



Mother's Day/Father's Day

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Spring and summer are my two favorite seasons. I love the warm weather of spring and even enjoy the scorching Texas heat during the summer months. Those of you who live in the north and other cold states and countries, I just don't know how you survive! I often say that Lewisville, Texas, is as far north as I go! However, along with the metamorphosis of brown lawns evolving into various hues of green and the bare trees miraculously growing leaves of all shapes and sizes, our hearts experience a change as well. Relieved to have survived the Christmas holidays and glad to be in a state of emotional recovery, we realize that two more very painful holidays are lurking around the corner that threaten to once again bring us down.

Mother's Day and Father's Day are the two most difficult Sundays of the year for newly grieving parents. What are meant to be days of honor are instead days of sorrow, especially for parents who lost their only children and do not have living children at home. Moms and dads wonder if they will or even should be acknowledged, ponder about attending family lunches, and further question if they will be able to get themselves out of bed at all. No one except those of us who have lost a child can comprehend the magnitude of these mental dilemmas and feelings of isolation.

In last year's issue on this same subject, we printed the results of a very informal survey I conducted among many of our support group families (see the May/June 2002 newsletter on our Web site at http://www.mend.org/news_online.asp). The main focus of the questionnaire was how churches and clergy deal with these two Sundays. Sadly many parents responded that while infertile parents are sometimes mentioned and prayed for, rarely are parents who have lost a child, and therefore attending church is just too painful to endure. For weeks following the release of this newsletter, I was overwhelmed with the responses I had from our subscribers who excitedly reported that they gave copies of the survey article to their pastors and noticed a tremendous difference in their Sunday services! All across the country ministers, including mine, gently and lovingly made their congregations aware of the unique sorrow many couples deal with on Mother's Day and Father's Day and for the first time had a special time of prayer for them. Even though there was a twinge of pain knowing I was one of the moms my pastor was requesting divine peace for, I mentally cheered him on for the petition!

To further spread infant loss awareness, I encourage you to do as many of our readers did last year and send your pastor a copy of our 2002 May/June issue that can be printed off the Internet. Oftentimes churches are innocently unaware of the variety of hurts that fill the pews, and what may seem to be apathy is simply a lack of education. My pastor was very grateful for the reminder, and I'm sure yours will be, too.

My prayers will be with all you on May 11 and June 15, and I hope those around you will bestow upon you the honor and love you rightly deserve. Keep in mind that even if you do not have living children at home, you are still a parent, and these days do belong to you.

Rebekah Mitchell

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Daddy Do You Know

by Dianna Wills for her husband Greg
In memory of Olivia (8/10/01)

Daddy do you know
How very much mommy loves you so?
She talks about you all the time
She says there's no one better.
Mommy tells me to just wait and see
The kind of daddy that you will be.

Daddy do you know
I dream of sitting on your lap?
I can hear your voice—you make me laugh.
Everyone says that you're so loud,
Soften your voice, tone it down.
But they don't know that's who you are,
So full of life and teasing.
Just you wait it won't be long
Until you get to meet me.

Daddy do you know
I'm getting bigger every day?
It's getting very crowded.
I kick and squirm with much protest,
I know that mommy's doing her best.
She gives me hugs to let me know
She's making room for me to grow.
I hear her say I'll be BIG like you
It won't be long Daddy—I'm excited, are you?



Daddy do you know
I hear a voice, it isn't yours?
It's calling me back to heaven.
Don't be too sad; they need me there.
I'll try to be brave; I'm just like you,
Daddy's girl through and through.
So don't tell mommy she'll just worry.
I'm going to go now; I'll be real quiet;
There's no hurry.
Take care of my mommy, I know she'll be sad.
You'll need to be strong
You can do it, you're my dad.

Daddy do you know
Why they wanted me here?
I learned from you what I needed.
I'm so full of life, there's so much to do
I have BIG shoes to fill
That's why God sent me you.
You'll be so proud Dad, just wait and see.
I've become the daughter you'd want me to be.
Although I know you and mommy are sad,
I send all my love to you, my mommy and my dad.

Daddy do you know
I'll see you again?
I can't tell you why, I can't tell you when.
But one thing I can tell so you never forget ...

Daddy do you know
I love you?

Mother's Day Ideas for Bereaved Moms

- ♥ Get out special keepsakes that remind you of your baby and keep them displayed during the day.
- ♥ Tie a ribbon on your mailbox in place of the card you would have received from your child.
- ♥ Wear a pink or blue carnation to church.
- ♥ Avoid restaurants if you think it may be too painful to see other mothers being honored by their children. Instead, go on a picnic with your spouse and talk about your child.
- ♥ Write about your feelings in a journal.
- ♥ Do something special for yourself, like a shopping trip or allowing yourself to settle in with a good book.

