy resulted in the stillbirth of my son, David. After his death, I became much more aware of the issue of pregnancy loss and the pain and heartache that it brings.

In total, my husband, Rob, and I have suffered through more eight years of infertility. We are thankful beyond words that God blessed us with our miracle baby, C.J., in 2005, but after years of more failed fertility treatments, Rob and I decided it was time to move on with our lives. Believing it was all but impossible for me to get pregnant, we were shocked to experience three subsequent pregnancies. In 2008, my first surprise pregnancy nearly killed me. Never guessing I could be pregnant, I went through my entire first trimester with my precious baby growing in my fallopian tube. My doctor saved my life, but my tube ruptured. Seven months after that loss, I experienced a miscarriage. Again, the pregnancy was a surprise, and we never learned how far along I was. Thirteen months later, we lost our last baby to another ectopic pregnancy. This little life was detected early, but my second tube was lost to the pregnancy and endometriosis.

I am ashamed to admit it now, but until recent years, I did not really consider ectopic pregnancies to be “real” pregnancies. I was sensitive to the pain and heartache that a miscarriage could bring. And during those early months of my first pregnancy, I had read about ectopic pregnancies. Everything I read, though, was so focused on the medical dangers for the mother, I do not think I fully understood that those pregnancies represented the real life of a baby and the hopes and joys of that baby’s family just like any other pregnancy.

Years ago, in those first weeks after David’s stillbirth, a well-meaning family member commented to me, “Why couldn’t you have just miscarried?” The statement jarred me. “Just miscarried?” I was taken aback, not only because I had seen first-hand through other M.E.N.D. members the suffering that a miscarriage brings, but I was also horrified by the thought of losing my David sooner than I had. Was this person trying to say that I would have been better off if I had never seen his precious heartbeat? Better off never knowing the joys of shopping for maternity clothes and taking pictures of my swelling belly? Better off not given the chance to discuss baby names? Better off not knowing of the miracle of feeling him move inside of me, finding out our firstborn would be a boy, buying those first baby gifts? Consider the case of a mother who has buried her teenage daughter. Would it ever cross a person’s mind to ask, “Why couldn’t she just have died as a baby?” Heavens, no! The loss of a child at any age is tragic, and we should rejoice in every moment we are given with our children. As the mother of a five year old, I treasure every single day my son is in my life. Why should the days we carry our babies inside of us be considered any different?

Of course, I understand what that particular family member was trying to say. She felt that the pain I was experiencing would be somehow lesser had I lost my son earlier in my pregnancy. And I would be lying if I said the sorrow I felt with my early pregnancy losses was as intense as the grief I experienced when David died six months into my pregnancy. However, I could simply never wish away a single day that I had with him. Feeling him grow and move inside of me is still one of the most treasured experiences of my life. My grief for my last three babies was different, yes. But part of my grief is that I never heard their beautiful heartbeats. I never got to feel them move inside of me. I never even got to know if they were boys or girls. I never got to hold them in my arms. I have no pictures. I have no grave to visit. I grieve that I

Continued on page 12

In Loving Memory



Logan James Brewer

December 18—22, 2006

Prematurity

Given by parents David and Heather Brewer and little brother Landon

Abigail Grace Crump

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 Rob and Cheryl Davis and little sister Annalise

Kyler Paul English

Stillborn January 20, 2006

Cord Accident

Parents: Bob English and Laurie McPike
Given by Jon and Laurie McPike and brothers Kinser, Kelson, and Kayden

Caleb Scott Fann

December 1, 2003

PROM

Baby August Fann

Miscarried August 14, 2004

Parents: Jonathan and Heather Fann

Little sister: Madison Grace

Gifts given by:

Lloyd and Bessie Marshall

Chris and Rebecca Bolick

Logan Wayne Fish

September 17, 2001

Skeletal Dysplasia

Given by parents Brittney and David Fish and brothers Landry and Hudson

Cambron Edward Fisk

Stillborn June 28, 2010

Cord Accident

Given by parents Meredith and Darren Fisk

Michael Garabedian, Jr.

