



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

Creating a Legacy for Your Child—Don't Waste Your Grief

Jonathan's Legacy

Not long after my husband, Byron, and I were married, I was diagnosed with a degenerative kidney disease. A couple of years later, after several consultations with my doctors, we decided to start a family. I battled a few complications with my first pregnancy, but despite medical statistics, our son, Byron, Jr., was born full-term and healthy.

When we became pregnant a second time, three years later, I found myself a little more apprehensive and nervous that this baby might not make it to term. For some reason, every day I caught myself placing my hands on my growing belly and praying that this baby would be even more of a miracle than his brother. I imagined that Jonathan would require a premature delivery, resulting in his spending some time in the NICU. I prayed that the medical professionals taking care of him would not be able to deny the healing power of the Lord. Additionally, I prayed that Jonathan's life would touch countless lives and that many would come to Jesus by witnessing or hearing his testimony.

Throughout my praying that prayer every day of the 29 1/2 weeks that I was able to carry my baby boy, never in a million years did I dream he would die. I had great confidence that God was going to answer my fervent prayers for His glory. So when it was discovered that Jonathan's tiny heart had stopped beating while I was on bed rest in the hospital, I was in complete shock and disbelief. The umbilical cord wrapping around my baby's head, body, and left leg was definitely not part of the plan!

In the midst of my deep sorrow and heartache, I remember saying to the Lord numerous times, "Surely You have a plan. Surely good will come from this!" After many months of intense grieving, I finally got to the place where I could earnestly say, "Okay, God, what do I do with this? I know Jonathan's life was not in vain. It must have had a purpose." Over time, God began to birth within me His

plan. A little more than a year after Jonathan's stillbirth, M.E.N.D. was formed.

Today, 15 years later, we have grown into a national ministry, with chapters all over Texas, and several other states. In fact, as I write this article, I just got off a ferry and am sitting in a Starbucks located in the most northwestern part of the United States, about to speak at M.E.N.D. — NW Washington's first Christmas candlelight ceremony. I am in awe of every adventure the Lord takes me on to spread Jonathan's story.

The prayers I prayed over my baby actually were answered, just not the way *I* thought or wanted them to be. So many years later, I can most assuredly see how God answered them *His* way. I am confident that many lives have been touched by Jonathan—likely far more through his death than through his life. And I continue to pray that countless are led to the Lord by hearing of our journey and being ministered to through M.E.N.D.

All of our support groups conclude with opening the floor and inviting the families in attendance to share something good or positive that has resulted from their losses. Basically, we are encouraging the families to create legacies for their babies. I love hearing the variety of sweet stories that are shared during this special time. If you have yet to create a legacy for your baby, I strongly encourage you to think of one good thing that you can attribute to your loss. Maybe it's a reconciled relationship, or possibly now you find that you are more sensitive to the hurts of others and have been able to comfort another hurting person. If you are so fresh in your grief that you truly cannot think of a single good thing yet, that's okay. Just know that your loss was not in vain, and I am confident that someday your grief will be used to honor your little baby and glorify the Lord.

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

Nota Española: 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 pagina numero 15.

M.E.N.D. is a Christian nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to reach out to those who have lost a child to miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death and offer a way to share experiences and information through monthly meetings, this newsletter, and our Web site.

For inquiries, subscription requests, deletions, and submissions to the newsletter, contact us at

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

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The Journey Through the Valley of the Shadow

My thoughts of God have been forever changed, that is how it is when you come face to face with the magnitude of His infinite grace and love—when you are consumed by it. For there are times in this life where we must surrender it all, laying ourselves out on the altar—and at this time our Father steps down from His throne to gently pick up His children and whisper His love. In this moment the grace and love that have flowed from His throne since the beginning of time wash over you like a tidal wave, and you realize for the first time just how great this God is that you serve, and how absolutely unworthy you are. You are faced for the first time with the evidences of His grace and love displayed throughout your life and you realize that it has always been this way.

I know that God brings us to things to make our lives more beautiful. Trials and sufferings bring us into a new relationship with God—a new understanding of the vastness of His love. I cannot say with any honesty that I look forward to trials, nor would I choose suffering if the choice were left up to me, but these things are a blessing for those who trust in God.

This last year we were called to a journey in the valley of shadows...a time of desperate faith, clinging to the unseen as though we could see it until that unseen became a reality for us. It was a coming to knowledge of God's grace and the love that shelters us in the midst of life's devastating storms.

Our valley was the pregnancy and subsequent loss of Caleb Levi Riddle. This was a time of leaning on God and claiming the promises found in His word. Our defense against the enemy's attack was constant prayer. We had to train our eyes to focus on the cross of our Lord when our circumstances seemed so hopeless. In looking to our Lord we discovered a more beautiful world—a world that is spiritual and beyond description. In Christ's love, even the most desperate situations become bearable, and we could see the hand of God and the grace that was being lavishly poured on us at every turn.

Because of this journey we created a blog that chronicles our journey. It is the truth of imperfect people in a harsh world facing terrible odds depending on a perfect God that chose His loss so that we could be redeemed. It is the journey that has brought us closer into fellowship with God's grace and has left us forever changed.

In this journey it is my hope that my life has been made more beautiful because of the suffering.

♥ Brent and Abbie Riddle,
Parents to Caleb Levi
M.E.N.D.—Texarkana

Gifts through Searching

M.E.N.D. recently received a donation of \$122.50 from GoodSearch. GoodSearch is a search engine that gives a donation for using it. Once a cause is selected, about a penny is donated each time a search is done through GoodSearch. Donations will also be made when shopping through GoodSearch. Please visit its website at www.goodsearch.com and choose Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death as your charity as another way to donate to M.E.N.D.

GoodSearch
You Search, We Give!



Medical Moment



Support Groups on the Internet: A Study of On-line Support Groups

Ann Arbor, Michigan—The methods of grieving a child have vastly changed over the years, from it being a taboo topic to women sharing confidentially with each other to support groups to the latest trend, the Internet. The Department of Family Medicine and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Michigan conducted a study to learn about the demographics, usage patterns and perceived benefits for women participating in Internet pregnancy loss support groups. Most women expressed satisfaction with the pregnancy loss boards.

