



Adopting After a Loss

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The majority of our subscribers have already or will someday give birth to living babies after their losses. But there are some of us who may never experience that blessing and must seriously consider adoption. I truly believe adoption is one of the most unselfish and Christ-like gifts a parent could ever give a child who needs a loving home. Yet I firmly think adopting a baby is something a couple must be called to do and not a decision that can be made quickly or impulsively. It takes much prayer, counsel from those who are authorities on the matter, and the desire of each member of the family.

In 1989, just months after getting married, I was diagnosed with a kidney disease and was advised by my doctors at the time not to get pregnant until they could stabilize my deteriorating organs. Two years later we conceived our first child, and despite a few complications during the third trimester, we gave birth to a healthy little boy, Byron, Jr. When Byron was three years old we decided we wanted another addition to our family and expressed a desire to my doctors to once again have a baby. This time they were a little more hesitant, because I did not have quite the kidney function I had when I was expecting Byron. However, we were told the decision was ours, and after a lot of thought and prayer we conceived our second son in December, 1994. Just weeks into the pregnancy I began having trouble with my blood pressure, and I instantly knew it was going to be a very long nine months. Bedrest was required at 24 weeks, then hospitalization came at 27 weeks because it was apparent that my kidneys were succumbing to the stress of the pregnancy. After more than two weeks of constant observation, one can only imagine the shock and horror when a nurse came into my room to take routine vitals and discovered Jonathan no longer had a heartbeat. His death had absolutely nothing to do with my failing kidneys; instead he became completely entangled in the umbilical cord and died of what is termed a "cord accident".

I wish I had kept a record of how many times well-meaning people said to me, "surely you aren't going to try again." Only those of us who have lost a baby can fully understand the deep desire to have another child, despite the risks we may face. My kidney function was so low after giving birth to Jonathan that the chances of successfully carrying another baby were minimal, so I was strongly advised to wait until after a transplant. I was given a kidney from my friend, Valerie Jones, on February 16, 2000, which thankfully went without complications and has drastically changed my life for the better. It was recommended that I wait one to two years following the transplant before considering another pregnancy. The success of the graft had to be a prime consideration. Twenty months after the transplant, once again after much thought and prayer, we conceived our third baby. Byron, Byron, Jr., and I were so excited yet very aware of the potential damage to my new kidney, and we realized that like Jonathan, this little baby may not come home either. Sadly during a routine sonogram at 10 weeks on December 10, 2001, I saw that my tiny baby no longer had the beating heart that I had seen three weeks earlier.

Just as I experienced after the loss of Jonathan, people who mean well feel the need to express their negative opinions of my wanting to attempt a fourth pregnancy. Countless people ask, "Have you considered adoption?" as if they are offering me a novel idea. Sometimes I want to answer them as my ten-year-old would, with a sarcastic, "DUH!" But to reply to that repetitious question, the answer is yes, but no. As I mentioned before, I believe one must be called to take in a child who is not biologically theirs, and our family has not sensed that calling. Due to all we have been through with the loss of two babies and having had a kidney transplant, it would appear adoption would be the logical option to fill the void we have in our hearts, but we simply don't have the will. I'll never say "never" to adoption for our family, and only God knows if there is a special child He wants to place in our home someday. But for now we will just have to be content with it being the three of us until we make a decision regarding a subsequent pregnancy or until He places it on our hearts to seek adoption. I know several couples who have adopted children from Russia, China and a few have found available babies in the United States. What a wonderful blessing those kids have been to those families! I also have many friends who were adopted themselves, and I am confident the Lord placed them in loving families and used them to make their households complete.

Maybe you and your spouse have had to discuss the possibility of adoption like Byron and me and feel as we do, that it's not for you. I pray God will give you a peace about that decision and, like us, choose to never rule out that He could change your mind someday. On the other hand, perhaps you know without a doubt that adoption is the best alternative for you and it's just a matter of time before a precious child who needs a family becomes a part of yours. I pray the Lord will give you the strength, resources, wisdom and energy to endure all the steps it requires. Or maybe you simply don't know what you want. You desperately wish for a child of your own, but for whatever reason that may not become a reality, and adopting a baby doesn't seem quite right. I pray God will give you divine direction and make a clear and obvious path before you. For all of us, I pray the desires of our hearts will be met, the hole we feel from our loss(es) will be filled and we will be satisfied beyond measure with what His perfect plan is for our families.

Rebekah Mitchell

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How to Stand When You Do Not Understand

by James O. Davis

“Sheri, take three or four deep breaths for us,” my wife heard the doctor say before the anesthesia took effect.

How does one stand when he or she does not understand? My precious wife, Sheri Reneé, and I lost our two babies. We pray that our story will remind people of the value of human life and will reassure those who walk through dark, desperate places that God can be trusted with their most heart-wrenching sorrows.

Six weeks of agony

On January 24, 1991, at 9:36 p.m., Jennifer Reneé Davis entered this world by way of emergency cesarean section. At 25 weeks gestation, she was 14 weeks early, weighing 2 pounds, 3 ounces and measuring 14 inches long.

During the following six weeks, she fought and struggled valiantly to survive. The four neonatologists did not give us much hope. They continued to tell us the blunt and often frightening facts throughout our baby’s stay in the intensive care nursery. Yet, her will to live surprised them more than once when it appeared certain that the end was near.

Within the first two days, the gravity of Jennifer Reneé’s situation became more apparent. More critical than her weight was her early gestational age. She experienced lung failure, kidney failure, a bleed in the brain, and two bowel resectioning surgeries. One crisis led to the next one. There were 106 x-rays, innumerable ultrasounds, transfusions, medications and blood tests.

In severe cases such as ours, a child cannot be held because of all the medical equipment attached to her. Only when no hope remains is such a child removed from the monitors and given to parents to hold. One of the most heart-rending moments of our lives occurred on March 5, 1991, at 7 p.m., when Jennifer was first placed in Sheri’s arms. We all cried without shame. Sheri cuddled Jennifer for 12 hours during the next 17 hours. Her mother and I shared the other five hours while Sheri’s father stayed with each of us. At 12:18 p.m., on March 6, Jennifer died in her arms. Our comfort then and now is knowing that Jennifer was instantly welcomed by the outstretched arms of her loving Heavenly Father.

A true Valentine’s story

Valentine’s Day will never be the same in our lives. On February 14, 1998, our James Paul William Davis—at only 2 pounds, 13 ounces and 16 inches long—came into the world two months early. He was due on May 5, just as his sister had been. He lived only 12 hours and 55 minutes and died in Sheri’s arms, just a few feet from where Jennifer Reneé had died 7 years earlier.