Father's Day Ideas for Bereaved Dads

- ♥ Take a long walk or go fishing. Allow yourself a little time alone to cry if you need to.
- ♥ Talk with your wife about your feelings. Make sure you focus some conversation on you and not just on how you can help her.
- ♥ Build a picture frame or memory box for your baby's picture or memorabilia.
- ♥ Build a garden in memory of your child.
- ♥ Write a poem or story about your baby.
- ♥ Think of at least one commitment or responsibility you can give up. Vow to spend the extra time doing some thing nice for yourself or someone else as a tribute to your child.

The Unseen Gaps in a Family

Loni Vander Stel

As I look around the dinner table, I know what a blessed mother I am. I always wanted a large family and many times am in awe at how good God has been to me. When we are out as a family, we receive comments so often of what a beautiful family we have. But I see the gaps in our family. Gaps where, yes, even though we have nine living children, I see empty spaces. Some of the spaces have questions like...would that have been a boy or a girl? With my miscarriages (three total), I may not have had the baby that followed, but there are still the gaps: the missing of an irreplaceable, individual child here on earth. I have the peace to know that my babies are in heaven and that someday my family will all be complete there, but until then all my tears won't be wiped away.

But there is even a bigger "known" gap...one that was almost filled here on earth but was quickly snatched away. We lost a baby at 36 weeks gestation because of a placental abruption. Angela Hope died before she was born. After my emergency c-section, I held this beautiful baby that was so peaceful, so perfect, but oh, so silent.

It's been over four years since we said hello and good-bye to her. How did we cope? One day, one tear, one memory and one day at a time - holding on to God, my husband, my children and family and friends who continue to remember with us. Though I believe speaking of miscarriages and stillbirths is much easier to talk about openly today than it was some twenty years ago, it is still a silent subject. There is still a majority who do not want to talk about a loss for fear of hurting the people who experienced it. The silence hurts more. If a mother, brother or best friend dies we don't forget that person. Our babies are etched forever in our minds and forever loved in our hearts. We want others to remember the existence of these precious children, by name if possible.

With Mother's Day here, remember the moms who have empty arms, who ache for the baby they should be holding. Remember the moms who don't have any living children. They are mothers. And, remember other mothers like me who on this Mother's Day notice "the gap" - the missing homemade card or one less hug. The first Mother's Day after a loss is particularly hard and is not a "happy" Mother's Day. This Mother's Day, remember a mom who is hurting and who wants to remember a baby or child that Jesus holds, not her.

©Loni Vander Stel
April, 2002

June/July Topic

Making Marriage Survive After a Loss
Deadline—April 30, 2003

September/October Topic

Holding On to Faith During Loss
Deadline - July 31, 2003

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

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, 7-9 p.m.
Please contact Jana Spigener
at (817) 468-9963 or
heartblossoms@msn.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

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

Join us in a time of sharing experiences.

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 together and discuss concerns unique to them as fathers. Our moms and dads meet together 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 Boulevard, 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 pregnant 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.



Birthday Tributes to Our Special Babies

To our son Benjamin in remembrance of your 4th birthday

We love you for all eternity.
Mommy, Daddy, Samantha and Kailey

There is not a single day that goes by that we don't think of you and what might have been, could have been and should have been. As we light a candle in memory of you and what would have been your 4th birthday here on Earth, we also know that you are with God rejoicing with your heavenly family and all your loved ones that have come before you. In that and only that we can have Peace...

*In loving memory of Benjamin Thomas Mori
May 13, 1999*

*Stillborn at 38 weeks
Cause of death unknown
Parents: James and Tracy Mori
Big Sister: Samantha Jean
Baby Sister: Kaily Madison*



Dearest Landon,

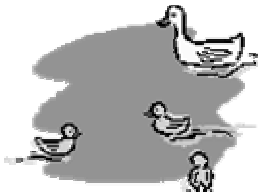
It is hard to believe that it has been two years since we gazed upon you and held you for a very short time. Your mommy, daddy, brothers, and sisters all miss you so very much. Sometimes it seems too long to wait to have the chance to hold you once again. To look into your eyes, run our fingers through your hair, tickle you, and all the other things mommies and daddies do, will have to wait. You took a piece of each of our hearts with you, and someday, when we are all together as a family with you for the very first time, you may ask if we want that piece back. Our answer is a resounding no, as we wish for you to carry a piece of each of us with you always. It is the one piece of each of us that is already in the most wonderful of all places, in heaven with God the Father, Jesus, and all of your family that has already made their final journey. A perfect place.

We do wish and wonder what it might have been like if you were with us today. We would be celebrating your 2nd birthday party at our house with all the relatives, or maybe you would have picked Chucky-Cheese. There would have been gifts, friends and family, and we would have let you make a mess of your cake and ice cream. Let's not forget the one thing we miss the most, memories to share. There would have been many pictures taken of you so that we might try and stop the hands of time, even if only for a brief moment. I know you would be walking, talking, and wondering about the big world all around. You would have had so many questions to ask us, always being content with the answers we provided, knowing that mommy and daddy had all the right answers. We would be taking you to feed the ducks at the park on sunny weekends, and hold you close at night during thunderstorms. We would know your favorite toy, bedtime book, and favorite tickle spot.