There are a large number of support sites available, but little research has been conducted on the users or roles of the boards in handling grief. The University of Michigan conducted an on-line survey of various Internet sites. The focus was on websites that served women with stillbirth only or women with either stillbirth or miscarriage. The survey was kept open until there was a minimum of 1,000 responses to obtain an adequate range of experiences, which took an eight-month period to obtain. The survey was anonymous. Fifteen sites agreed to post a link to the survey on a total of 18 message boards. Message boards included sites for miscarriage and stillbirth, women pregnant or trying to conceive after a loss, recurrent losses, elective termination of pregnancy, loss due to a medical cause and a board for bereaved teens dealing with loss.

Most women felt that the message boards helped with handling the loss. The most common theme was the realization that women were not alone in their losses. Women found others who had been through similar situations and could understand what it felt like. Many losses are minimized or unacknowledged by friends, families and communities, while these online communities understood the need to talk about the losses and deceased children, which was another theme that appeared. These communities created an acceptable environment to talk about a deceased baby and talking of grief was “normal.” Using the message boards was also easy and convenient for women. While a support group may only meet once or twice a month, the message boards were available 24/7, which allowed women to express their grief any time. If they were having a bad day and could not find the energy to get to a support group, they had the opportunity to express their feelings on the board and have others respond without leaving home.

Some women told that they were able to find hope and coping skills through the message boards. They were given reassurance from others that they could survive the grief because others had survived. Some also learned new medical information to aid them.

The study also showed that there are some areas lacking on message groups. Most women felt that the boards needed a leader, moderator or facilitator, and also a professional health care worker.

Overall, the study showed the importance of these message boards to grieving women. It is a way to reach others who have been in similar situations and can understand the pain and grief whenever the mother is in need.

Citation: Katherine J. Gold, MD, MSW, MS, Martha E Boggs, BS, CCRC, Emeline Mugisha, BA, Christie Lancaster Palladino, MD, MSc. Department of Family Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Education Discovery Institute, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Georgia Health Sciences University, Augusta, Georgia. Published in the *Women's Health Journal*, 2011 1-6.

March/April Topic

Adoption, Embryo Adoption, Foster to Adopt / become Foster parents, and Surrogacy.

Deadline: January 31, 2012

May/June Topic

How Different Cultures Grieve

Deadline: March 30, 2012

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

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Visit our Web site at:
www.mend.org



Birthday Tributes

Happy 3rd Birthday, Cameron!

We love you and miss you so much.

Cameron Michael Obert
Stillborn January 27, 2009
Cord accident
Parents: Jason and Ashley Snow
Sibling: Kaleigh



Happy 2nd Birthday, Jaelynn!

You would have been in your terrible twos, and we would give anything to see you grow, but God had better plans for you. We love you and miss you, baby. Thank you for being in my dreams, my loved one.

Mommy

Jaelynn Adriana Lopez
January 22—February 3, 2010
Septic shock, septic syndrome
Parents: Elmer Lopez and Adriana Medina
Siblings: Brenda and Kayden



Happy 1st Birthday, Delila!

My daughter was diagnosed with an omphalocele at 20 weeks. We were very hopeful that she would be able to recover from this once she was born; however, she never got the chance. Her umbilical cord tightened at the omphalocele, cutting all circulation off at 34 weeks. We were devastated and lost. How were we to tell our 3-year-old son, Jonas, that his sissy was not coming home? We prayed and were prayed for. With God's grace we were given a peace and understanding that our daughter is at peace and with the Lord our God and Jesus. Until we meet again, my sweet little angel.

Love,
 Mommy, Daddy and Jonas

Delila Katherine Holt
Stillborn February 14, 2011
Omphalocele
Parents: Michael and Amanda Holt
Sibling: Jonas



Happy 1st Birthday, Lance Cole!

Lance Cole,

I fell in love when I heard I was having you! I loved you even more when I saw you! Not a day goes by that Daddy, Sister and I don't think about you! You are my angel always, and I will see you in that kingdom called heaven one day! I wear a frog when I am having a "Lance" day, in honor of you, sweet baby boy.

Lance Cole Bollier
January 3, 2011
Rolled on cord causing blood clot
Parents: Crystal Spohn and Kevin Bollier
Sibling: Emma Kaye



Happy 1st Birthday, Hannah!

You will forever be in our hearts until we are together again in heaven. We love you today, tomorrow and always.

Daddy, Mommy, Emma and Olivia

Hannah Jane Campbell
Stillborn January 13, 2011
Cord caught around her neck
Parents: Josh and Jenny Campbell
Siblings: Emma and twin sister Olivia



Happy 1st Birthday, Reese!

God bless my angel baby, Reese. Your soul lives in our hearts, and your beautiful face glows every time your twin sister smiles. We love you!

Reese Marie Coffey
Stillborn January 9, 2011
Parents: Sam and Hope Coffey
Siblings: Ryder Cash and twin Reagan Kyle Coffey



Happy 1st Birthday, Ellanor!

We feel so blessed to have known Ellanor for such a short time and to have our own very special angel to look after us! We love you and miss you dearly.

Ellanor Jane Webb
January 25, 2011
Amniotic band syndrome
Parents: Patrick and Kristen Webb



Happy 1st Birthday, Hope!

We miss you every day more and more. You will forever be in our hearts. Not a day goes by that we don't think of you. We love and miss you!

Hope Hidalgo

Miscarried February 25, 2011 (13 weeks)

Factor V Liden

Parents: Robert and April Hidalgo

Sibling: Robert Hidalgo, Jr.

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Jake!**

Jake,

It's been two years already; time sure flies. We miss you more each day. Thank you for looking after your sister; she arrived here safely. Happy birthday! We are celebrating here on earth, as we know you are in heaven.

Love you bunches,
XOXOXOXO

Mom, Dad, Ethan and Baby Zoe

Jacob Grell

November 21—December 1, 2009

HELLP Syndrome, prematurity

Parents: Geoff and Kate Grell

Siblings: Twin brother Ethan and little sister Zoe

**Happy 1st Birthday, Nolan!**

Nolan, we miss you more than anything in the world. I know that you are taken care of in heaven, but would have done anything to have you here on earth with Mommy and Daddy. We love you! Happy 1st birthday!