With our son, Sheri was able to experience natural childbirth, but, from the point of his birth, nothing was normal. She did not have the joy of holding a newborn, since his lungs were stiff and he was soon rushed to the intensive care nursery. We began reliving a nightmare that we knew all too well. A beautiful, tiny baby boy with lots of black hair and delicate, darling features was filled with catheters and jet ventilator tubing, among other wires that were familiar to us. James Paul’s heart rate soon dropped. He was placed in Sheri’s arms, wires and all, and she loved and held him until he died, while her parents and my father and I stood near.

This time we had the choice of driving our son to the funeral home ourselves. It was a heart-wrenching 25-minute drive. Upon arriving at the funeral home, we informed the director that we would dress our baby for burial. Tiny ones are often not embalmed. We picked the same type of small casket as we had for our daughter. We were led into a room and there proceeded to undress our little boy and put the

tiny blue and white gown on him that unnamed grandmothers make for those babies who die in the intensive care nursery. Sheri wrapped our baby in a blue and white blanket she had purchased in anticipation of his birth just two weeks before. She then placed James Paul in his casket. Our children are buried side by side. Two heart-shaped tombstones, designed by Sheri, bear their names and the dates of their births and deaths.

Six lessons of love

It is true that we live life forward and learn life backward. When the Lord teaches us something in the light, we must not doubt it in the dark. A faith that cannot be tested is a faith that cannot be trusted. Six vital principles carried Sheri and me through our loss. Those six lessons of God’s love will carry you through whatever you face.

First, *we are governed by God’s providence.* The word “providence” simply means to see ahead of time. God sees ahead of time for our lives. He never learns anything new. The Holy Trinity never meets in an emergency session and says, “This tragedy caught us by surprise. We did not see it coming.” Even though the tragedy does not make sense to us, it always makes sense to God. God knows what is best for our lives. What we may consider to be “bad” for us God may consider to be “good” for us. We have come to realize that there are some things in life that we may want but do not need; and some things that we may need but do not want. Only God knows what is truly best for us.

Second, *we are growing by God’s plan.* We grow spiritually more in sickness than in health; more in tragedy than tranquility. God’s

It is true that we live life forward and learn life backward. When the Lord teaches us something in the light, we must not doubt it in the dark.

primary goal in our lives is not to make us happy or healthy, but to make us holy. It has been said, “We do not live our lives by explanations, but by the promises of God.” God’s Word is still faithful and reliable even though we may not understand what is going on in our lives or why God has allowed a difficulty to come our way. Faith is like film: It is better developed in the dark. Mother Teresa said shortly before her death, “You will never know that Jesus is all you need until all you have is Jesus.”

Third, *we are graced by God’s prayers.* Even though we cannot see God, He can always see us. He never takes His eyes off us. Did you know that you are on the prayer list of Jesus Christ? Jesus Christ is praying for each of us. Sheri and I do not fully have answers for the deaths of our daughter and son. We have to daily commit our lives to God’s will and wisdom. We must always remember that where reason cannot wade, faith must swim.

Fourth, *we are gladdened by God’s presence.* Have you ever wondered why God takes so long sometimes to answer your prayers? Have you ever wondered if God was going to come through for you? For Christians, waiting time is not wasted time. While we are waiting on the Lord, we must not forget all the times He has answered our prayers. Forgetfulness leads to fearfulness and fearfulness leads to faithlessness. Fear will make you sick and will shorten your life. Fear will take the blue out of your sky and the joy out of your heart. If the icy fingers of fear have gripped your life, then ask the Lord to melt them away by His Holy Spirit.

Fifth, *we are guarded by God’s person.* When Jesus came walking on the water, He announced, “It is I; be not afraid.” Someone has said, “The will of God will never take you where the grace of God cannot keep you.” Whatever is over your head is still under the Lord’s feet. Are the waves of life crashing over you? Have you been panic-stricken, filled with fear, wondering whether you will make it through your terrifying storm? If so, please take heart; the waves that are over your head are still under the Lord’s feet.

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***This year's Walk to Remember
will be Saturday, October 12, 2002,
at 3:00 p.m.***

***The walk will be held at
Andy Brown Park East, Coppell, Texas.
To make your reservation now,
contact Rebekah Mitchell at (972) 459-2396
or rebekah@mend.org.***

"Not flesh of my flesh, nor bone of my bone
But still miraculously my own
Never forget for a single moment
You didn't grow under my heart,
But in it."
Anonymous

"We waited for you against all hope.
We came for you with the greatest of hopes."
Nancy McQuire Roche

"Dear Lord,
I do not ask that thou shouldst give me
some high work of thine,
some noble calling or some wonderous task.
Give me a little hand to hold in mine."
Anonymous

"Hope is that thing with feathers
that perches in the soul
and sings the tune without the words
and never stops... at all."
Emily Dickinson

From www.twopeasinabucket.com

September/October Topic

Dealing with Insensitive Remarks
Deadline – July 31, 2002

November/December Topic

Remembering Your Baby During the Holidays
Deadline – September 30, 2002

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 the back page 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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M.E.N.D. Support Group Meetings

Join us in a time of sharing experiences.

Regular M.E.N.D. meetings

are held the
2nd Thursday of every month from
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

**Mommies AND daddies are both
welcome at all of our meetings.**

Matters of Faith Bible study

meets every 3rd Thursday.
Please contact Jana Spigener
at (817) 468-9963 or
gaspigener@aol.com if interested.

Playgroup

*For families with children born prior
to or subsequent to a loss.*
Contact Pam Morren
at (972) 335-8202
ashtonsmom98@hotmail.com

Our daddies group

meets the 2nd Thursday of
March, June, September, and December
from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

**This is a special time for daddies to get to-
gether and discuss concerns unique to them
as fathers. Our moms and dads meet to-
gether for introductions before dividing into
two groups for discussion.**

All support group meetings are held at:

**1159 Cottonwood Lane, Suite 150
Irving, Texas (Las Colinas) 75038**

(This is on the west side of MacArthur Boule-
vard, across the street from the Four Seasons
Resort. There is a Holiday Inn Express at the
entrance of Cottonwood Lane.)

For more information or directions,
call (972) 459-2396.

Subsequent pregnancy group

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

*For families who are considering becoming preg-
nant or are currently pregnant after a loss.*

Subsequent pregnancy birth class

*For families who are near their due date with their
subsequent pregnancy.*

This one-night childbirth refresher meets once
every three months and is conducted by one
of our M.E.N.D. moms, Allyson Smith,
R.N. The group requires a minimum of three
participants to meet. For more information
contact Allyson at ssmith@dallas.net or (972)
899-0405.