With all this said, we are so proud you are our son, and we know that you are in a place void of wrongdoing, anger, pain, and sorrow. I know not of any parent that could ask for a more perfect place for their child to grow in. In this we take comfort. We will all be reunited when we have fulfilled our earthly duties and make our final journey to be with you. We understand how He would want to have a precious child such as you by his side. We celebrate YOU Landon! Our brief memories, each one embedded into the fabric of our hearts, and looking forward to our future together, the circle unbroken.

Always in our hearts,
Mommy, Daddy, Angela, Colton, Chase, Paige, and Abby

*Landon Gregory Kancel
Stillborn April 11, 2001
Possible blood clot on placenta
Parents: Andy and Dawn Kacel
Siblings: Angela, Colton, Chase, Paige, Abby Rose,
and remembering Baby Girl Kancel,
Miscarried September 20, 2001,
Turner's Syndrome*



Happy 2nd Birthday, Jason!

We love you and miss you
every second of the day!



*Jason Allen Hoover II
March 5, 2001
Unknown cause
Parents: Nicole Alonzo and Jason Hoover
Big Brother: Jacob
Little Sister: Jascine Allyson Nicole*

Happy 5th Birthday Tristen Wayne Livermore

We can't believe five years have already
passed. We love you and miss you.

Love,
Mommy
and little sister Valerie



*Remembering Tristen Wayne
Stillborn 5/5/98
Cord accident
Mom: Cindy Livermore
Sister: Valerie*

Jonathan,

Happy 8th birthday! It's
unimaginable that you
would be 8 years old,
probably would have just completed first
grade and loving all kinds of sports like
your big brother. We think about you and
miss you every day!



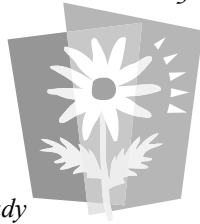
Love,
Mommy, Daddy, and Little B



*In memory of
Jonathan Daniel Mitchell
Stillborn June 24, 1995
Cord accident
Parents: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
Big brother: Byron, Jr.
Remembering Baby Mitchell
Miscarried December 2001*

Happy Birthday, Sarah!
Lots of love,
Mom, Dad, Brooks, Kaylee, and Brady

Sarah Ann King
Stillborn June 22, 1995
Unknown cause
Parents: David and Lori King
Siblings: Brookes, Kaylee, and Brady



We lovingly remember
 our precious angel
William Hooper
Stillborn May 11, 2001
Cause of death unknown
Parents: Lee & Nellie Hooper
Sibling: Hayden Lee Hooper



If God had said I have a soul who needs some extra love
 I would have said I will help you
 If God had said it will only be for a little while
 I would have said that's all right
 If God had said this will be the hardest thing you have ever done
 I would have said I'll do it
 If God had said,
 I would have offered
 If God had said,
 I would have loved
 If God had said,
 I would have danced

Happy 3rd Birthday Madeline!
 Meet me at midnight and we will dance.
 Love, Mama

Madeline Anne Claybourn
June 11, 2000-August 26, 2000
SIDS
Mother: Melanie Claybourn



Dearest David,

You have become such a permanent part of me. I worried that I would forget – but now I know that will never happen. I especially remember you when I hear the wind rushing through the chimes and see the new birds in the air. That memory brings a smile to my lips. You will always be Spring to me.



David Thane Hatfield
May 14-15, 1996
Uterine abnormality and placental abruption
In remembrance of your seventh birthday
Parents Joel and Dianna and little sister Hannah

With great love,
Your Mommy



Happy 2nd Birthday, my little dove!

Maria, you are playing with angels but we wish you were physically here with us. Mother's Day is bittersweet for us since this is your birthday. How our lives have changed and how much we have grown since you came into our lives. Hugs and kisses...

We miss you!
 SHMILY – See How Much I Love You!
 Mommy, Daddy and Big Sister Dalila

Maria Kettrey
May 10, 2001
Complications from Amniocentesis
Parents: Billy and Claudia Kettrey
Big sister: Dalila



Chrissie,

I can't believe you have been a part of our lives for 3 years now! You will always be our light of hope in dark times.

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

Chrissie Steen
May 3, 2003
Ectopic pregnancy
Parents: Lynn and Mary Steen



An airplane & truck, scooter & toy car...
 These are all things I see for my boy.

Simplistic, realistic, this day should have been.
 A little boy's birthday filled with toys & great friends.



All would have come to pass on the love
 Of Griffin's 2nd birthday
 Of celebration and fun.

But don't despair his birthday is still there.
 To attend this big bash,
 You must have a pass
 To enter the heavenly gates,
 Where Griffin awaits,
 To take your hand
 And lead you to a land
 Where only your dreams come true.



Happy Birthday little boy
 Who means so much more
 To all who met him on that June morn.



Griffin Caleb McIntosh
Stillborn June 6, 2001

Parents: Mathew and Naomi McIntosh
Little sister: Mya Quinn

Happy 4th Birthday, Joseph!
 You've made our lives so much sweeter.