Nolan Robert Bagley

January 19, 2011

Also remembering:

Baby Bagley 1

Miscarried January 1995

Baby Bagley 2

Miscarried January 2010

Parents: Austin and Misha Bagley

Siblings: Will and Emma

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Baby Fretwell!**

We love you and miss you so much!

Happy heavenly birthday!

Love,

Daddy, Mommy,

Big Brother Easton and Little Brother Timothy

Baby Fretwell

January 4, 2010

Possible cord accident

Parents: Joe and Stephanie Fretwell

Brothers: Easton and Timothy

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Mattie!**

Dear Mattie,

It's been two years, and it still feels like the first. When I held you in my arms, you were everything I ever wanted and more. My heart, mind and love are always with you. Love you much, baby girl!

Always and forever,
Mommy

Madison Grace Williams

December 25, 2009—February 20, 2010

SIDS

Parents: Tyrie Jones and Nicole Williams

Siblings: Trey, Aniyha and Breill

**Happy 5th Birthday, Kennady!**

Happy 5th birthday, our sweet angel Kennady! We miss you every day and wish we could have you here with us to watch you open up your presents and blow out your five candles. Love you so very much, our sweet baby girl!

XOXOXO

Kennady Ann League

Stillborn January 17, 2007

Unknown cause

Parents: Jason and Jeanelle League

Siblings: Cooper and Camden

**Happy 8th Birthday, Marissa!**

Happy 8th birthday in heaven to our dear, sweet, daughter, Marissa Joy. You are loved and missed by your family.

Love, Mom and Dad and your brothers Stephen, Ethan, Marshall, Clay, Gavin, Gage and your new little brother, Parker. You are especially missed by your only sister, Season.

Marissa Joy Jordan

November 26, 2003

Thanatophoric Dysplasia

Baby Jordan

Miscarried October 8, 1999

Parents: Sean and Sarah Jordan

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

**Happy 1st Birthday, Madeline Joy!**

It's hard to believe it has been one year! There is not a day that your daddy and mommy do not think about you. You certainly bring joy to us. We are proud to be your mommy and daddy. We love you and miss you very much!

Madeline Joy Horowitz

Miscarried February 18, 2011

Parents: Benny and Marianna Horowitz



Happy 2nd Birthday, Hudson!

We love you so much and miss you more than you can imagine. We know you are worshipping Jesus right now, and we can't wait to join you one day. Thank you for showing us a small portion of what God's love for us is like; our hearts will never be the same because of you. We love you very much, Hudson Parker!

Hudson Parker Jones

January 9, 2010

Lower bladder obstruction

Parents: Travis and Jennifer Jones

Sibling: Presley Kate

**Happy 3rd Birthday, D'Antoni!**

Our littlest angel,

Remembering your smell, your brown eyes and your little cry are some of the things that we will always cherish. The Lord chose you to come home early, which breaks our hearts. We know that God only chooses the best, and you had a purpose here on earth and now in heaven. We will always keep your memory alive. Thank you for helping in choosing our rainbow baby, D'Marco...he is such a joy to have.

Love you forever and a day,
The Family

D'Antoni N. Berry

January 6—February 1, 2009

Complications from Hirschsprung's Disease

Parents: Will and Nicole Berry

Siblings: D'Metri, Domani and D'Marco

**Happy 5th Birthday, Jordan!**

Happy 5th birthday, Jordan, my precious little son! I know that you are having a wonderful time celebrating your 5th birthday in heaven with Jesus, but also know that Mommy is lovingly celebrating you here on earth. I miss you and wish that I were there with you, but since I'm not, here's a kiss and all my love! Remember that we have to trust God's plan, endure this temporary separation, and I will continue celebrating all the love that you are!

I love you, Honey Bear!
Mommy and Jazz (your puppy-doggie)

Jordan Alexander Booker

January 11, 2007

True knot in cord

Mommy: Norma Jordan

Puppy-doggie: Jazz

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Leah Grace!**

Oh, how we love you so much, baby girl! Not a day goes by we don't think about you or miss you. We know you are always watching over us, especially over your little brother Ellis, who is now 2 years old. Tears flow down our faces as we write this for you, as they always do when we think of you. Our minds and hearts are never without our Leah Grace in them. We know there are lots of happiness and joy in heaven to help celebrate your special day. We love you, Leah Grace!

Love and kisses,

Mom, Dad, Ellis, Lola, Lolo, Mommy, Grandma,
Granddad, Uncle Ton, Auntie Pam, Auntie Wendy
and all your cousins

Leah Grace Bravo Cockrell

February 6, 2009

Hydrops

Parents: Clint and Joahna Cockrell

Sibling: Ellis

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Tristin!**

My little boy,

It has been two years since you went to heaven, and we still miss you. You would be walking now and getting into everything. I wonder what kinds of toys you would play with and what books you would like. Your big brother tells everyone about his brother in heaven and says red is your favorite color. We wish you a happy birthday with lots of red balloons. You are always in our hearts.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and big brother Kyle

Tristin Patton

Miscarried February 15, 2010

Parents: William and Christina Patton

Sibling: Kyle Patton

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Tomas and Isabela!**

Our precious twins, happy 2nd birthday! We love you and miss you so much! We send you many hugs and kisses on your day!

Love you always,
Mommy, Daddy and little brother Tomas Eduardo

Tomas Andres Castillo

January 11, 2010

Isabela Castillo

January 18, 2010

Premature at 20 and 21 weeks

Parents: Marisela and Jesus Castillo

Sibling: Tomas Eduardo



Happy 3rd Birthday, Jackson and Tyler!

Where would you be now, at three?
 How close would you be now, at three?
 Would your bond be stronger than anything else?
 Would you be inseparable,
 Laughing and playing and growing?
 Would our family be joyful and vibrant and full?
 Three years of memories later.
 We miss you always,
 See you always,
 Love you always,
 Even at three.



Jackson Glen Light
Tyler Ray Light
February 23, 2009
Prematurity
Parents: Kirk and Diana Light
Sibling: Brayden Christopher

Happy 3rd Birthday, Alexis!