*(Playgroups meet at various locations around the
Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.)*

Birthday Tributes to Our Special Babies

Happy 1st Birthday to our sweet baby Katelyn.

It's been one very long year since we have held you in our arms, Mommy still cries for you every day. But we know you are smiling - your new little sister is here, a gift we know you sent to us!



Love, Mommy and Daddy

*Remembering Katelyn Frances Hayes
Stillborn May 25, 2001*

Downs Syndrome and Endocardial Cushion Defect

Parents: Robert and Kelly Hayes

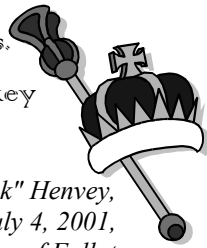
Little sister: Amanda, and twin sibling in heaven (miscarried)

Happy 1st Birthday to our "Little Prince"

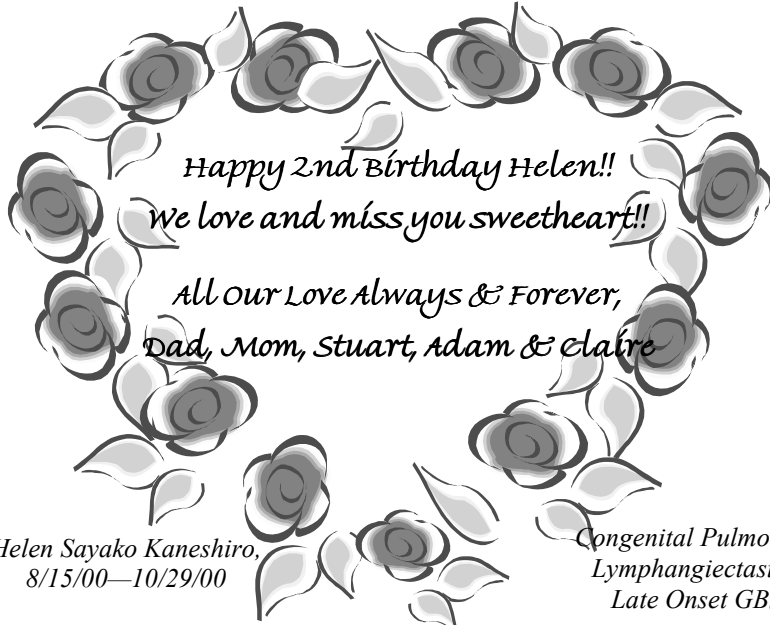
James "Jack" Henvey

You are always in our hearts.

Grandma and Grandpa McLeskey



*In memory of James "Jack" Henvey,
stillborn July 4, 2001,
due to Tetralogy of Fallot
Parents: Chris and Renee Henvey*



*Happy 2nd Birthday Helen!!
we love and miss you sweetheart!!*

*All Our Love Always & Forever,
Dad, Mom, Stuart, Adam & Claire*

*Helen Sayako Kaneshiro,
8/15/00—10/29/00*

*Congenital Pulmonary
Lymphangiectasia /
Late Onset GBS*

*Parents: Ernest & Patti Kaneshiro
Big brothers: Stuart & Adam
Little sister: Claire*

Michael

My name is Michael.

I am now six!

My birthday and death day, July '96.



I had Trisomy 18,

A hole in my heart.

But, don't worry,

It's just some of life's parts.

I miss my Mommy and Daddy very much!

But, I definitely felt my parents'
and siblings' loving touch!

They visited my grave just last March.

I haven't seen them in awhile, but, hey, it's a start.

My name is Michael.

I am now six!

My birthday and death day, July '96!

Michael's Goodbye

I'll never forget that sad summer day,

The day my brother, Michael would be
taken away!

Goodbye forever, at least until I die.

I felt it in my heart, but I couldn't cry.

Goodbye, goodbye little brother of mine.

I know it's what God wanted, but it'll never be fine.

I'll never forget that sad summer day,

The day my brother, Michael was taken away!

Poems written by Maggie Böer

*In memory of Michael Joseph Böer,
stillborn July 17, 1996*

due to Trisomy 18

Parents: Paul and Lynne Böer

Big brother and sister: Paul, Jr., and Maggie



Precious Angel

I am looking for my angel
She is nowhere to be found.
But way up in the Heavens
Higher than the clouds.

I search my children's faces
To see if there are clues
Who would she most look like
And would her eyes be blue.

How big is she getting
All the changes I have missed.
It breaks my heart, it grieves my soul
I never imagined this.

I need to know the reason
Why my angel isn't here.
It makes no sense, "Why, God?" I beg
But the answers are unclear.

So daily I keep searching
For my angel I have lost.
When finally God says to me,
"Dear child, don't you know?
Your precious angel isn't lost;
She's everywhere you go.

She's the sunshine on the sunny days
She's the twinkle in your eye.
She's the tears, the laughs,
The gentle breeze, she's the little flakes of snow.
She is everything you dream of,
Part of everything you do."

So my precious angel, if you are looking for me too
I am here and you can find me
In the hugs I give your brothers,
In the kisses on their cheeks
When I tuck them in with TLC at night before they sleep.
You can hear me when I say my prayers
Thanking God for all my angels.
I, too, am with you always
Just as you are here with me,
Invisible in spirit, but loved eternally.

Love and tears,
Mommy

*By Diana Wills in memory of her daughter
Olivia Dale Wills,
stillborn 8/10/2001*



Happy 2nd Birthday Garrett Reed

It has been two years now since we've
had to say goodbye to our precious son.
Ten days wasn't nearly enough time
to sing to you,
to hold your tiny hand,
to read to you,
to stare at your perfection
and to dream of all that would be.
Your life here with us was much too short,
but we look forward to the day
we will meet again.
Wait for us, baby...we love you!

*In loving memory of Garrett Reed Dobson
August 18 to August 28, 2000
due to kidney dysplasia
Parents: Bryan and Linda Dobson
Little sister: Chloe Jane*



Happy 3rd Birthday Andrew, Our Precious Angel

There still isn't a day that goes by that we don't think of you. Abby is starting to talk about the two of you in Mommy's tummy. She calls you our little angel. We will sing Happy Birthday to you on July 14th and send 3 balloons up to heaven for you. We love and miss you very very much!