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



Little Logan,

Three years ago, on May 5th, you entered our lives as a beautiful, seven-pound gift from God. You had two hands with ten long fingers, two huge feet like your daddy, and the most beautiful reddish-blond hair on your sweet little head. You felt so perfect in our arms. We knew you were the most beautiful miracle we'd ever seen in our lives. But you were not breathing. Your life would not be on this Earth, but everlasting in Heaven. Not a day goes by that you are not thought of, grieved for, prayed for, or loved. You are our precious little Logan David, and we are so proud to be your parents.

Happy 3rd birthday, sweet angel. As we watch your baby brother Blake grow up, we know that you are watching over him, loving and protecting him as only a big brother can.

We love you, Logan David.



Logan David Iliff
May 5, 2000

Placental Abruption
Parents: Joseph and Samantha Iliff
Little brother: Blake

Happy Birthday Sydney and Ashley

Love,
Mom and Dad



Sydney Lynne Brown
May 18, 2000
Unknown causes



Ashely MacKenzie Brown
May 18, 2001
Antiphospholipid antibodies



Parents: Brian and Marilyn Brown

A Mother's Crown

Heaven lit up with His mighty presence,
As all the angels looked down,
Today the Lord was placing the jewels
In all the mothers' crowns.

As He held up a golden crown
As all the mothers looked on,
He said in His gentle voice,
"I just want to explain each stone."

He held the first gem in His hand,
But the radiance couldn't match His own.
For He was the light of Heaven
Reflecting off each of the stones.

"The first gem," He said, "is an emerald,
And it's for endurance alone,
For all the nights you waited up
For your children to come home.

"For all the nights by their bedside
You stayed till the fever went down,
For nursing every little wound,
I add this emerald to your crown."

"A ruby, I'll place by the emerald,
For leading your child in the right way,
For if you hadn't taught them about Me,
They wouldn't be here with you today.

"For always being right there
Thru all life's important events,
I give you a sapphire stone
For the time and love you spent."

"For untying the strings that held them
When they grew up and left home,
I give you this one for courage."
Then the Lord added an amethyst stone.

"I'll place a stone of garnet," He said,
"For all the times you spent on your knees,
When you asked Me to take care of your children,
And them for having faith in Me."

"I have a pearl for every little sacrifice
That you made without them knowing,
For all the times you went without
To keep them happy, healthy, and growing."

"And last of all I have a diamond,
The greatest of all gems,
For those mothers who lost their children
When they came home to heaven before them."

"This is the most precious sacrifice,
So I give the most precious stone,
For I know just how you felt,
I too lost a child of My own."

After the Lord placed the last jewel in,
He said, "Heaven is now complete,
For every mother has her crown of jewels,
And all her children are at her feet."

~ Author Unknown

Helpful Reading ...***A Deeper Shade of Grace***

by Bernadette Keaggy.
Sparrow Press, Nashville, TN, 1993.

Empty Arms: Emotional Support for Those Who Have Suffered a Miscarriage Stillbirth, or Tubal Pregnancy

by Pam Vredevelt.
Multnomah Press, Sisters, OR, 1984

Empty Cradle, Broken Heart – Surviving the Death of Your Baby

by Deborah L. David, PhD.
Fulcrum Publishing, 350 Indiana St., Golden, CO 80401, 1991

Free to Grieve

by Maureen Rank.
Bethany House Publishers
6820 Auto Club Rd.
Minneapolis, MN 55438

Grieving the Child I Never Knew: A devotional companion for comfort in the loss of your unborn or newly born child

By Kathe Winnenberg
Zondervan Publishing House

Heaven's Not a Crying Place

by Joey O'Connor.
To order, visit his website at
<http://www.joeyo.com/>
or e-mail joey@joeyo.com

I Can't Find A Heartbeat: Hope and Help for Those Who Have Lost an Unborn Child

By Melissa Sexson Hanson
Review and Herald
Publishing Association

I'll Hold You in Heaven

by Jack Haford.
Regal Books
Ventura, CA

In a Heartbeat

by Dawn Seigrist Waltman
The B & B Media Group, Inc.
109 S. Main St.
Corsicana, TX 75110
www.tbbmedia.com
1-800-927-0517, ext. 106

In Search of Hope

by Susan R. Lowe
AmErica House
www.publishamerica.com

Letters to Gabriel

by Karen Garver Santorum,
wife of Senator Rick Santorum
To order, call 800-935-2222.

Losing You Too Soon: Finding Hope After Miscarriage or the Loss of a Baby

by Bernadette Keaggy
Harvest House Publishing

Loss and Grief Recovery Help Caring for Children with Disabilities, Chronic or Terminal Illness

by Joyce Ashton with Dennis Ashton.
Baywood Publishing

Morning Light – Miscarriage, Stillbirth and Early Infant Death from a Catholic Perspective

by Bernadette Zambri.
To order, call 905-278-2058 (in Canada).