Softly the leaves of memory fall
 Gently I gather and treasure them all,
 Unseen, unheard you are always near,
 So missed, so loved, so very dear.
 No longer in our lives to share,
 But in our hearts, you're always there.

Sending love and hugs on your 3rd heavenly birthday.
 Mommy and Daddy

The day you were born, I remember peeking through the blinds of the NICU trying to see you for the first time. We were so excited, and you were absolutely beautiful, perfect in every way. There isn't a day that goes by that we don't think about you and miss you. You were only with us for a short time, but you will always have a "special" place in our hearts. You are our "Greatest Blessing."
 Grandma and Grandpa Sonnenberg

Alexis Sonnenberg
January 24—February 3, 2009
Diaphragmatic hernia
Parents: Alex and Lindsey Sonnenberg
Grandparents: Mark and Ruth Sonnenberg

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Jett!**

Dear Mommy's Angel Jett,

Happy Birthday, my angel! It's been two years since the day you were born! Even though your stay with us was short, you touched us all very deeply!

I think of you all the time. I wonder what you'd be doing with your siblings, especially JonJon, since you two are barely nine months apart!

I wish you were here. I miss you so much! I love you so much!

You are turning 2 in heaven with Jesus, Papa and Auntie Jacki. You are so lucky!

Until we see each other again...happy birthday, and I love you!

Always in my heart,
 Mommy
 XOXO



Jett Josiah Steinhable
February 25—March 9, 2010
Renal failure

Parent: Andrea Stephens Steinhable
Siblings: Justin James, Zoe Rose, Dokota Sydney,
America Josephine, Jeremy Jordan and Jonathan Joseph

Happy 2nd Birthday, Daisy and Ellie!

My sweet baby girls,

I can't believe it's already been two years since I held you in my arms. Mommy, Daddy and your little brother Kyle love you so very much! We send all of our love and wish you a very happy birthday! Please be sweet to Jesus and make the "terrible" twos "terrific" twos! Miss you so much, my little angels. Love you forever and always! happy 2nd birthday!

Love,
 Mommy, Daddy and Kyle

Daisy Jade Ott
Ellie Marie Ott
February 22, 2010
Preterm labor
Parents: Michael and Chiara Ott
Sibling: Kyle Owen

**Happy 1st Birthday, EmaLee!**

We love you our sweet baby girl! We have peace that one day, we will meet again in our True Home.

Love,
 Mom and Dad

EmaLee Grace Pyatt
Miscarriage due to unknown cause
January 19, 2011
Also remembering Baby Deitmer and Baby Potter,
Miscarriage
Parents: Melanie Morales and Kevin Pyatt



Happy 2nd Birthday, Skylar!

Our sweet baby girl, we can't believe it has been two years since you grew your angel wings. Not a day goes by that we don't miss you and wish you were here in our arms with us. You were and are so loved. I think about what you would be doing at this age—talking, running, playing, etc. It just seems so unreal that it has been two long years. We love you with all of our hearts, Angel Baby.

Skylar Faith Metcalfe

January 27, 2010

Unknown cause

Parents: Albert and Ashlee Metcalfe

Siblings: Baylee, Anastacia, Triton and Preslee



Happy 2nd Birthday, Michael!

Wow! We can't believe you have been in heaven for two years now! We love you and miss you so very much! We think about you every day! Your Uncle Gene joined you in heaven last June, and we hope you are being a good boy for him. We try to take comfort in the fact that Uncle Gene can take care of you for us and be your honorary daddy. We are also expecting your little sister! We are so happy to welcome her into our family, but we wish that you were here to give her hugs and kisses. We will make sure she knows what a special little girl she is. She has a big brother in heaven who is watching over her. We will hold you in heaven, sweet baby boy.

Michael Noah Wheeler

Stillborn January 27, 2010

Unknown cause

Also remembering:

Baby Wheeler

Miscarried March 2009

Parents: Jim and Larissa Wheeler

Sibling: Julianne Joy, born December 1, 2011



Happy 1st Birthday, Gabriel!

Happy 1st birthday, my angel! I love you with all my heart and miss you like crazy.

Gabriel Jose Barraza

January 27, 2011

Unknown cause

Mommy: Isabel Barraza

Sibling: Hailee Mariana Rodriguez



Happy 3rd Birthday, Hope!

Happy 3rd birthday in heaven, my little ladybug! You are loved and missed more and more each day!

Hope Joi McGraw

January 18, 2009

Unknown cause

Parents: Zack and Christine McGraw

Siblings: Kyler, Hunter, Isabella, and Angel Sister Alexis



M.E.N.D.—**Texarkana**: Committee members, Toni Sherman, Melissa Thomas, Monica Davis, Dawn Kennedy, and Tania Greer (not pictured).
(Photo by: Stephanie Desjarlais)

Journey

A journey through the valley
has brought me here tonight
Where earthly things are traded
for spiritual sight.
My faith, O Lord, has wavered
on this journey of loss
But time and time again
You brought me to the cross.
I know You know the pain,
have counted every tear
and how You have gathered me
in Your arms so near.
So as I join this candle
with others on this night
I'm asking that my faith
be made clear sight.
Let me be reminded
that You have a plan
For every single life
You hold within Your hand.
Not a single heartbeat
has echoed out in vain
But, You O God, have known
every one by name.

♥ Abbie Riddle

Read by the author in memory of her baby,

Caleb Levi,

at the M.E.N.D.—Texarkana 2011

Christmas Candlelight Ceremony

Christmas Candlelight Ceremonies Light Up the Country



M.E.N.D.—**Dallas**: A committee used their talents to create a beautiful stage for the Dallas candlelight ceremony. (Photo by: Leydy Vargas)



M.E.N.D.—**NW Washington**: Quentin and Melissa Vaira and children Jonah, Anneliese and Owen remembering Lucy, stillborn on January 22, 2008 due to cord accident. (Photo by: Tony Picini)



M.E.N.D.—**Houston**: Chris and Beverlyann Whigham remembering their twin boys, Brand and Colt, cord accident August 4, 2011. (Photo by: Meg Doyle)



M.E.N.D.—**SW Missouri**: Chapter leadership Ruth Sonnenberg, Heather Bass, Director Heather Fann, and Kathryn Gold. (Photo by: Mike Krystek)

Christmas Candlelight Ceremonies Sponsors Dallas

Inspired Creations by CEO

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Dentistry of Las Colinas /

Byron L. Mitchell, D.D.S.