*In loving memory of Andrew Bailey Carpenter,
stillborn on July 14, 1999,
due to unknown causes.
Parents: Melissa and Todd Carpenter
Twin sister: Abigail*

Happy 2nd Birthday to our sweet Dylan

I remember this day like it was yesterday, I will never forget you. I love you my sweet baby.

Forever missing you,
Mommy, Daddy
and little brother Nathan



*Angie and Derek Turner,
parents of Dylan James Turner,
July 10, 2000 to July 29, 2000,
due to complications from premature birth.*



Keepsake Resources

For Brittany

www.forbrittany.com

Offers beautiful mommy bracelets that come in a variety of styles, or design your own. Mention that you were referred by M.E.N.D. and a percentage of the sale will be donated to M.E.N.D.

Angels in Heaven Ministries

www.angelsinheaven.org

Offers framed poems, cards, and audio tapes relating to infant loss.

A Loss Remembered

2908 South Clemont Dr.
Denver, CO 80222
(303) 692-9668

lossremembered@cs.com

Provides beautiful remembrance cards on the anniversary of a child's death.

Haley's Creations

P.O. Box 13242, La Jolla, CA 92039
Toll Free Phone:
877-538-6446

www.haleyscreations.com

Offers remembrance cards, journals, and keepsakes relating to infant loss.

Angel Babies in Heaven

(843) 871-3071

<http://www.galaxymall.com/children/angelbabies/>

Offers hand-painted memorial stepping stones to honor babies gone too soon.

God's Little Ones

www.homestead.com/godslittleones/index.html

Offers life-sized models of babies at various stages of prenatal development.

Keri's Kreations

221 W. Hillview St.
Winslow, AZ 86047
(928) 289-0715

A book of remembrance for parents who have lost children through miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant death.

My Heart's Missing Link

P.O. Box 0992, Allen Park, MI 48101
www.myheartsmisissinglink.com

Offers beautifully designed heart-shaped pendants with a birthstone and a "missing link" to help remember loved ones who now live in heaven and your heart.

Perinatal Loss Certificate of Life

<http://www.tearsoup.com/pl/certificate%20of%20life.htm>

Makes hand-calligraphied certificates acknowledging your baby's life.

Preemie Dolls

<http://www.macatawa.org/~eding/dolls.html>

Offers life-sized cloth dolls in babies' birth sizes.

To Russia with Love

by Tamara Carver

with contributions by her husband, John Carver

Before my husband and I were married, we had our family all planned: we would have three or four kids. As the months turned into years without children, we began to realize that "our plan" wasn't working.

We spent five years riding the roller coaster of infertility with our hopes rising each month, only to come crashing back down. Meanwhile, I went to baby shower after baby shower, and together we watched more and more of our friends have babies. During this time, we considered borrowing money for more testing and treatments but decided that we could not justify spending thousands of dollars when success was far from certain.

A few months after our decision to forego more treatments, my sister announced that she was unexpectedly pregnant. I hit the bottom of the tracks on the fertility roller coaster. I could not believe that after we had tried for so many years, my sister could just "accidentally" get pregnant. I had always been close to my sister (who is only 17 months younger than I am). Now she was unmarried, pregnant, and in need of my help. I was devastated, but I was there for her. In fact, my husband and I were both present in the delivery room while my sister gave birth to twins: a girl and a boy.

Over the next several years, we babysat our niece and nephew one weekend a month (overnight) to help my sister out and give her a break ... and something wonderful happened. We enjoyed playing with the children, watching them grow, and seeing them learn. In fact, we became their "second mommy and daddy." Something else happened, as well. Our desire to be parents grew stronger. As much as we enjoyed the twins, we both wanted to be a mommy and daddy, not just an aunt and uncle. It was at this point that my husband suggested we look into adoption.

After a lot of prayer and research, we decided to adopt internationally from Russia. We sent our application to a local adoption agency and they initiated a family assessment. The next four months we spent doing paperwork, paperwork, and more paperwork. Finally, we were "paper ready!" Then the waiting period for a referral began. Four months later, we received a referral to adopt a four-and-a-half-year-old girl and a two-year-old boy. We accepted the referral and, two months later, we left for Russia.

We were overwhelmed by the incredible history and beauty of St. Petersburg, which is in stark contrast to the poverty in which most of the Russian people live. For Americans, most items or services cost approximately the same amount as at home. However, every time we went to pay a bill, we were reminded of just how expensive simple pleasures are for the average Russian. Paying 100,000 rubles for lunch sounds like a lot of money, until you realize that this is less than \$17 American (which seems affordable). But to the average Russian, who only makes \$5,000 to \$9,000 annually, it is a small fortune.

Finally, we met our new daughter at the *detsky dom* (children's home). She had lived in an orphanage all of her life. While the *detsky dom* was clean and the staff was very warm and loving to the children, they obviously had too much to do with too little staff and money.

Our daughter shared a room with nine other children. The clothes they wore were secondhand, and their diet consisted mostly of bread, starches, and watery soup. Fruit, vegetables, milk, and meat were rarely part of a meal. The staff was also in dire need of medical supplies and vitamins for the children.

From the moment we arrived at the orphanage, it was obvious that our visit had been much anticipated. There was an air of excitement throughout the building, similar to that on Christmas morning. Someone was getting adopted today!

The director, social worker, and caretaker prepared a special afternoon tea for us. They served us "special" foods (fish and salami sandwiches, and cake for dessert). As we prepared to leave, the children huddled around us, hugged our daughter and said, *dasvadany*. As we drove away from the orphanage, there were children lined up at each window we passed, waving goodbye.

It is difficult to express the emotion we felt, both at finally meeting our daughter and at seeing the faces of the children we left behind, most of whom will never be adopted. We couldn't help but wonder how many of them were dreaming of the day that they would be driving away in a car with their new parents instead of standing at the window, waving goodbye.

The next day, we met our new son at his "baby house," the home for children under four years old. While our daughter had appeared healthy, our son needed medical attention. His cheeks were bleeding due to eczema. We spent the entire time in the director's office and were not invited to tour the orphanage. We were also not allowed to take our son with us that day but had to wait until the next afternoon, after we had been to court and finalized the adoption.

When we held our son in our arms for the first time, it was evident that he needed love. He did not instinctively wrap his legs around our waist and hold on the way normal two-year-old children do when they are held—he acted as if being held were an entirely new experience for him.

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Subsequent Births

Michael and Jodie Cates,
along with big sisters **Abbie and Sadie**
of Forney, Texas,
announce the arrival of
Cooper Lane,
born April 10, 2002, at 5:38 p.m.,
6 lbs., 13 oz., 19.25 inches long.
The Cates lovingly remember
Travis Stone,
August 24, 1999,
abnormal placenta.