Stillborn February 2, 1998

Cord Accident / Velamentous Cord Insertion

Adam Michael Garabedian

Stillborn July 25, 2001

Given by parents

Mike and Cindy Garabedian and siblings Victoria, Elizabeth, and Catherine

Baby Henderson I

Miscarried August 2008

Baby Henderson II

Miscarried March 2008

Given by parents Collin and Leah Henderson and siblings Victoria, Kelly, and Riley

Carson Lewis Humphries

March 23, 2009

Trisomy 9

Parents: Amy and J.J. Humphries

Big sister: Sarah Jessica

Gifts given by:

Kellie Glisson

Grandparents Jerry and Pat Humphries

Grandparents Joe and Donna Yancey

Uncles and aunts Travis and Sarah

Biggs, Brian and Jessica McDonald

and cousin Avery Jo

Hope Johnson

Miscarried October 30, 2009

Luke Johnson

Stillborn July 26, 2010

Unknown Cause

Given by parents Merle and James Johnson

Danielle Jones

Miscarried April 13, 2009

Vanishing Twin Syndrome

Sophia Jones

Stillborn May 26, 2009

Placental Abruption

Given by parents Brian and Krista Jones and little sister Madison (adopted August 6, 2010)

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995

Cord Accident

Baby Mitchell

Miscarried December 2001

Gifts given by:

Parents Byron and Rebekah Mitchell

Big brother: Byron, Jr.

Grandparents Dennis and Sue Brewer

Carter Patrick Outen

Stillborn November 6, 2000

Baby Outen I

Miscarried April 3, 2001

Baby Outen II

Miscarried October 5, 2001

Gifts given by:

Parents Chris and Shannon Outen

Little sisters Erin and Charlie

Lauren Graves

Alexis Leigh and Nicole Leigh Rudeen

Stillborn March 11, 2002

Unknown Cause

Given by parents Sherri and Randy Rudeen and siblings Julie, Sara, Jordyn Leigh, and Sydney Leigh

Morgan Shear

Miscarried March 28, 2006

Given by parents Paula and Nobel Shear and big brother Isaac

Elizabeth Mai Nettles Schockmel

Stillborn May 13, 2002

Intrahepatic Cholestasis

Baby "D"

Miscarried March 2, 2008

Parents: Karen Nettles and Nate Schockmel

Siblings: Alexandra, Benton, and Catherine

Given by grandparents

David and Connie Stone

Elliot Skaggs

April 28, 2008

Multicystic Kidney

Baby Skaggs

Miscarried December 11, 2006

Parents: Sara and Brandon Skaggs

Siblings: Sydney and Brady

Given by Becky Skaggs

Mindy and Maggie Smith

Stillborn November 4, 1997

Twin to Twin Transfusion

Syndrome / Polyhydramnios

Given by parents Scott and Karla Smith

and siblings Travis and Julia

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!

Continued on page 13

Abortos involuntarios y embarazos ectópicos

“Una pérdida es una pérdida, es una pérdida, es una pérdida” Esta es la frase que yo siempre repetía numerosas veces en los grupos de apoyo en los cuales yo he participado, yo he usado esta mantra desde los primeros meses cuando empecé a dirigir MEND, cuando de repente una madre aludió durante una discusión acerca de su pérdida, una muerte fetal, diciendo que está perdida es más significativa que para aquellos que habían perdido a sus bebés en una etapa temprana de sus embarazos, sin embargo mientras yo repetía esas palabras mes tras mes, me preguntaba a mi misma: Rebekah, crees realmente en lo que estas diciendo???

Cuando empecé a trabajar en M.E.N.D. en 1996, sólo tenía la experiencia de la pérdida de mi hijo Jonathan, que nació aún mortinato debido a un accidente con el cordón umbilical, seis años después tuve un aborto involuntario a las diez semanas de mi tercer embarazo. Pero mi visita a la oficina de radiología para otro sonograma en el hospital, el día antes de mi legrado programado, abrió mis ojos sobre la manera diferente, en como se observa un aborto involuntario temprano en el embarazo, en comparación a una pérdida más tarde durante el mismo.