The Rocking Horse Is Lonely – and Other Stories of Fathers' Grief

by James D. Nelson, Editor.
Pregnancy and Infant Loss Center,
1421 E. Wayzata Blvd., Suite 30,
Wayzata, MN 55391, 1994

Silent Grief

by Clara Hinton.
Published by New Leaf Press

A Silent Sorrow

by Ingrid Kohn.
Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc.,
666 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10103, 1992

Surviving Grief by God's Grace

by Richard Battle
1st Books Library
www.1stbooks.com/bookview/9575
1-800-280-7715

36 Hours with an Angel

by Lindsay Roberts.
Richard and Lindsay Roberts Ministries,
P.O. Box 2187, Tulsa, OK 74171

Time Piece

by Richard Paul Evans.
Simon and Schuster, Rockefeller Center, 1230
Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020,
1995-1996

Unsung Lullabies: A Parent's Guide to Healing After Childbearing Loss

by Helping After Neonatal Death
P.O. Box 341, Los Gatos, CA 95031, 2000
Also available in Spanish

When God Doesn't Make Sense

by Dr. James Dobson.
Published by Tyndale House Publishers,
Wheaton, IL, 1993

When Hello Means Goodbye

By Paul Schweibert, M.D., P., and Kirb.
Perinatal Loss, 2116 NE 18th Ave.,
Portland, OR 97212, 1986

When Pregnancy Fails: Families Coping with Miscarriage, Stillbirth and Infant Death

By Susan Borg and Judith Lasker.
Bantam Press, 1989

Poetry ...***Blossoms of My Heart***

by Jana Spigener
Heartblossoms Publications
817-271-6806
heartblossoms@msn.com

SIDS ...***The SIDS Survival Guide***

by Joani Nelson Horchler and
Robin Rice Morris.
To order, call 301-773-9691.

Subsequent Pregnancy ...***Another Baby? Maybe ...***

Thirty Questions on Pregnancy After Loss
by Sherokee Ilse and Maribeth Wildre Doerr.
Contact Centering Corporation
www.centering.org
402-553-1200

Pregnancy After a Loss – A Guide to Pregnancy After a Miscarriage, Stillbirth, or Infant Death

by Carol Cirulli Lanham.
Berkley Books, a Division of Penguin
Putnam, Inc., 375 Hudson St., New York, NY.
Call toll-free 1-877-853-3595.

Still to Be Born

by Paul Schweibert, M.D.
Perinatal Loss, 2116 NE 18th Ave.,
Portland, OR 97212, 1986

Trying Again--A Guide to Pregnancy After Miscarriage, Stillbirth, and Infant Loss

by Ann Douglas and John R. Sussman, M.D.
Taylor Publishing, 2000.
<http://www.having-a-baby.com/tryingagain.htm>

For Children ...***The Cherry Blossom Tree – A Grandfather Talks About Life & Death***

by Jan Godfrey.
Augsburg Fortress, 426 S. Fifth St., Box 1209,
Minneapolis, MN 55440, 1996

Let's Talk About Heaven

by Debby Anderson.
Chariot Books, David C. Cook
Publishing Co., Elgin, IL, 1991

Molly's Rosebush

by Janice Cohn, D.S.W.
Albert Whitman & Company, Morton Grove,
IL 1994

Mommy, Please Don't Cry – Tender Words for Broken Hearts

by Linda DeYmaz.
Multnomah Publisher, Bend, OR
Contact www.multnomahbooks.com

Someone I Love Died

by Christine Harder Tangvald.
Chariot Books, David C. Cook Publishing
Co., Elgin, IL, 1988

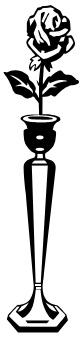
Holiday Grieving ...***The Christmas Box***

by Richard Paul Evans.
Simon and Schuster, Rockefeller Center, 1230
Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY
10020, 1995-1996

A December Grief

by Harold Ivan Smith
Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City
Kansas City, MO

In Loving Memory



Rebekah Hope Rosario
Stillborn March 3, 2002
Given by parents,
Raymond and Melissa Rosario

Rianne Ellisa Scrivner
March 4 - 7, 1997
Severe Hydrocephaly
Given by parents, Rae and Bill Scrivner
and little sisters Chanie, Casidy,
and Canlie

Katherine Elizabeth Kjolhede
Stillborn May 10, 1999
Unknown Cause
Parents, Jim and Kristine Kjolhede
Siblings, Jared and Savannah
Given by Lake Highlands
Women's League

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

John Duke
Stillborn December 22, 2001
Parents, Mary Beth and Gary Duke
Given by grandparents,
Charles and Nancy Collins

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

Lauren Paige Grimes
March 6, 1999
Unknown Cause
Baby Angel Grimes
Miscarried January 25, 2001
Given by parents, John and Paula Grimes
and sister Rileigh Renee

Daniel Patrick Stramel
Stillborn October 1, 1999
Unknown Cause
Given by parents, Joe and DeDe Stramel
and siblings Payden and Kacey

Benjamin Thomas Mori
Stillborn May 13, 1999, at 38 Weeks
Unknown Cause
Given by parents, James and Tracy Mori
and sisters Samantha Jean and Kailey Madison