Karl and Evelyn Baker,
along with big sister **Rebekah**
of Los Angeles, California,
announce the arrival of
Rory Jordyn Xiao-ming Baker,
born February 20, 2002, at 6:50 p.m.
Rory weighed 8 lbs., 2 oz., 21 inches long.
The Bakers lovingly remember twin daughters
Julia and Elisabeth,
stillborn December 27, 1997,
Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome.

Nellie and Lee Hooper
of Lewisville, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Hayden Lee,
born April 15, 2002,
7 lbs., 15 oz.
The Hoopers lovingly remember
William Hooper,
stillborn May 11, 2001,
unknown cause.

Kevin and Dianne Pickard,
along with big sister **Kayla**
of The Village, Oklahoma,
joyfully announce the birth of
Kaitlyn Nicole,
born April 12, 2002, at 8:20 a.m.,
6 lbs., 3 oz., 18 1/2 inches.
The Pickards lovingly remember
their second angel,
Kayci Lynn,
stillborn November 11, 2000,
due to placental abruption at 37 weeks.

Bryan and Linda Dobson
of Woodstock, Georgia,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Chloe Jane,
born December 15, 2001, at 8:55 p.m.,
8 lbs., 10 oz., 22 inches.
The Dobsons lovingly remember
Garrett Reed,
August 18-28, 2000,
kidney dysplasia.

Dawn and John Haley
of Chicago, Illinois,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Amelia Louise,
born January 21, 2002,
7 lbs., 6 oz., 20 1/2 inches long.
The Haleys lovingly remember
John Robert,
September 9 - September 11, 2000,
cord accident.

Tommy and Sheri Heflin,
along with siblings
Samantha and Thomas
of Staunton, Virginia,
proudly announce the arrival of
Natalie Anne,
August 18, 2001, at 6:20 p.m.,
5 lbs., 9 oz., 19 inches long.
The Heflins lovingly remember
Baby Heflin,
miscarried April 1995,
Ryan Benjamin,
miscarried February 22, 2000,
and Natalie's twin,
miscarried January 2, 2001.

Robert and Kelly Hayes
of S. Amboy, New Jersey,
proudly announce the arrival of
Amanda Rose,
born March 22, 2002,
7 lbs., 11 oz., 20.5 inches.
The Hayes lovingly remember
Katelyn Frances,
stillborn May 25, 2001,
Downs Syndrome
and Endocardial Cushion Defect,
and Baby Hayes (Katelyn's Twin),
miscarried.

Jennifer and Todd Williams
of Irving, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Kyle Todd,
born June 3, 2002, at 7:35 a.m.,
weighing 9 lbs., 21 inches long.
The Williams lovingly remember
Lauren Elle,
stillborn March 15, 2001,
cord accident.



M.E.N.D. would like to express special thanks to Kim Ramirez, Velinda Williams, Christie Michie, and Becky Heiskell, whose volunteer efforts through the Pampered Chef fundraiser helped add to our funds.

Dear Tyler,

I never had the chance to hold you close to my heart. I wish I could hold you so tight and say, "Tyler, Mommy loves you."

Sometimes I sit and picture you and your sister laughing and playing in the yard. After six years I still wake from sleep thinking I hear you cry for me. My sweet baby, don't cry for me. Mommy will soon be home.

One day I was at your grave, crying, wondering if you know that I love you, and a white dove flew over us. My sweet son, just because I didn't bring you home doesn't mean I didn't want to. I love you from the bottom of my heart to the depths of my soul. When I get to hold you for the first time, I promise I'll never let you go.

*Until we meet again,
Love, Mommy*

*In memory of Tyler Daron Evans
Stillborn 3/12/96*



Support Groups

If you would like your support group added to our directory, please send the pertinent information to Rebekah at either the M.E.N.D. postal address or our e-mail address.

UNITED STATES

ARIZONA

Arizona SIDS Alliance
PO Box 85001-1111, Phoenix, AZ 85001
1-800-597-7437

Mothers in Sympathy Support (M.I.S.S.)
P.O. Box 5333, Peoria, AZ 85385
(623) 979-1000

CALIFORNIA

Helping After Neonatal Death
PO Box 341, Los Gatos, CA 95031
www.h-a-n-d.org, e-mail info@h-a-n-d.org
Alameda/Contra Costa: 1-800-963-7070
Central Valley: (209) 823-5503
Santa Clara: (408) 732-3228

Good Mourning Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support
3389 Via Dona, Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 733-5225
ctmontel@best1.net
Meet the 1st and 3rd Monday 7-9:00 p.m.
Pregnancy Support Center
601 East Ocean Ave Suite 6, Lompoc, CA 93436

HAND of Peninsula
Sequoia Health and Wellness Services
702 Marshall St., Redwood City, CA
(650) 367-6993
Contact Celia Hartnett

Mothers in Sympathy Support (M.I.S.S.)
Riverside Chapter
Attn: Mia-Riverside Facilitator
P.O. Box 7403, Riverside, Ca 92513-7403
Phone: (909) 686-2686
Meet 2nd Monday of each month, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Hunt Park Community Center, 4015 Jackson St.
(Located next to ParkView Hospital --Major cross street:
Magnolia Ave.)
Merced Chapter (Central California)
For more information, contact Kim Lotz
kim.lotz@missfoundation.org

ILLINOIS

Healing Hearts of Rockford
c/o Rockford Memorial Hospital
Dept. of Maternal - Fetal Medicine
2400 N. Rockton Ave., Rockford, IL 61103
or call Ask-A-Nurse (815) 971-3737

INDIANA

Resolve Through Sharing
Community Hospital
901 MacArthur Blvd., Munster, Indiana 46321
(219) 836-4571
Contact: Sue Armstrong
Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday monthly.