Mi esposo, Byron y yo, llegamos al hospital para que nos confirmaran la muerte de nuestro pequeño bebe. Yo estaba extremadamente mal y el técnico se pudo dar cuenta de mi estado. A pesar de esto en vez de estar callado y haciendo el procedimiento de una manera tranquila, el empezó a tener una conversación con mi esposo mientras manipulaba la sonda ecográfica dentro de mi cuerpo, como si estuviéramos ahí simplemente por diversión, el continuo su conversación preguntándole a Byron donde estaba su clínica dental y donde almorzaba todos los días.....con lagrimas cayendo sobre mi cara, mire la pantalla viendo por última vez a mi bebe ya sin vida dentro de mi vientre, el técnico casi sin decirme ni una sola palabra, levanto el teléfono llamando a un radiólogo para que llegara al cuarto a “confirmar una muerte fetal”: El doctor entro, miro la pantalla y

escribió algo en mi ficha y se marchó. Tristemente nunca se percató de mi presencia.

Si hubiera algo positivo que sacar de esta experiencia, sería que ahora puedo relacionarme y puedo entender a otras familias que han sufrido una pérdida de esta naturaleza, que la sociedad tiende a minimizar bastante. Como madres, nos enamoramos de nuestros bebés desde el momento en que nos confirman la concepción y a veces incluso antes si el embarazo fue planeado con anticipación. Entonces cuando los sueños son derrumbados en un solo segundo, se espera que nosotros lo entendamos, sigamos adelante e intentemos quedar embarazadas otra vez. Además, nos dicen las estadísticas que la mayoría de las mujeres que experimentan un aborto, generalmente no se dan cuenta. Supongo que creen que esa información nos debe hacer sentir mejor.

Después de haber experimentado un embarazo mortinato y un aborto involuntario, tengo que admitir que, sí, las dos circunstancias de las pérdidas son muy diferentes. Sin embargo, el resultado es exactamente el mismo: un bebé murió. Mi segunda frase común que repito en nuestros grupos de apoyo y cuando doy pláticas a profesionales médicos es, "un bebé es un bebé, es un bebé, es un bebé".

Si la pérdida de su bebé ocurrió temprano en el embarazo, usted pensara que es menos significativa que si usted hubiera sufrido un aborto o muerte neonatal. Tal vez se sienta rara lamentando a un bebé que no sabía aún si era un niño o niña. Quizás usted mentalmente ha estado pidiéndole a la gente, alguna persona, cualquier persona, que afirme y comparta su tristeza. Pues bien aquí está su confirmación: una pérdida es una pérdida y un bebé es un bebé. Y desde lo más profundo de mi corazón se lo digo sinceramente hoy.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell, Presidente y Fundadora
Mamá de Jonathan Daniel y Mitchell bebé Mitchell*

*“A Hard Lesson Learned”
...continued from page 10*

did not get to know them in the way that I knew David. The grief is different, but it is no less real than the babies themselves were real.

In my first five years of involvement with M.E.N.D., I often lamented that I couldn't fully relate to the women who were there grieving early pregnancy loss. I wondered if they thought I was fit to speak comfort and truth into their lives. I feared that they may not know that I valued their babies' lives and their grief as much as I valued my own. Little did I know what my future held. Had I known I would lose three more babies, the thought

would have been unbearable. Is this the path I would have chosen for myself? Certainly not! But as I share my journey with others, I am so pleased that God has seen fit to expand His ministry through me. I am so thankful that He can use me more fully in the lives of families who have experienced early loss through miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy. He is a good God. I am blessed to be a tool in His hands. And His grace is sufficient.

♥ *Melissa Stephens,
Mommy to David Atkins Stephens,
Baby Stephens I,
Baby Stephens II and
Baby Stephens III*

In Loving Memory*Continued from page 11****Mercedes Ruth Spigener***

Stillborn September 21, 1995

Intramembranous Insertion
of Umbilical Cord***Twin Blossoms Spigener***

Miscarried July 1996 and August 1996

Baby Spigener

Miscarried February 2004

Parents: Grant and Jana Spigener

Siblings: Wyatt, Ford, Porter, Calvin,
and Sadie

Given by grandparents

Barry and Sheryl Spigener

David Atkins Stephens

October 23, 2003

MTHFR Mutation

Baby Stephens I

June 30, 2008

Ectopic Pregnancy

Baby Stephens II

January 2009

MTHFR Mutation

Baby Stephens III

February 15, 2010

Ectopic Pregnancy

Gifts given by:

Parents Rob and Melissa Stephens

Brother C.J.