Deanne Kathleen Klein
November 19, 1998
Lived for 4 1/2 hours
Pre-term labor due to incompetent cervix
Michaela Deanne Klein
Stillborn October 6, 1999
Unknown Cause
Given by parents, Tom and Anne Klein
and siblings Melanie, Laura, Jacob & Quintin

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

A Father's Strength

By Paul D. McCutcheon
For all fathers who have lost children

I sought just a little time alone,
In hope of easing my grief,
That covers me like a shroud
Each morning as I wake.
So, I find myself within your room,
Concealed with locked doors of pain,
To ask my Lord to come sit with me,
And comfort my heart and soul.
"Now, Dear God, I must speak with You,
If You can hear my breaking voice
Through my tears that flow like rain,
Each day I hear my friends say,
I must, for all concerned, stay strong,
But Lord, can they not see within
All the shattered dreams I hold?
Each time I see a child at play,
Or hear the crack of a baseball bat,
I wonder, from the screams and shouts
From an excited, cheering crowd,
Could that have been my own child
That made the home team proud?
Is the player the reflection of my child
Or the cheerleader who taunts the fans?
Could it be I feel it once again
When I see the look on strangers' faces
As they pamper someone's newborn child
And listen to the group that gathers
To tell the father how proud he must be?
While sitting here, peering out the window,
Dreaming of all the things in view
I think it could be my own child
All dressed in tux and tails,
Walking up to my neighbor's front door
To tell his first love, 'Your chariot awaits.'
Is it the one who humbly bears
Or the one who will wear the bloom?
So now, dear Lord, You know my thoughts,
Of the dreams that burden my heart,
When others expect once more to see
The strength that comes from me."

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In loving remembrance of
Darren Scott McCutcheon 9/12/71 – 9/13/78
Paul Aaron McCutcheon 2/5/74 – 9/13/78
John Kevin McCutcheon 3/14/66 – 11/19/96

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!

Once Upon a Family™ has a coordinated grouping of keepsakes called Childhood Cherished™ designed to keep memorabilia safe. Amy Gill, M.E.N.D.'s contact person for Once Upon a Family,™ is donating 20 percent of sales of three special pieces (Baby Keepsake Box, Tiny Treasures Box, and Memory Trunk) of this collection back to M.E.N.D.

Contact Amy at 214-725-6116 or at texasgills@hotmail.com for more information. Visit www.onceuponafamily.net for more photos.



*Memory Trunk
by Once Upon a Family™*

Subsequent Births

Joe & Ida Gonzales,
along with **big sister Ashley Nicole**
of Pasadena, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Kaitlyn Marie,
October 24, 2002,
8 lb., 3 oz., 18 1/2 inches long.
The Gonzales family
lovingly remembers
Joe "Trey" Gonzales III,
11/24/98 - 2/26/99,
Glycogen Storage Disease Type 4.

Layla and Kenneth Bohall,
along with **big brother Ray**
of Sweetwater, Texas,
announce the arrival of Kaleb Dean,
born January 24, 2003,
8 lb., 4 oz., 20 1/2 inches long.
The Bohall family lovingly remembers
Matthew Paul,
February 3 - 27, 2001,
due to SIDS
and Baby Bohall,
miscarried April 2002.

Christine and Chip Oxendine
of Denton, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Emily Grace,
born February 23, 2003, at 10:28 a.m.
7 lb., 4 oz., 20 inches long.
The Oxendines lovingly remember
Jacob Theodore,
April 29, 2001,
PROM.

Cherie and Ken Walton
of Alturas, California,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Natalie Jayne,
born December 13, 2002.
She weighed 6 lb., 14 oz.
The Waltons lovingly remember
Kyleigh Ane,
stillborn January, 2002,
unknown cause.

Mark and Amy Donald,
along with **big sister Jenny**
of Flower Mound, Texas,
announce with joy the birth of
Thomas Hendrix,
January 2, 2003,
6lb., 8oz.
The Donalds lovingly remember
their firstborn son,
Charlie,
stillborn November 10, 2001,
unknown cause.

Beth and Aaron Spencer,
along with **big sister Emily**
of Flower Mound, Texas,
announce the arrival of
Jacob Spencer,
February 28, 2003,
8 lb., 5 oz., 19 3/4 inches long.
The Spencers lovingly remember
their three babies lost to miscarriage:
Baby Spencer I,
June 2000,
Baby Spencer II,
August 2001,
and Baby Spencer III,
February 2002.

Jeffrey and Laurie Roiger
of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota,
joyfully announce the safe arrival of
Brayden Christopher,
born December 11, 2001,
9 lb., 14 oz., 21 inches long,
and Dylan Timothy,
born March 2, 2003,
8 lb., 3 oz., 22 inches long,
miraculously healthy with the cord
wrapped twice and a true knot.
The Roigers lovingly remember
Kiana Bryn,
stillborn January 10, 2000,
due to a cord accident.