Healing Hearts
Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center
801 East LaSalle Ave., South Bend, IN 46617
Contact: Melissa Barrett: (219) 282-2147
noahsmom@mville.com

KANSAS

F.I.S.H. (Friends In Sharing Hope)
Contact Mary Hertach (620) 662-0355 or
Ginger Muller (620) 669-0185, gingersmuller@earthlink.net

MASSACHUSETTES

P.A.R.E.N.T. (Parents & Relatives
Enduring NeoNatal Tragedy)
Contact: Trish McClean: (508) 427-3028
Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM at
Good Samaritan Hospital, 235 N. Pearl St Brockton, MA,
in the Community Conference Room, 1st floor

NEW JERSEY

MISS
502 Montgomery Ave., Somers Point, NJ 08244
(609) 653-3046
www.geocities.com/Heartland/valley/1800/miss.html
4ourkids@msn.com
Contact: Kathy Evans

MIDS (Miscarriage, Infant Death & Stillbirth Support
Group, Inc.)
16 Crescent Dr., Parsippany, NJ 07054-1605
(973) 263-6730
mids1982@yahoo.com
Contact: Janet Tischler

TENNESSEE

Friends Helping One Another Through Loss
Child Loss Support
Teenagers Coping With Child Loss
(Three different groups)
42 Kilday Lane, Greeneville, TN 37445
Angel_Mommy_1999@yahoo.com
or Chrissypooh_99@yahoo.com
http://www.angelfire.com/tx2/angelbecca/
Contact Person: Jean Stewart

TEXAS

M.E.N.D.
PO Box 1007, Coppell, TX 75019
(972) 459-2396
(888) 695-MEND (toll free)
http://www.mend.org
Rebekah@mend.org
Contact: Rebekah Mitchell
Meetings are held at 1159 Cottonwood Ln.
Irving, TX 75038
2nd Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Mikela's Miracles SIDS Connection
Mike & Chrissy Lipscomb
www.mikelasmiracles.org
2601 Thistle Ln, Rowlett TX 75089
1-866-286-SIDS toll free
972-463-9243 local
Meets 1st Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m.
at Reinhardt Bible Church
2302 Northeast Pkwy, Garland, TX
Dinner is provided.

Healing Matters I
Miscarriage, Stillbirth, and Early Infant Death
Through the First Year of Life
4th Monday of every month, 7:30pm
Plano Medical Center, Classrooms I & II
3901 W. 15th Street, Plano TX
Contact: Ginny Robinson: (972) 519-1588

Caring Hearts
1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month 7:00pm
Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas, Fogelson Forum, ground
floor, call 214-345-2613
Contact: Brooke Arnold, brookearnold@texashealth.org

Resolve Through Sharing
Charlton Hospital
3500 W. Wheatland, Dallas, TX 75237
Meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
in Main Conference Room A

Resolve Through Sharing Denton
119 N Elm St., Denton, TX
2nd Monday of every month at 7:00p.m.
Contact: Tracy Morris: 940-566-5666

Journey of Hope Support Center
(children ages 3-18 and their caregivers)
2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month 6:30 p.m.
(972) 578-6634

South Austin Medical Center
Austin, TX
(No other information given)

Bereaved Parents of North Texas, Inc.
3rd Monday of every month 7:15p.m.
First United Methodist Church,
201 S. Locust, Denton, TX
Cole Chapel Lounge

Share of Fort Worth
North Hills Hospital
Grapevine Hwy & Hwy 820
Meets 2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Lorin Koemel: (817) 595-0833
9077 Elbe Trail, Fort Worth, TX 76118
E-mail koemel@hotmail.com

SHARE Of The Mid-Cities
HEB Harris Methodist, Hurst, TX
1st Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.
phone: 972-601-1676, fax: 419-735-2368
share_rts@yahoo.com

Angels Away
c/o CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health Care
Spiritual Care Department
333 N. Santa Rosa Street, San Antonio, TX
78207
(210) 704-2181
Meetings are held 3rd Thursday of every
month at 7 p.m. in the Spiritual Care Dept.

North Texas SIDS Alliance
1401 Airport Freeway, Suite 118
Bedford, Texas 76021
metro (817)267-7955
toll free in Texas (800)650-SIDS
fax (817)283-1526
http://www.northtexasids.org
e-mail: info@northtexasids.org
Contact: Sandi Wiggins, Exec. Director
Meetings are held at the SIDS office in Bed-
ford the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:00
p.m.

COPEs Angels
Contact: Amanda Little, (361) 857-6533
Meetings are held on the third Monday of
each month at 7:00 p.m. Meeting place is
Driscoll Children's Hospital, 3533 S. Ala-
meda, in Corpus Christi, on the basement
floor in the private dining room of the cafete-
ria.

AUSTRALIA

Murraylands Lutheran Stillborn
Infant Support Service
11 Ida St., Murray Bridge,
South Australia 5253
(08) 85324627 or (08) 85324897
Contact: Lynne Schulz

CANADA

Morning Light Ministries
St. Mary Star of the Sea Church
11 Peter St. South
Mississauga, Ontario L5H-2G1
(905) 278-2058
morninglightministry@home.com

Perinatal Bereavement Services Ontario
205 - 6060 Hwy. 7 E.
Markham, Ontario L3P 3A9
Tel: (905) 472-1807 or 1-888-301-PBSO
www.pbso.ca

God's Plan in Building Our Family

by Dawn M. Ripple

Ever since I was a young girl viewing television commercials about "saving" and "supporting" a child in a third world country, I vowed that when I grew up I was going to parent a child in need of a loving home. It was those poignant and powerful infomercials that initiated conversations with my parents about the hard truth that there were children in this world with far less than I had ever conceived or imagined possible. I wanted to make the difference in a life of a child.

When I met my husband, we, like most couples, discussed our desires and dreams about having children. Again, like most other couples, we assumed that having biological children would be a typical and easy feat. Knowing that adopting a child often involved large sums of money for agency and legal fees, we decided that we would have and parent biological children first while we built savings to fund the cost of adopting our subsequent children. This "plan" wasn't in the cards for us. At the time, we had lost sight of the fact that God has his own plan and things happen according to his time schedule; not ours.

After several years of battling and pursuing infertility hurdles, we decided to begin the trail of paperwork necessary to adopt a child. While working both issues simultaneously, we decided to let go and let God decide how we were to become a "family". Shortly thereafter, we adopted our daughter and first child, Julianna Michelle. Outsiders often question how one would or could bond with a child not born unto you. Loving, bonding and growing with our daughter has never been an issue. It just happens... From the first day she was placed with us, we never once doubted God and his plan for her to be united with us. Julianna is our daughter.

Over time and when we least expected it, we found out that we were expecting our first biological child. We were so surprised by God's unexpected blessing that we termed the conception a true "miracle". It was during my sixth month of pregnancy that we learned our son had a rare genetic skeletal disorder affecting the appropriate development of his bones. At the time of his diagnosis, no one knew that his condition was lethal. Our beautiful son, Jameson Cole, was born full-term and graced the earth for only eight short days.

continued on page 11

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.

M.E.N.D. member Amy Allred is a **Creative Memories** consultant. Amy donates to M.E.N.D. 20 percent of all sales made by M.E.N.D. members. If you would like to place an order, her phone number is (972) 272-7249, and her e-mail address is theallreds@juno.com.