Grandparents Ron and Vicki McNalley

Alivia Elizabeth Grace Walker

Stillborn July 24, 2006

Incompetent Cervix

Given by parents Robert and Liz Walker
and little brother Jaxson***Caelan Matthew Wallace***

July 30—August 3, 2010

Early Birth

Given by parents Andy and Dana Wallace

Adrian Joseph "AJ" Zuckerman

Stillborn Mary 30, 2007

Cord Accident

Given by parents Amber and Al Zuckerman
and brothers Eli and Alex***Gifts of Support***

Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

West Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, TX

EventNext

McKinney Fellowship Bible Church,

McKinney, TX

Obstetrics & Gynecology, Silverdale, WA

Metropolitan Baptist Church, Houston, TX

Legacy Giving

Losing a child has changed each of our lives forever. We appreciate all financial support of the services our organization gives to bereaved parents—no matter the size of the contribution. However, some of you may have the capacity and desire to give a lifelong gift to M.E.N.D.

If you're interested in creating a legacy gift or endowment in honor of your baby, M.E.N.D. would be happy to assist you in gathering the necessary information to remember our organization in your will or trust. For more information about legacy giving, please contact Rebekah Mitchell at rebekah@mend.org.

Artist's Corner***Malen, Grandpa Norton and Jesus***

By Kristy Snell

Becky Anderson had this dream right before she received the call that Grandpa Norton had passed away. Kristy Snell was able to portray Grandpa Norton holding Baby Malen.

♥ Submitted by Becky Anderson,
Mommy to Malen Anderson
Stillborn February 4, 2008
Possible heart attack

If you have artwork in memory of your baby and would like it to be published in a M.E.N.D. newsletter, please send it to jennifer@mend.org.



M.E.N.D.

*Chapter Corner*Chapter Meeting Information**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.—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.—Tulsa

Meets the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Canyon Crossing

1651 E Old North Rd.

Sand Springs, Oklahoma 74063

Director: Michele Wilson

michele@mend.org, (918) 694-4325 (HEAL)

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

Meets the 1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Project H.O.P.E.

1419 S. Enterprise

Springfield, Missouri 65804

Director: Heather Fann

heather@mend.org, (417) 818-0489

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station

Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Hawthorn Suites

1010 University Drive East

College Station, Texas 77840

Director: Jennie Drude

jennie@mend.org, (979) 220-7851

M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates*Houston*

We are looking forward to our Walk to Remember on October 1 at a new location, Champion Forest Baptist Church. If you have any questions or would like to receive an invitation, please email jaimie@mend.org. We invite everyone in the surrounding Houston area who has lost a baby to attend this special event.

*Jaimie Crump**Texarkana*

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana recently had our multi-family sale in which we raised more than \$1,400. A huge thank you to Laura Aguilar, Tania Greer, Shawn Davis, Randy and Toni Sherman, and Dawn and Zac Kennedy for making the sale a huge success. Also, a special thank you to everyone who donated gifts of support or items for the sale and to First Baptist Church, Nash, for allowing the use of the parking lot for the day.

*Monica Davis**Tulsa*

Special thanks to Lisa Daily and Sara Hintz for filling in at group in my absence and for participating in this year's letter campaign fundraiser! M.E.N.D.—Tulsa would not function without the passion of people like you.

*Michele Wilson**SW Missouri*

M.E.N.D.—Southwest Missouri continues to grow closer as a group each month. We were able to minister to a new M.E.N.D. family as they anticipated the birth of their twins as well as the terminal diagnosis of their son. I was proud of our members uniting around these grieving parents and the sister left behind as we mourned together at the funeral. It's encouraging as a director to see such courage as members faced the memories of their own losses while serving others. We have hosted two fundraisers this year and are considering another in December, as well as starting plans for our Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on Thursday, December 8. For more information about our chapter, email me at heather@mend.org.

*Heather Fann**Bryan/College Station*

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station is growing every month! I want to thank Sandy, Meredith, Ashlea, Justin, Melody and LaRhessa for helping out with our future fundraiser. We are so thankful for all God is doing for our chapter!

*Jennie Drude**Amarillo*

I would like to thank all of my assistants and volunteers for their hard work with our Bunco for Babies Fundraiser. We would also like to thank First Nazarene Church of Amarillo for letting us use their facility for the event and Amarillo Junior League for the grant they gave to us! With that we were able to purchase new books, brochures and care bags. Thank you First Nazarene Church and Amarillo Junior League!