David and Marie Crowe

Houston

Metropolitan Baptist Church,

Women's Ministry

Hernan Krymkiewicz and Ana Ayon

Jon and Tiffany Klubnik

Shane Meyer

Glen and Mitzi Wells

Mike Davis, Martha Turner Realty

Taylor'd Gifts and Creations

Southwest Missouri

Elfindale Mansion and Chapel

Second Baptist Church

Jonathan and Heather Fann

Ron and Patty Marshall,

Redcrow Marketing LLC

St. John's Healthcare

Patricia Ervin

Ed Vaughn Photography

Mark and Ruth Sonnenberg

Cunningham/Farrar ABF

(Second Baptist Church)

Greg and Kathryn Gold

Steve and Kirsten Brallier Family Fund

Texarkana

Bailey Neon & Sign

Baker Bros. American Deli

Beech Street First Baptist Church & Staff

Beech Street First Baptist Church,

Kidz Ministry

Big Jake's Smokehouse

Buffalo Wild Wings Restaurant

Chili's Restaurant

Chick-Fil-A Restaurant

Christus St. Michael Health

& Fitness Center

The Dixie Diner

Fan-Fare Gifts & Collectibles

Firmin's Office City

First Baptist Church, Texarkana

Geneva Concepts

Hobby Lobby

Jennifer Hood Photography

Johnny Carino's Italian Grill

Junior League of Texarkana

McAlister's Deli

Michael's Arts & Crafts

Olive Garden Italian Restaurant

Rest In Hope

Sam's Club

Scentsy, Melissa Thomas

Deni Smith

Starbucks

TaMolly's Mexican Restaurant

Terri's Treasures

Texarkana Tractor

Texas Roadhouse

Totally Hair

Tractor Supply

Train Gang

In Loving Memory



Malen Huck Anderson

Stillborn February 4, 2008
Possible heart attack
Given by parents Wes and Becky Anderson
and siblings Lenea and Nathan

Grace Irene Biglieni

December 6-19, 2007
Hypoplastic left heart syndrome
Given by mommy Lindy Biglieni

Riley James Buchanan

May 23—June 14, 2010
Interstitial pneumonitis (rare lung disease)
Mommy: Jordan Dupree
Big sister: Adyson Buchanan
Given by Shirley Sullivan

Abigail Marie Buddin

April 13—June 17, 2006
SIDS
Parents: Cara and Nathan Buddin
Siblings: Alexander and Anthony Buddin
Given by Assassination City Roller Derby

Liam and Sebastian Callaway

Stillborn August 5, 2011
Unknown cause
Gifts given by
Parents Zach and Rori Callaway
The Harrington School, Inc.

Tomas Lares Castillo

Stillborn January 11, 2010

Isabella Lares Castillo

January 18, 2010
Preterm labor
Given by parents Marisela and Jesus Castillo
and sibling Tomas Eduardo Castillo

Crow Twins

Miscarried April 1981
Given by parents Ken and Susan Crow
and siblings Patrick, Maggie,
Job and Hannah

Jackson David Crowe

August 22—September 9, 1998
Congenital heart defect
Given by parents David and Marie Crowe
and siblings Hannah and Andrew

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Gifts given by
Parents Gerald and Jaimie Crump
and little sisters Cami and Karli
Mike and Monique Davis

Aidan Shaw Vander Cruyssen

October 2—December 3, 2005
Kidney disease
Given by Mommy Shane Meyer
and sibling Cameron Shaw

Riley and Parker Davis

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

Brooke Sophia Daily

March 11, 2010
Vasa previa
Gifts given by
Parents Jeremy and Lisa Daily
and big sister Sarah
Grandparents John and Carolyn Daily

Grace Kathryn Dell

Stillborn March 17, 2008
PROM
Parents: Peter and Rachel Dell
Little brother: Zeke
Gift given anonymously

Royce Haskell Dugan

Stillborn October 9, 2011
Cord accident
Parents: Sean and Ashley Dugan
Gifts given by
Uncle Pat and Aunt Susan Dugan
Dave and Debra Chapman
Brett and Alissa Chapman
Blake and Kristi Chapman
Forsythe family
Adair family
Hodge family
Douglas and Shirley Hotchkiss
Mary Ashley
Anonymous gift
Alissa Chapman
Margaret Camille Mauritzen

Kyler Paul English

Stillborn January 20, 2006
Cord accident
Parents Laurie McPike and Bob English
Given by Jon and Laurie McPike and
brothers Kinser, Kelson and Kayden

Caleb Scott Fann

December 1, 2003
PROM

Baby August Fann

Miscarried August 13, 2004
Parents: Jonathan and Heather Fann
Little sister: Madison Grace
Gifts given by
Joy and Skeeter Snell
Great-grandparents
Lloyd and Bessie Marshall
Gary and Cindy Schaff
Jim and Patricia Ervin
Jim and Bonnie Thomas
David and Allison Barshinger
Jennifer and Steven McAfee
Ron and Debbie Dent
Jason and Christa Waln
Scott and Kristi Morris

Logan Wayne Fish

September 17, 2002
Skeletal Dysplasia
Given by parents David and Brittney Fish
and brothers Landry and Hudson

Janelle Marie Gibson

Stillborn November 17, 2006
Clot in placenta

Gabriel Gibson

Miscarried October 31, 2007
Ectopic pregnancy
Parents: Scott and Jodie Gibson
Siblings: Will, Andres and Isaac
Given by grandparents
William and Joyce Esser

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!