Matt and Dena Norton
of McKinney, Texas,
happily announce the arrival of
Sydney Ellen,
born February 23, 2003, at 5:07 a.m.,
and Allie Grace,
born February 23, 2003, at 5:08 a.m.
Sydney weighed 5 lb.
and was 18 inches long
while Allie weighed 5 lb., 4 oz.
and measured 18 3/4 inches long.
The Nortons carry in their hearts
Nicholas Josh and Madison,
stillborn August 31, 2001,
due to an incompetent cervix.

Mother's Day is a day of
appreciation and respect.
I can think of no mothers
who deserve it more than
those who had to give a
child back.

~ Erma Bombeck

Music Resources

The following music has been helpful to
others during their time of grief.



Angel Unaware
Words and music by
Shari Buie and Tamara Miller
HeartSong 96
826 Royal Birkdale Dr.
Garland, TX 75044

Home Free
Words and music by Wayne Watson
Watson's *Home Free* CD can be found at
most Christian bookstores.

Thought You'd Be Here
Words and music by Wes King
From his CD *A Room Full of Stories*,
available for purchase at most Christian
bookstores.

With Hope
By Steven Curtis Chapman
From his CD *Diving In*, available for
purchase at most Christian bookstores.

Goodbye for Now
Words by Kathy Troccoli, music by Scott
Brasher and Kathy Troccoli
From Troccoli's CD *Corner of Eden*,
available for purchase at most Christian
bookstores.

Glory Baby
Written by Nathan and Christy Nockels
Found on Watermark's *All Things New*,
can be purchased at Christian bookstores.

Empty Arms
Words and music by Teri Curp
From her CD *Look Ahead*
Teri Curp Ministries
1413 NE Grand Avenue
Lee's Summit, MO 64086
816-246-8374
tcsings@swbell.net
www.tericurp.com

Mark your calendars now.



The 2003
Walk to Remember
is scheduled for
October 11
2:00 p.m.

Organizations and Internet Support

♥ Pregnancy Loss & Grief Support

The Adam and Michael Angel Mission

P.O. Box 1031, Colleyville, TX 76034

817-498-2669

mike@adamandmichaelangel.org

www.adamandmichaelangel.org

Bereaved Families of Ontario

www.bereavedfamilies.net

CHERUBS-The Association of

Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia

Research, Advocacy, and Support

e-mail: cherubs@gloryroad.net

www.cherubs-cdh.org

P.O. Box 1150

Creedmoor, NC 27522

919-693-8158

Cristin's Hope

http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Shores/1275/

Footprints Ministry

c/o Skip and Jerry Mudge

P.O. Box 44153

Charlotte, NC 28215

http://www.angelfire.com/ny5/footprintsministry/

E-mail: sjmudge@ctc.net

GriefNet

http://rivendell.org

H.A.N.D.

(Houston's Aid in Neonatal Death)

http://www.hern.org/~hand/

Helping After Neonatal Death (HAND)

P.O. Box 341, Los Gatos, CA 95031-0341

408-995-6102

888-908-HAND

www.handonline.org

e-mail: info@handonline.org

Support meetings in Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, and Central Valley counties—call for info.

Hygeia

http://www.hygeia.org

The Memorial

Biblical Prophecy Resource Center

Www.bprc.org/memorial/memorial.html

M.E.N.D.

(Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death)

P.O. Box 1007

Coppell, TX 75019

972-459-2396/ 1-888-M.E.N.D.

http://www.mend.org

Mending Broken Hearts

www.libbys.org/mendinghearts

MIDS

Miscarriage, Infant Death & Stillbirth

16 Crescent Dr.

Parsippany, NJ 07054

e-mail: MIDS@nac.net

M.I.S.S.

Mothers in Sympathy and Support

Joanne Cacciatore (voice) 602-979-1000

(fax) 602-979-1001

Julie White (voice) 602-584-0805

http://www.missfoundation.org

Morning Light Ministries

c/o St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

11 Peter Street South

Mississauga, Ont. L5H 2G1

905-278-2058

http://members.rogers.com/morninglightministry

morninglightministry@rogers.com

24 hour voice mailbox telephone: 416-969-0545

For bereaved Catholic parents who have experienced the death of their baby through ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage, stillbirth or early infant death, including up to one year old.

National Stillbirth Society

www.stillnomore.org

Our Loss Heaven's Gain

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/ourlossheavensgain

Precious Children Remembered

http://pages.ivillage.com/cl-ivillageshanna

P.O. Box 534

Huron, OH 44839

PCR – Chat Room

Monday 10 p.m. Eastern

Contact Shanna at Ladyinno@aol.com or

HostiVHShanna@aol.com for info.