Becky Anderson

NW Washington

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington continues to have good attendance at our monthly meetings. We have started our quilt fundraiser and will be selling squares for the next several months. We want to thank the following for recent donations: Dr. Jorge Zapata, Dr. Anita McIntyre, Dr. Kathy Hebard, Dr. Jenifer Quimby, Dr. Mike Worth and Dr. Asha Kumani. We are looking forward to our first Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on December 12, 2011.

Susan Crow

Hot Springs

M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs is thankful to be up and running and reaching out to several families who have recently lost. We would like to thank National Park Medical Center for funding our start-up costs. Our local paper, the Hot Springs Sentinel Record, ran a front page article on M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs! We are hoping this helps push our name into the community.

Amy Humphries

M.E.N.D.—Amarillo

Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
First United Bank of the Colonies
(Lonestar Room)
One First United Bank Parkway
45th and Soney
Amarillo, Texas
Director: Becky Anderson
becky@mend.org, (806) 570-4344

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington

Meets the 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Harrison Medical Center
(Iris Room)
1800 Myhre Rd.
Silverdale, Washington
Director: Susan Crow
susan@mend.org, (360) 516-8617

M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs, Arkansas

Director: Amy Humphries
amy@mend.org, (501) 620-9930

*Looking Ahead**October 1*

- Walk To Remember in Irving, TX
- Walk To Remember in Houston, TX

December 3

- M.E.N.D.—Houston, TX

Christmas Ceremony

December 6

- M.E.N.D.—Irving, TX

Christmas Ceremony

December 8

- M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

Christmas Ceremony in Springfield, MO

December 12

- M.E.N.D.—NW Washington

Christmas Ceremony

M.E.N.D. Support Group Meetings in the Dallas Metroplex

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., from 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:
liz@mend.org

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

Infertility group

meets the 3rd Monday at 7:30 p.m. upon request only.

Led by Cheryl Davis:
cheryl.c.davis@gmail.com
For families experiencing infertility after a loss.

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

All main chapter support group**meetings are held at:**

**Wells Fargo Bank
800 W. Airport Freeway
Irving, TX 75062**

(Located in the Crystals Pizza parking lot, between MacArthur and O'Connor) Meetings will be in the bank board room, located on the first floor.
For more information, call (972) 506-9000.

A Mother's and Father's

Grief

By Ewen Flowers

Helpless.
 They both feel helpless.
 But they each seek their own roles.
 They have to find a way to cope,
 To soothe their shattered souls.
 He wants to take away her pain,
 And make her safe once more.
 She wants to share her tears with him,
 Bare herself to the core.
 He wants to make it better,
 And he wants to be assured,
 That everything will be okay.
 That their love has endured.
 She wants to talk some more about their child who has
 died.
 He thinks that he's done something wrong,
 And that is why she sighed.
 She's crying once again,
 And she won't get out of bed.
 He sees her journal perched atop all those books she's
 read.
 She sees him start new projects,
 Go to work and watch TV.
 She wonders how he does it,
 How he has the energy.
 But sometimes,
 There's a moment,
 When they're both on the same plane.
 Sometimes,
 For just a moment,
 Their grief seems just the same.
 It's in those small shared moments that they need so
 very much,
 That they find each other reaching,
 That they find each other's touch.



Just Those First Few Weeks

By Susan Erling

For those few weeks—
 I had you to myself
 And that seems too short a time
 To be changed so profoundly.

In those few weeks—
 I came to know you...
 And to love you.
 You came to trust me with your life.
 Oh, what a life I had planned for you!

Just those few weeks—
 When I lost you I lost a
 lifetime of hopes,
 Plans, dreams and
 aspirations...
 A slice of my future simply
 vanished overnight.



Just those few weeks—
 It wasn't enough time to convince others
 How important and special to me you were.
 How odd, a truly unique person recently died
 And no one is mourning the passing.

Just a few weeks—
 And no "normal" person would cry all night
 Over a tiny unfinished baby,
 Or get depressed and withdraw day after endless day.
 No one would, so why am I?