C.J. Gold

Miscarried August 12, 2008

Marina Gold

Miscarried July 14, 2009

Parents: Greg and Kathryn Gold

Big sister: Emily

Gifts given by

Uncle Greg and Aunt Jen Sitzes

Cousins Mike Gentry

Helen Waggoner

Darlis Townsend

Grandma Nellie Gold

Efraim and Elois Espinoza

Bob and Bonnye Roberts

Great Uncle Loyd and Great

Aunt Lillian Gentry

Cousin Barbara Gentry

John and Shirley Day

Ron and Debbie Dent

Baby Green

Miscarried October 2011

Parents: Jennifer and Kollin Green

Sisters: Trinity and Zoe

Given by grandparents

John and Carolyn Daily

James "Jack" Henvey

July 4, 2001

Tetralogy of fallot

Baby Henvey

Miscarried October 2003

Parents: Chris and Renee Henvey

Siblings: Evan and Luke Henvey

Given by grandmother Glenda McLeskey

Samuel Mark Hintz

October 29, 2008

Unknown cause

Parents: Gregory and Sara Hintz

Siblings: Louis, Caleb, Anna,

Elijah, Hope and Levi

Given by Kathryn Lange

Marissa Joy Jordan

November 26, 2003

Thanatophoric Dysplasia

Baby Jordan

Miscarried October 8, 1999

Given by parents Sean and Sarah Jordan and

siblings Stephen, Season, Ethan,

Marshall, Clay, Gavin, Gage and Parker

Michael David Klubnik**Jake Thomas Klubnik**

September 7, 2010

Infection

Baby Klubnik

Miscarried June 8, 2010

Given by parents Jon and Tiffany Klubnik

Baby Krocka

Miscarried June 24, 2011

Parents: Scott and Krissy Krocka

Given by John and Carolyn Daily

Baby Girl Krymkiewiez

Miscarried June 13, 2008

Emma Krymkiewiez

May 5, 2009

Neonatal hemochromatosis

Given by parents Ana Ayon

and Hernan Krymkiewiez

and little sister Isabella

Emmaline Ila Legg

July 29, 2010

Placental abruption

Baby Legg 1

Miscarried 1999

Baby Legg 2

Miscarried 2009

Baby Legg 3

Miscarried April 13, 2011

Given by parents Ami and Jimmy Legg and

siblings Mckinley and Madeline

Jackson Glen Light**Tyler Ray Light**

February 23, 2009

Placental abruption

Parents: Kirk and Diana Light

Sibling: Brayden Christopher

Given by Justin Woytek

Avery Merae Longgood

August 2-3, 2007

Possible stroke

Given by parents Jamie and Neil Longgood

and little sister Hallie Merae

Baby Malone I

December 2003

CMV

Baby Malone II

May 2004

Rubella

Parents: Robbie and Heather Malone

Given by Terry and Phyllis McLemore

Jaylen Montrell Matlock

Stillborn July 15, 2007

PROM

Given by mommy Torie Myers

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995

Cord accident

Baby Mitchell

Miscarried December 2001

Parents: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell

Sibling: Big brother Byron, Jr.

Given by grandparents

Dennis and Sue Brewer

Carter Patrick Outen

Stillborn November 6, 2000

Unknown cause

Baby Outen I

Miscarried April 3, 2001

Baby Outen II

Miscarried October 5, 2001

Parents: Chris and Shannon Outen

Siblings: Erin and Charlie

Given by grandparents

J.L. and Judy Outen

Jacob Theodore Oxendine

April 29, 2001

PROM

Given by parents

Chip and Christine Oxendine

and little siblings Emily and Eric

Baby Rains

June 30, 2009

Ectopic pregnancy

Given by parents: Brent and Christy Rains

Little brother: Brayden

Baby Richters

Miscarried 1959

Given by parents

Henry and Roberta Richters

Molly Rene Schramm

March 10, 2004

Diaphragmatic hernia

Given by parents

Suzanne and Jerry Schramm

and siblings Morgan and Garrett

Carson Mitchell Shaw

Stillborn April 1, 1999

Unknown cause

Given by parents

Randy and Aimee Shaw

and siblings Blake and Brooke

Mindy and Maggie Smith

Stillborn November 4, 1997

Twin to twin transfusion syndrome

and polyhydramnios

Given by parents Scott and Karla Smith

and siblings Travis and Julia



M.E.N.D.

*Chapter Corner*Chapter Meeting Information**M.E.N.D.—Houston**Meets the 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.Northwest Medical and Professional Building
17117 Cali Dr, Suite 112, Houston, TX 77090

Director: Jaimie Crump

jaimie@mend.org, (281) 374-8528

Subsequent pregnancy group meetsbi-monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,

led by Kristah Slate

(kristah_slate@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.—TexarkanaMeets 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.—TulsaMeets the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Canyon Crossing

1651 E Old North Rd.

Sand Springs, Oklahoma 74063

Director: Lisa Daily

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

M.E.N.D.—SW MissouriMeets 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 StationMeets 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*

M.E.N.D.—Houston had a beautiful Candlelight Christmas Ceremony honoring 50 babies from all over the Houston area. Thank you so much to our beautiful vocalists, Nicki Saunders and Sarah Winebrenner, and Jane Hamman, our wonderful harpist who has graced us with her beautiful music for six years. I would like to thank all the ladies and gentlemen who worked hard to make the ceremony run smoothly, set up and break down and everything in between: Glen and Mitzi Wells, Jennie and Jason Drude, James and Merle Johnson, Chad Bass and Leah Robilotto-Bass, Eric and Janie Lewis, Shane Meyer, Chiara Ott, Randy and Cortney Dobbins, Hernan Krymkiewicz and Ana Ayon, Robyn Andersen, Gerald and Jaimie Crump, Rosemary Massey, Robin Smith, Chad Smith, Brandy Wilson, Tim and Sarah Winebrenner, Michael and Nicole Mallette, Greg and Stefanie Miller, and Jon and Tiffany Klubnik.

*Jaimie Crump**Texarkana*

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana hosted its 5th Annual Candlelight Ceremony at Beech Street First Baptist Church, Texarkana, Arkansas. It was a beautiful evening that I hope blessed and comforted everyone who attended. This ceremony would not have been possible without our generous sponsors and the help of these ladies and gentlemen: Tania Greer, Dawn and Zac Kennedy, Toni and Randy Sherman, Melissa and Cory Thomas, and Shawn Davis. I am so grateful for their dedication to M.E.N.D. A special thank you to Deni and Danny Smith, Melanie and Craig Jenkins, and Stephanie Desjarlais for their faithful service. We were blessed to have one of our members, Abbie Riddle, write and read a poem in memory of her baby at the ceremony (see page 8). I would also like to thank Beech Street First Baptist Church's staff for their leadership and ministry in this year's event.