Kroger grocery stores donate a percentage of all purchases of those shoppers who have and use a Kroger Share Card. To obtain your Share Card, contact Rebekah via one of the ways listed on the last page of this newsletter and let her know how many you need. This program is valid in Texas, but residents of other states may need to check with store managers to see if they participate.

Tom Thumb also has a program in Texas that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you have a Tom Thumb Reward Card, please ask your Tom Thumb cashier to link your card with M.E.N.D. Our number is **6265**. If you are already linked to another organization, they will split a donation of one percent of your purchases between the organizations. It only takes about five minutes to get a Reward Card, and it can also be used at Rاندalls and Simon David stores.

Kathryn Padilla, a M.E.N.D. member, is an independent **Mary Kay** consultant who is donating 40 percent of all sales by M.E.N.D. if they are made by M.E.N.D. members. Members also get ten percent off their first online order. You can shop online at www.mymk.com/kpadilla1.

Kim Robinson, a **Pampered Chef** kitchen consultant and M.E.N.D. family member, is donating 40 percent of sales to M.E.N.D. members back to our organization. You can browse products at www.pamperedchef.com, then e-mail Kim at kimr@cheerful.com to place an order.

Stamps.com offers a \$10-\$20 referral program. If you would like to purchase stamps from home and receive a free postage scale, visit www.stamps.com, and use referral code C-4FTJ-TWR. Stamps.com will give the incentive money to M.E.N.D. in the form of free postage.

The Weaver's Thread is a book of poetry by Angelique Cooper-McGlotten honoring the five babies she lost. A percentage of the sale of this book will go to M.E.N.D. For more information, visit <http://www.eofl.net>.

Carol Martin of Flower Mound, Texas, is the owner of a business called **For Brittany**. She makes beautiful mommy bracelets that come in a variety of styles and/or you can design your own. You can see all of her bracelets on her web site at www.forbrittany.com. For every sale to M.E.N.D. families, she will donate 10% back to us, but you must remember to tell her you are from M.E.N.D.

Nikki Wynne, a M.E.N.D. member and an **AVON** Independent Sales Rep, is donating 15% of all AVON Orders made by M.E.N.D. members to M.E.N.D. Please contact Nikki whichever way is best for you, by phone 817-419-7508, by email at nikkitheavonlady@aol.com, or shop on-line at her website (use passcode: nikki) at <http://www.youravon.com/nwynne/>.

Kim Jines, Independent **Southern Living at HOME** Consultant, is a M.E.N.D. member who is donating 20 percent of all sales made by M.E.N.D. members. For a catalog, call: (972) 222-7474 or e-mail: atHOMEkjines@aol.com. You can visit the website at www.southernlivingathome.com.

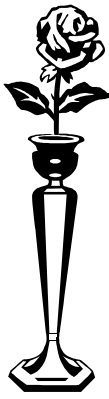
April Mayer, a M.E.N.D. member, is an independent **Tupperware** consultant who is donating 10 percent of all sales made by M.E.N.D. members back to our organization. You can browse products at www.tupperware.com. If you would like to place an order, her phone number is (940) 365-9695, and her e-mail address aubrey-tupperware@att.net.

Sandy Burnham, a **Shaklee** independent distributor and M.E.N.D. member, is donating 10 percent of sales made by M.E.N.D. members back to M.E.N.D. Please visit www.shaklee.net/sandyburnham to place an order. Remember to tell her you are from M.E.N.D.

Kris Binsfeld is an independent consultant for **Tastefully Simple**, a company that provides open-and-consume and easy-to-prepare gourmet foods. Kris will donate 10% of all sales to anyone who mentions M.E.N.D. Feel free to browse the website at www.tastefullysimple.com. Please contact Kris by phone 320-548-3413 or email her at mrstom@meltel.net.

Cheryl Kilburg designs beautiful heart pendants as remembrances of loved ones who leave our hearts with a "missing link." To see her work and order your own pendant, visit **My Heart's Missing Link** at www.myheartsmissinglink.com. Cheryl will donate \$10 for each gold item sold and \$5 for each sterling silver item sold to M.E.N.D. members back to M.E.N.D.

In Loving Memory



Faith Elizabeth Durham
Stillborn September 25, 1999
Triploidy
Given by parents,
Leighton and Lisa Durham
and little brother, Leighton IV

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

Kayci Lynn Pickard
Stillborn November 11, 2000,
at 37 weeks
due to placental abruption
Given by parents,
Kevin and Dianne Pickard
and sisters Kayla and Kaitlyn

Rachel Christina Weikert
January 4 - 13, 2001
Prematurity/Pseudomonas
Given by parents,
Michele and Mark Weikert

Julia and Elisabeth Baker
Stillborn December 27, 1997
Twin to Twin
Transfusion Syndrome
Given by parents,
Karl and Evelyn Baker
and little sisters
Rebekah and Rory

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 the back page of this newsletter for more information regarding where to send your donations and what information to include.

Thank you so much!

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

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

Amanda Grace Brown
Stillborn February 6, 2002
Cord Accident
Parents, William and Julie Brown
Given by grandparents, John and Susan Kirby

Katelyn Frances Hayes
Stillborn May 25, 2001
Downs Syndrome and
Endocardial Cushion Defect
Baby Hayes (Katelyn's Twin)
Miscarried
Given by parents, Robert and Kelly Hayes
and new little sister Amanda

Katelyn Frances Hayes
Stillborn May 25, 2001
Downs Syndrome and
Endocardial Cushion Defect
Baby Hayes (Katelyn's Twin)
Miscarried
Parents, Robert and Kelly Hayes
Little sister, Amanda
Given by Aunt Laurie, Uncle Mark,
and Cousin Brianna

Katelyn Frances Hayes
Stillborn May 25, 2001
Downs Syndrome and
Endocardial Cushion Defect
Baby Hayes (Katelyn's Twin)
Miscarried
Parents, Robert and Kelly Hayes
Little sister, Amanda
Given by Grandma Walsh

Andrew Bailey Carpenter
Stillborn July 14, 1999
Parents, Melissa and Todd Carpenter
Twin sister, Abigail
Given by Bay Village Junior Women's Club

Patrick Lanham
Stillborn May 15, 1994
Velamentous Insertion of Umbilical Cord
Given by parents, Sean and Carol Lanham

Olivia Grace Wayne
Stillborn May 11, 1995
Jesse
Miscarried April 20, 1996
Angel
Miscarried July 22, 1998
Given by parents, Richard and Jeanette Wayne
and sisters Emmaline and Chloe