You were just those first few weeks my little one
 You darted in and out of my life too quickly.
 But it seems that's all the time you needed
 To make my life so much richer
 And give me a small glimpse of eternity.

www.miscarriagesupport.org



Questions Without Answers

An excerpt from *Rain on Me*
by Holley Gerth

With every drop of rain, a quiet question comes to our hearts. It's only one small word, and yet it holds our whole world within it.

Why?

In my journey I've asked it a thousand times. I've experienced four years of infertility, and I'm still counting. I also said goodbye to a baby I loved but

I want a God who lets all our dreams come true...and who does it now.

never got to hold because of a miscarriage. I remember the silent moments in the middle of the night when I would wake up to stare at the ceiling and ask God, "Why?"

There is something within us that wants to know the reason. It seems as if understanding could somehow lessen the pain. I was part of a grief support group, and I remember the facilitator asking everyone in the room, "Do you want to know why?" Every hand was raised. Then she asked, "Would it make the hurt go away?" We all slowly shook our heads as we realized that the answers we sought wouldn't necessarily bring the healing we needed.

In *A Grief Observed*, C.S. Lewis writes about the loss of his wife. Throughout the book he wrestles with his faith. Toward the end he writes, "When I lay these questions before God, I get no answer. But a rather special sort of 'No answer.' It is not the locked door. It is more like a silent, certainly not uncompassionate, gaze. As though He shook His head not in refusal but waiving the question. Like, 'Peace, child; you don't understand.'"

As much as we want to know, there are many things on this side of eternity that we will never understand. As a member of a book-reading club, I once read a book about the Holocaust. At one point our discussion turned to why God would allow such horrors. At the time I had recently lost my baby, and it felt as if a small holocaust had happened in my heart as well. I remember saying,

I pushed my baby through the reeds and never saw her again. And yet here I am, worshipping...

"I don't know, but I feel as if God is asking me, 'Will you love Me for who you want Me to be or for who I am?'"

I don't know about you, but I want a God who doesn't allow suffering. I want a God who lets all our dreams come true, who erases death, who heals all my hurts, and who does it now. But that's not the God we serve. Somehow we have to release those expectations and decide that, despite it all, He is good, He loves us, and we love Him.

One of my heroes, Angie Smith, wrote in her blog, *Bring the Rain*, about the loss of her daughter Audrey Caroline and compared it to Moses' mother releasing her son in a basket onto the river:

Sometimes I think it's harder to believe the way I do, because I believe with everything in me that He could have changed the story. This line of thinking inevitably brings me to the question, "Why didn't He?" Many people have written me with the same question, and I want to tell you that I have thought it through many times, and I have come up with a great theological explanation I want to share with you.

I have absolutely no idea.

What I do know is this:

The Lord walks beside me as He walked beside Moses, and He knows me by name. He loves me, and I love Him. I pushed my baby through the reeds and never saw her again. And yet here I am, worshipping the God who allowed it.

At some point, we all come to the place where we're asked to open our hands, release our questions, and embrace the One whose ways we do not understand but whose heart we know. And the moment we can finally trade our "why" for a "Who," the rest of our journey changes.

Holley Gerth, *Rain on Me*, 2008, p.73-76.



Subsequent Births

Micah and Rebecca Thurlow
of Grapevine, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Joel Evan Thurlow,
born March 7, 2011,
measuring 7 lb., 9 oz.,
and 19 inches long .

The Thurlows lovingly remember
William Robert,
stillborn January 30, 2007,
unknown cause.

Jennifer and T.J. Forner,
along with siblings Annabelle and Jackson,
of Fairview, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Hailey Naomi,
born Tuesday, April 19, 2011,
measuring 6 lbs., 3 oz., and 17.72 inches.

The Forners lovingly remember
James,
stillborn November 5, 2007,
unknown cause,
Baby Forner I
miscarried May 2007,
and Baby Forner II,
miscarried June 2007.

I'll Hold You in Heaven

By Jo Ann Taylor, Founder of Operation Angel

From the very beginning I loved you,
As I made plans to hold you and rock you:
You were tiny and helpless as you lay in my womb,
But something went wrong and soon you were gone;
My young heart was broken, my tears fell like rain,
I'd never known such heartache and pain.

I wonder who you look like, me or your dad,
Do you have my smile and his eyes?
Would you have been big and tall or tiny and small?
We had dreams for you that reached to the skies.
It was long, long ago and I still miss you so,
Thanks to Jesus, I'll see you in heaven.