*Monica Davis**Tulsa*

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa continues to minister to families in their grief journey and has recently welcomed several new families. Thank you to M.E.N.D.—Dallas for including us in their Christmas Candlelight Ceremony. It was beautiful, and we had a meaningful time remembering our babies.

*Lisa Daily**SW Missouri*

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri paused this holiday season to honor our babies at our 2nd Annual Christmas Candlelight Ceremony in December. We welcomed 97 guests representing 30 families of 40 babies in heaven. Thank you my assistants Heather Bass, Ruth Sonnenberg, and Kathryn Gold for all your efforts with the ceremony. We have a busy year ahead, starting with the M.E.N.D. Leadership Conference, and our 2nd Winter Scrapbook Night fundraiser Friday, February 24. Tickets are only \$20.00 and space is limited! Save your seat ASAP! Contact heather@mend.org.

*Heather Fann**Bryan/College Station*

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station is continuing to reach out to Brazos County. We had a beautiful time remembering our babies at the M.E.N.D. Houston Christmas Ceremony. Thank you, Jaimie of M.E.N.D.—Houston, for inviting us. We will be holding our first Bunco Bash fundraiser on January 14. If you are interested in helping, please e-mail me at jennie@mend.org.

Jennie Drude

Amarillo

M.E.N.D.—Amarillo just completed our 2nd year of “Wrapping for M.E.N.D.” We had a great turnout again this year! We want to thank the Southwest Church of Christ for the use of the fellowship hall. Thank you to all the friends and families who wrapped gifts and helped throughout the day. We could not continue the support to families who have suffered losses without you all. We look forward to next year.

Becky Anderson

NW Washington

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington had a very special Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on December 11, 2011. We were so blessed to have 83 loving people attend. There were tears, indeed, but also good fellowship afterward as we shared stories over refreshments. We also proudly displayed our chapter quilt for the first time. I am looking forward to all three of my assistants joining me at the leadership conference in January in Dallas.

As we begin our second year in 2012, we anticipate having to sadly welcome new families, but feel blessed while doing so, resting in the assurance that no one need walk this journey alone.

Susan Crow

Hot Springs

M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs has been busy attending training in Dallas for both the Walk to Remember and the Christmas Candlelight Service and look forward to having our own next year.

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 Soncy
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

Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7 p.m.
National Park Medical Center/Maurice Room
1910 Malvern Avenue
Hot Springs, AR
Director: Amy Humphries
amy@mend.org, (501) 620-9930

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 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 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.*

M.E.N.D.ing Mommies

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

Contact Marilyn Brown:
Marilyn@mend.org.

*M.E.N.D.ing Mommies is a group of
M.E.N.D. moms (and grandmothers)
who create and sew tiny gowns, caps,
and blankets that are donated to area
hospitals for little babies that die.*

Parenting After Loss Playgroup

Meets monthly at various locations in the
Dallas / Fort Worth metroplex.

Contact Magen Kaye :Magen@mend.org
or call (214) 435-3870

Infertility group

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

Contact Cheryl Davis for meeting
location and information at
Cheryl@mend.org
*For families experiencing
infertility after a loss.*

**Mommies AND daddies are both
welcome at all M.E.N.D. meetings.
Unless otherwise noted, all 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.



Subsequent Births

Kevin Walker and LaMonica Whittaker-Walker, along with big brother Kingsley, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, joyfully announce the arrival of Kolton,

born October 24, 2011,
measuring 8 lb.,
and 20.5 inches long.

The Walker family lovingly remembers,
Johnston,
September 12-18, 2007,
SIDS.

Anthony and Kristin Ries, along with big siblings Logan, Hunter, Hailey and Alexis, of Denver, Colorado, joyfully announce the arrival of Levi Zachary,

born September 15, 2011,
measuring 8 lb., 2 oz.,
and 20.5 inches long.

The Ries family lovingly remembers
Hannah Rachelle,
February 6-8, 2007,
Hypoplastic Right Heart Syndrome
due to Trisomy 18,
and Lily Anne,
miscarried June 20, 2008.

Tim and Sarah Winebrenner, along with big siblings Saul and Ella, of Tomball, Texas, joyfully announce the arrival of Isaac Allen,
born October 24, 2011,
measuring 6 lb., 10 oz.

The Winebrenners lovingly remember
Shauna Elisabeth,
stillborn April 12, 2003,
Trisomy 18.

Kent and Brynn Mereness
of Amarillo, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Lucy Jayne,
born September 12, 2011,
measuring 7 lb., 14 oz.,
and 21 inches long.
The Mereness family
lovingly remembers
Titus,
stillborn March 12, 2010,
due to blood clot in cord.

Sean and Sarah Jordan,
and siblings Stephen, Season, Ethan,
Marshall, Clay, Gavin, Gage and Parker
of Lima, Ohio,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Parker James Russell,
born May 26, 2011,
measuring 9 lb., 1oz.,
and 20.5 inches long.
The Jordans lovingly remember
Marissa Joy,
November 26, 2003,
Thanatophorica Dysplasia,
and Baby Jordan,
miscarried October 8, 1999.

Alfredo and Mercedes Contreras
of Irving, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Isaiah Adan,
born November 12, 2011,
measuring 6 lb., 11 oz.,
and 19.5 inches long.
The Contreras lovingly remember
Samuel Adan,
stillborn November 11, 2011,
cord accident.

David and Priscilla Barrientos,
along with big sister Violet,
of Irving, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Iris Harmony Pearl,
born October 27, 2011,
measuring 9 lb., 12 oz.,
and 19 inches long.
The Barrientos family
lovingly remembers
Baby Barrientos,
miscarried March 2001,
and twins Hope and Faith,
miscarried July 7, 2010.

Jeff and Sheila Orkin,
and big sister Sarah,
of Plano, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Michael Emmett,
born November 8, 2011,
measuring 6 lb., 5 oz.,
and 18.25 inches long.
The Orkins lovingly remember
David Ezra,
stillborn March 4, 2010,
unknown cause.