Helen Sayako Kaneshiro
August 15, 2000—October 29, 2000
Congenital Pulmonary Lymphangiectasia /
Late Onset GBS
Parents, Ernest & Patti Kaneshiro
Big brothers, Stuart & Adam
Little sister, Claire

Gabriella Faith Gregory
Stillborn January 24, 2002
Anomaly of Umbilical Cord
Parents, Chris and Monica Gregory
Given by friends at Lucent Technologies,
ESS Division, Irving, TX

Riley Marshall Sharpless
Stillborn September 3, 2001
Placental Abruption
Given by parents, Ken and Lisa Sharpless
and siblings Reid, Tyler, and Cameron

Mercedes Ruth Spigener
Stillborn September 21, 1995
Intramembranous Insertion of Umbilical Cord
Twin Blossoms
Miscarried July and August, 1996
Given by parents, Grant and Jana Spigener
and little brothers, Wyatt, Ford, and Porter

Garrett Anthony Mayer
October 12 - December 18, 1999
Tetralogy of fallot
Given by parents, April and Tony Mayer
and little sister Samantha

Griffin Caleb McIntosh
Stillborn June 6, 2001
Given by parents,
Naomi and Matthew McIntosh

James "Jack" Henvey
Stillborn July 4, 2001
Tetralogy of Fallot
Parents, Chris and Renee Henvey
Given by grandparents,
Larry and Glenda McLeskey



How to Stand When You Do Not Understand, continued from page 2

Sixth, we are guided by God's purpose. What is God's purpose for our lives? It takes us from one side to the other side. God's purpose was fulfilled as He carried our children from this side of life to the other side called heaven. Even though God has not promised us smooth sailing, He did promise us a safe landing. God will make sure that we make it through the storm and land safely on the other side. In the near future, time, distance and gravity will simultaneously collapse and we will be standing on the peaceful shores of heaven.

During the early months of 2001 due to the law limiting the size of a family, a Chinese mother, along with her husband, placed their newborn baby girl in a crowded place like a train, bus station, or police station. They knew that within hours their daughter would be rescued by some individual and placed in a government institution. She would have to remain there until someone chose to adopt her.

This story is the beginning of our daughter's life. At the time of this writing, Sheri and I are preparing to go to China to adopt this baby girl—which will be the culmination of a process that began in February 2000. The adoption of a child is a holy act in the eyes of God. Did you know that Jesus had to be adopted by Joseph? Did you know that the salvation of every Gentile Christian involves adoption by the Heavenly Father? Have you stepped through the door of adoption and become a child of God? Adoption is not experiencing God's second best, but His very best for our spiritual lives.

On one occasion, King David said, "I cannot bring my son back to me. I will go to my son." If you have lost a baby, are you ready to meet your child in heaven? Have you accepted Christ as your Savior and allowed Him to prepare you for eternity? If you have, your temporary loss today will be rewarded by an everlasting reunion. ♥

Reprinted from Pentecostal Evangel, January 20, 2002.

To Russia with Love, Continued from page 6

After a train ride to Moscow, we went to a "clinic" for the children's examinations. I was shocked to find that the bathroom consisted of a toilet, no sink, no soap, and no water. I had to

remind myself that this was not America. We spent the next three hours at the U.S. Embassy waiting for visas to be processed for the children. The next day, we boarded an airplane and headed home.

Finally, after a ten-and-a-half hour flight from Moscow, we arrived home. Nearly nine years after trying to become parents, we were parents. Praise be to God! His plan was the best plan! ♥

Reprinted from Stepping Stones, a Christian newsletter for couples facing infertility. For information call 616-224-7488 or email step@bethany.org.

Editor's Note: International adoption procedures vary from country to country and from agency to agency. Bethany Christian Services has had an international adoption program since 1982 and currently facilitates adoptions in Asia, Latin America, and Europe. To receive an information packet about Bethany's international adoption programs, contact Janie at jvandyke@bethany.org and include your mailing address, or call 1-800-652-7082. For a domestic adoption packet, contact Bethany's national office at orders@bethany.org and include your mailing address, or call 1-800-613-3188.

God's Plan in Building Our Family, continued from page 9

Losing our son was the most devastating experience we have had to live through. While we may question why God took our son from us, we take comfort in the fact that we know he is safe in His arms and free from all of his pain. We are also comforted by our daughter's shining personality and smile that lights up the room. Because of her, we go on and live for tomorrow. We thank God for our two children everyday.

After much discussion and deliberation, my husband and I have recently decided to further expand our family with the addition of a third child. We worried about how we would feel parenting another child after losing our son. We know that we could not bear to stand another loss of such magnitude, but feel that our lives aren't complete without future siblings for Julianna. A good, supportive friend of ours helped to put things in perspective. She said that another child would not replace the void left in our hearts as a result of Jameson's passing; yet it will help to restore some joy to our lives. If there is one thing we have learned from all that we have been through, it's that God is in control and He has a plan for us. Having another biological child isn't likely (although we may be pleasantly surprised again one day), but adopting another little one is always possible. We have initiated the necessary paperwork for the adoption of a second child. When the time is right, we have faith that God will know which child to place with us. In the meantime, I will be forever grateful to those television advertisers and their moving infomercials. ♥

Written in memory of Jameson Cole (12/17-21/01) and in celebration of Julianna Michelle

Walk to Remember T-shirt Order Form

Send your order to the address on the back of this page. Deadline is September 1 (no exceptions).

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____
Monogram: (ex. Celia Jones Remembering Jason Alexander)

Please Circle Size: Adult L XL XXL
Price per T-shirt: \$25.00 with monogram \$15.00 without monogram
Sales Tax: \$ 2.06 per monogrammed shirt, \$ 1.24 per shirt without monogram
Check here if you will be picking up your t-shirt: _____
Check here if you would like your t-shirt shipped to you: _____
(Remember to include the \$3.00 charge per order for shipping and handling.)
Make checks payable to M.E.N.D.
of shirts _____ x \$25.00 = _____
of shirts _____ x \$15.00 = _____
Sales Tax (7.25%) = _____
Postage and Handling = _____
Total \$ _____

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
(972) 459-2396
1-888-695-M.E.N.D.
Fax (972) 459-2396
E-Mail: Rebekah@mend.org,
Sharlene@mend.org

Donations make the printing and distribution of this newsletter possible.

Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated and should be sent to:

M.E.N.D.
P.O. Box 1007
Coppell, TX 75019.

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).

Visit our web site at:
<http://www.mend.org>

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