I'll hold you in heaven some day,
When my trials on earth pass away;
The angels have rocked you, the Father watches over you,
I know you're waiting for me;
I never could hold you, or tell you "Goodbye,"
But I'll hold you in heaven some day.

In loving memory of Darrell Keith and Melody Joy Taylor

Retrieved from www.ectopicpregnancyfoundation.org

A Race to Honor Our Babies



On Sunday, March 27, Melissa Stephens was honored to run the Rock N Roll Dallas Half Marathon in honor of our M.E.N.D. babies. Her race shirt portrayed our M.E.N.D. angel along with the M.E.N.D. name and website. On the back, it read, "Our Babies Run With Angels." Melissa said that running in honor of our babies in heaven gave her extra motivation during her training and during the race. Melissa finished with a time of 2:10:11, and, most importantly, had an enjoyable race while raising money for M.E.N.D. Thank you to all of you who donated money toward this event. She was able to raise \$393.20 and hopefully bring some awareness to our great organization.

*Melissa Stephens,
Mommy to David Atkins Stephens,
Baby Stephens I, Baby Stephens II, and Baby Stephens III*



Walk to Remember T-Shirt Order Form

*Complete this form and mail as directed below or complete online at www.mend.org.
Deadline is August 15 (no exceptions).*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City : _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Monogram: (ex. Celia Jones Remembering Jason Alexander) _____

Select Quantity Per Size: Adults: S M L XL XXL Kids: XS (2-4) S (6-8) M (10-12) L (14-16)

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

Payment Info:

Make checks payable to M.E.N.D. Mastercard/Visa Card orders are accepted:

Type of Card: _____ Name on Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____ / _____

Signature: _____

Prices below **INCLUDE** tax.

Monogrammed: # of shirts _____ x \$20.00 = _____

Non-Monogrammed: # of shirts _____ x \$15.00 = _____

Postage & Handling (\$5.00 per order **ONLY** for those orders being shipped) = _____

Total \$ _____

Orders for the Irving, Texas Walk: return to M.E.N.D. P.O. Box 631566, Irving, TX 75063

Orders for the Houston, Texas Walk: return to M.E.N.D. 13121 Louetta Rd., #505, Cypress, TX 77429

Walk To Remember Sponsorship Opportunities

Each October M.E.N.D. hosts the Walk To Remember, which is a ceremony that honors and commemorates our babies. This year M.E.N.D. will host two ceremonies: Irving, Texas (DFW Metroplex) and Houston, Texas. The Irving Walk will be held Saturday, October 1, at 2 p.m., at Calvary Church. The Houston Walk will be held the same day, but begin at 1 p.m. at Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston. Reservations are requested for each.

These events require months of planning, thousands of dollars, and are only made possible by generous donations/sponsors. If you would like to help M.E.N.D. in this way, here's how you can help:

1. A monetary donation. For gifts of \$25 or more, your name will be listed on the back of the program and in the November/December newsletter. Donations can be given by you individually, or if you own or work for a business, please consider donating as a corporation. Be sure to put "Walk Sponsorship" in the memo of the check, and to specify which of the three events you wish to support.
2. FOR DALLAS WALK ONLY. Raffle item(s). We have a raffle to offset our expenses. If you work for a company that would be willing to donate something, please consider asking. We request that ALL raffle items be valued at no less than \$25. Items usually include movie tickets, tickets to sports events, airline tickets, hotel gift certificates, restaurant gift certificates, electronics, etc.

To be included in the program, all monies and items must be received **no later than August 31**. For questions or to register for the Dallas Walk, contact Rebekah Mitchell at rebekah@mend.org. To register for the Houston Walk, contact Jaimie Crump at jaimie@mend.org.

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) 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 contact Rebekah (rebekah@mend.org) to obtain the Customer Letter. You must only present this letter one time to link your card to M.E.N.D. 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 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.
- **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.
- **Igive.com** will donate a penny a search and a portion of each purchase made through their website to M.E.N.D. Sign up today! M.E.N.D.’s cause number is 52025.
- **Angel Bracelets** creates a variety of remembrance bracelets. Buyers can designate M.E.N.D. and Angel Bracelets will make a donation from each sale. Visit www.angelbracelets.org.