Stephen and Kerri Hagedorn
of Dallas, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Wesley Knox,
born September 7, 2011,
measuring 7 lb., 9 oz.,
and 19 inches long.
The Hagedorns lovingly remember
Zachary,
stillborn May 11, 2010,
unknown cause.

Curtis and Jennifer Harrison
of Walnut Grove, Missouri,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Leviticus Aaron,
born November 27, 2011,
measuring 9 lb., 8 oz.,
and 22.5 inches long.
The Harrisons lovingly remember
Serenity,
miscarried December 3, 2009.

Adrian and Stephanie Estala,
along with sisters, Isabella and Olivia,
of Pearland, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Adrian Julian,
born November 23, 2011,
measuring 4 lb., 11 oz.,
and 19 inches long.
The Estalas lovingly remember
Dylan and Trystan,
December 11, 2008,
PROM and pre-term labor.

Temporadas Navideñas

El Legado de Jonathon

No mucho después de que mi esposo, Byron y yo nos casamos, me diagnosticaron con una enfermedad degenerativa del riñón. Un par de años más tarde, después de varias consultas con mis médicos, decidimos iniciar una familia. Había combatido algunas complicaciones con mi primer embarazo, pero a pesar de las estadísticas médicas, nuestro hijo, Byron, Jr., nació a término completo y saludable.

Cuando quede embarazada la segunda vez, tres años más tarde, me encontré un poco aprensiva y más nerviosa de que este bebé no llegaría al término completo. Por alguna razón, cada día ponía mis manos sobre mi barriga que crecía cada día más, y oraba que este bebé sería un milagro aún mayor que la de su hermano. Me imaginaba que Jonathan requeriría de un parto prematuro, resultando en que pasaría algún tiempo en el hospital fuera de lo normal. Oré por que los médicos profesionales, atendiendo no serían capaces de negar el poder curativo de Dios. Además, oré que la vida de Jonathan tocaría vidas innumerables, y que muchos vendrían a Jesús por conocer o escuchar su testimonio.

Cuando oraba esta oración cada día de las 29 1/2 semanas que pude cargar a mi niño, nunca en un millón de años, soñé de que él moriría. Tenía gran confianza que Dios iba a contestar mis oraciones fervientes para su gloria. Así que cuando se descubrió que había dejado de latir el pequeño corazón de Jonathan mientras estaba en reposo en cama del hospital, estuve en shock completo y con mucha incredulidad. El cordón umbilical que se ajustó alrededor de la cabeza de mi bebé, cuerpo y pierna izquierda definitivamente no era parte del plan!

En medio de mi profundo dolor y angustia, recuerdo diciéndole al señor numerosas veces, “seguramente tú tienes un plan. Seguramente algo bueno vendrá de esto!” Después de muchos meses de dolor intenso, finalmente llegué al lugar donde podía sinceramente decir “Dios bien, ¿qué hago con esto? Sé que la vida de Jonathan no fue en vano. Debe de haber tenido un propósito.” Con el tiempo, Dios comenzó a darme luz dentro mí y mostro su

plan. Un poco más de un año después de la muerte mortinada de Jonathan, se formó M.E.N.D.

Hoy, 15 años después, hemos crecido en un Ministerio Nacional, con capítulos de Texas y otros Estados. De hecho, mientras escribo este artículo, acabo de bajar de un barco de transportación y estoy sentada en un Starbucks ubicado en la parte más noroccidental de los Estados Unidos, esperando la hora para dar mi presentación en la primera Ceremonia Vigilia Navideña de M.E.N.D.—en NW Washington. Estoy en el asombro de cada aventura que el Señor me lleva a difundir la historia de Jonathan.

Las oraciones que ore por mi bebé realmente fueron respondidas, solo que, no como yo lo pensaba o quería. Tantos años después, seguramente puedo ver cómo Dios respondió a su manera. Estoy segura de que muchas vidas han sido afectadas por Jonathan - probablemente mucho más a través de su muerte que a través de su vida. Y sigo orando para que sean incontables las personas que llegan conocer al Señor por escuchar acerca de nuestro viaje e igual son ministrados a través de M.E.N.D.

Todos nuestros grupos de apoyo concluyen con la invitación a las familias presentes que compartan algo bueno o positivo que ha dado como resultado de su pérdida. Básicamente, estamos alentando a las familias a crear un legado para su bebé. Me encanta escuchar la variedad de cuentos dulces compartidos durante este tiempo especial. Si aún no ha usted creado un legado para su bebé, les aconsejó firmemente pensar una cosa buena que puede atribuir a su pérdida. Quizás sea una relación reconciliada. O posiblemente ahora se da cuenta de que es más sensible a las heridas de los demás y han sido capaces de consolar a otra persona en sufrimiento. Si esta tan tranquila en su dolor que verdaderamente no puede pensar en una sola cosa buena aún, está bien. Solo sepa que su pérdida no fue en vano, y confío en que algún día su aflicción se utilizará para honrar a su pequeño bebé y para glorificar al Señor.

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

*“In Loving Memory”
Continued from page 11*

Ethan Kane Spurrier
Stillborn September 5, 2007
Cord accident
Given by parents
Sandra and Bruce Spurrier
and siblings Thomas and Jakob

Alivia Elizabeth Grace Walker
Stillborn July 24, 2006
Incompetent cervix
Given by parents Robert and Liz Walker
and little brother Jaxson

Christian Graham Wells
July 11, 2010
Unknown cause
Given by parents Glen and Mitzi Wells
and big brother Michael

Mercy Elizabeth Whitfield
September 8-21, 2011
Trisomy 13
Parents: Allison D’Auteuil and
Rodney Whitfield
Siblings: Grace and Justice
Gifts given by
Dr. Philip and Michelle Johnson
Luna Properties/
Carla and Trey Cook
Mary Howard

Gifts of Support
Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
West Conroe Baptist Church
MOPS of Second Baptist Church,
Springfield, MO
Steve and Kirsten Brallier Family Fund,
Springfield, MO
Stephanie Brennen, Amarillo, TX
Metropolitan Baptist Church, Conroe, 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.

M.E.N.D. Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death
 P.O. Box 631566, Irving, TX 75063
 USA
 (972) 506-9000
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 DeSoto, TX 75115
 Permit No. 614

“... 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 mbsbrown16@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.



www.mend.org