Precious Children Remembered/Roses in Dec. Chat

Wed. 8 p.m. Eastern in AOL Health IV chat room

Pregnancy/Infant Loss Center

1415 East Wayzata Blvd. #30

Wayzata, MN 55391

612-472-9372

Pregnancy Loss Newsgroup

http://web.co.nz/~katef/sslpl/

Remember the Roses

www.remember.theroses.com

S.A.N.D.S.

http://www.sandswa.org.au

SHARE

St. Joseph Health Center

300 First Capitol Dr.

St. Charles, MO 63301-2893

314-947-6164

S.O.F.T. (Support Organization for Trisomy 18, 13 & Related Disorders)

c/o Barb Van Herreweghe

2982 S. Union St.

Rochester, NY 14624

716-594-4621

800-716-SOFT (7638)

e-mail: barbsoft@aol.com

http://www.trisomy.org/

Tom Golden's Crisis, Grief & Healing

http://www.webhealing.com/

UNITE, Inc. (Perinatal grief support)

7600 Central Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19111-2499

215-728-3777

Zoom

http://www.premier.net/~zoom/

♥ Subsequent Pregnancy After a Loss

Hopeful Women

www.hopefulwomen.com

♥ Continuing a Pregnancy After Adverse

Prenatal Diagnosis

Anencephaly Support Foundation

http://www.asfhelp.com/

A Child of Promise

www.cmm-stl.org/acop

♥ Infertility

Hannah's Prayer

Providing Christian Support for Fertility Challenges.

Online newsletter available.

P.O. Box 168, Hanford, CA 93232-0168

775-852-9202

http://www.hannah.org/

INCIID

http://www.inciid.org/

Infertility

http://www.fertilethoughts.net

Journey to Jordan

A ministry for families dealing with infertility and adoption. Publishes a newsletter for a small fee.

4511 E. Gatewood Rd.

Phoenix, AZ 85024-6938

Reproductive Medicine Program

http://repro-med.net

Resolve

http://www.resolve.org/

Stepping Stones

Offers Christian hope, encouragement, and support to infertile couples. Publishes a bi-monthly newsletter.

c/o Bethany Christian Services

901 Eastern Avenue NE

P.O. Box 294

Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0294

http://www.bethany.org/step/

♥ Multiple Loss

CLIMB (Center for Loss in Multiple Birth)

e-mail: climb@pobox.alaska.net

www.climb-support.org

Limbo-L List,

Loss in Multiple Birth Outreach

For parents who have lost one or more children in a multiple birth situation.

Contact Terry Callaghan at

Terrye45@hotmail.com

http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Lake/5142

The Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome Foundation

411 Longbeach Parkway

Bay Village, OH 44140 440-899-8887

http://www.tttfoundation.org

Twinless Twins

11220 St. Joe Rd.

Ft. Wayne, IN 46835-9737

219-627-5414

♥ SIDS

SIDS Network

P.O. Box 270, Ledyard, CT 06339

800-560-1454

http://sids-network.org

e-mail: sidsnet@sids-network.org

Cot Life Society

http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Trail/5955

North Texas SIDS Alliance

1401 Airport Freeway, Suite 118

Bedford, Texas 76021

metro (817)267-7955

toll free in Texas only (800)650-SIDS

http://www.northtexasids.org

e-mail: info@northtexasids.org

♥ For Clergy

National SIDS and Infant Death Program

Support Center—Bereavement Guidelines

www.sids-id-psc.org

♥ Spanish

Fundacion Esperanza

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Bluffs/7102/

e-mail: carlarh@ivillage.com

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: _____ (\$3 per order for S&H)

Make checks payable to M.E.N.D.

of shirts _____ x \$25.00 = _____

Sales Tax (7.25 %) = _____

of shirts _____ x \$15.00 = _____

Postage & Handling = _____

Total \$ _____

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 who have and use a Kroger Share Card back to M.E.N.D. 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.

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.myheartsmisssinglink.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.

Dana and Tracy Davis are independent representatives for **VarTec Telecom/Excel Communications**, a company that offers telephone service at competitive rates. Dana is donating 5 percent of her profits from sales to M.E.N.D. members back to M.E.N.D. You can call her at 214-360-1531, or call 1-877-EXCEL-4U and give global identification #9265706111.

Sandy Burnham, a **Princess House Lifestyle** consultant and M.E.N.D. member, will donate 10 percent of profit earned on your order back to M.E.N.D. Call (313) 792-9699 or email her at bburnham@metroshores.net to request a catalog or place an order.

Heather Sanfacon is an educational consultant with **Discovery Toys** and will donate 15 percent of profits from sales to M.E.N.D. friends and relatives back to M.E.N.D. For a catalogue or information, contact Heather at sanfacon75@netzero.com or 603-742-8123. Customers must mention M.E.N.D. in order for donations to be made.

Kevah Kreations has developed a special Infant Memory Scrapbook Kit to help families develop their babies' memory scrapbooks. This is a very delicate and sensitive 20-piece kit that contains memory poems, die cuts, feathers and keepsakes. Cost is \$5 plus \$2 for shipping and handling. Info may be requested at Kevah955@cs.com or by calling 843-871-3071. All checks may be made payable to Kevah Kreations. Mention M.E.N.D. while ordering and a small percentage of the sale will be donated back to M.E.N.D.

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

For inquiries, subscription requests, deletions, and submissions to the newsletter, contact us at
M.E.N.D.
P.O. Box 1007
Coppell, TX 75019
(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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