



Grandparents Grieve, Too

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When a couple loses a baby, oftentimes they are the only ones whose grief is acknowledged by others. The sorrow of the rest of the family tends to get overlooked. Aunts, uncles and cousins of the baby certainly feel the loss as well, but typically not at the same magnitude as the parents of the grieving couple, also known as the baby's grandparents.

Both Byron's and my parents grieved deeply for the losses we had. They mourned not only for the two grandchildren they lost, but also for us as their children. It hurt them tremendously to see us in such heartache and pain, knowing they could not do anything to make it better. If you have a living child at home then you know that there is nothing you wouldn't do to protect him from harm and shield him from hurt. That aspect of parenting never goes away, no matter how old we are. It is an extremely helpless feeling for our parents, and over the years of directing M.E.N.D. I have seen a variety of ways in which grandparents deal with this unique emotion.

Most bereaved moms and dads have expressed the sensitivity their parents showed them during the aftermath of their loss. One of our moms who regularly attends our support groups lost her baby Gabriela two years ago. Her father, who is not young in years, regularly visits his granddaughter's grave and helps the cemetery's maintenance crew by trimming the overgrown grass with cutting shears and pulling weeds that have grown on her grave. I am overcome with emotion every time I envision this sweet man on his hands and knees lovingly caring for Gabriela in the only way he can on this earth.

Some grandparents have gone to great measures to find help and comfort for their children. It never ceases to amaze me when I receive a phone call or e-mail from a tearful grandparent desperately seeking information on infant loss and help for their hurting children. Several years ago I got a despondent call

from the mother of one of our support group members, India. India had gone to live with her mom, who lives a few hours away, hoping that being near family would help her during the grieving process. While there, India had an emotional breakdown that greatly frightened her mother. India's mom thought getting her daughter to the M.E.N.D. support group that night would be good for her. She did everything she could to put India on a flight to Dallas that afternoon in order to get her to our share time. Although her efforts were fruitless in getting India to the group, I'll never forget the extra mile this grandmother walked to seek help for her hurting daughter.

While these two stories are very touching, I could use the space of this entire newsletter reporting events that are not so heartwarming. Like the grandmother who threw away the pictures of her deceased grandchild because her husband said they were too morbid to have in the house. Or when the young couple came to a support group expressing regret that they let their parents talk them out of seeing their stillborn baby due to superstition of having bad luck if they saw a dead person. And of the sobbing, grief-stricken daughter whose mother told her not to call again until she was over the loss of her pregnancy. While these cases are rare, they do occur. I want to believe these grandparents are not as cruel as these accounts make them out to be. Instead I think sweeping the loss under the rug, so to speak, is their way of dealing with the death. Although extremely unhealthy, not facing death and not allowing the bereaved to talk about it is very old school, and unfortunately many grandparents don't know any differently. They believe if they portray a sense of apathy over the loss it will help their children get on with their lives quicker. I wish I could sit down with them and make them understand how harmful this is and that they are risking forever having a bad relationship with their children.

One mistake I have seen families make after a loss is to compare their grief. Certainly after the death of a baby no one hurts more than the parents, whose lives will never again be the same. But we cannot discount the immense suffering the grandparents go through as well. We all must grieve together and realize that even though we're grieving over the same loss, it's a different kind of ache for each of us, and getting through the tough times will be much easier if we agree to heal together.

Rebekah Mitchell



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To My Dear Daughter

Written by a mother in Virginia

With the holidays approaching again, I know this is a difficult time of year for you and David. Christmas is such a family-centered holiday, so focused around children, that I am sure your empty arms ache once again. Though you are delighted to have a niece and a nephew (as we are delighted to be grandparents), still it must be very hard to watch the fulfillment your brother and sister-in-law are experiencing as they delight in their son and daughter.

Moms are supposed to be able to make the hurts go away for their kids. As your mother, I would do anything I could to alleviate your pain in this regard. But this is one time when all I can do is pray. Ever since you were a little girl, I dreamed of the time when you would have kids. I have a lot of trouble understanding God's purpose in withholding this blessing from you (and from me). It is very painful to even share these things with you because I don't want to increase your feelings of sadness or inadequacy. Still, maybe it helps for you to know that I do weep with you and share the deep disappointment of your infertility.

One thing God has been teaching me through all of this is that there is a purpose to suffering. The foremost longing of our hearts should always be about knowing and trusting God. It's easy when things are going well to believe that God is good and His purposes are being fulfilled. It's not so easy to continue to believe when life is difficult and things do not go the way we had hoped they would go.

Knowing that God is working all things together for good to those of us who are called to be His is also followed by the fact that we are "predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son" (Romans 8:28-29). You are so right when you remind me that Jesus did suffer on our behalf far more than we will ever suffer. If we are to become like Him, suffering is often the means by which we are refined. God has, indeed, "blessed us with every spiritual blessing ... in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). But it is also important that we learn to "count it all joy," (James 1:2) when we face the trials of this life because we have the confidence that God is doing His perfect work so that we may be "complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:5).

...In closing, I just want to say how proud (in a good sense) I am to be your mom. Your godliness and gentleness are a source of encouragement to me. I am exceedingly thankful for the times we can talk together about the promises of Scripture and the goodness of the Lord. I am glad God has blessed you with a godly husband, and pleased that together you have established a home where He is honored.

I want you to know that whether or not God blesses you with children (either biologically or through adoption), you will always be dear to my heart. Though I may be disappointed at times with the path God has asked you to walk, I am not and never will be disappointed with you. I count it a privilege that we are partners together in "the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

I love you very much.

Mom

Grandmothers Are Grieving Twice

I stand alone as I watch and I pray
And wait for the end of another day.
I'm a grandmother with no baby to hold
Grieving twice, if truth were told.

I grieve for our boy and all that "could have been";
I grieve for his mama; she's my daughter and my friend.
I watch as her husband holds her while they cry.
I stand in silent agony when they leave and say goodbye.

What happened to the days when my daughter was a child
And a kiss from her mama made the hurt seem mild?
When I could help her through all problems, both big and small,
And most days, all it took to help, was a late-night phone call.

I grieve for my daughter and for her child as I pray,
Please, Lord, help me. Help me know what to say.
I'm a grandmother with no baby to hold
Grieving twice, if truth were told.

*by Jackie Odom, a grandmother
In memory of Logan David Iliff
Stillborn, May 5, 2000*

May/June Topic

Mother's Day and Father's Day
Deadline—March 31, 2004

July/August Topic

Telling New Friends About Your Baby
Deadline – May 31, 2004

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 is currently not meeting, though another group will begin if there is enough interest.

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 DaLana Barsanti
at (817) 589-0588
fivekids@ev1.net

(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. Led by Christine Oxendine (bearpals@charter.net).

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

Happy 3rd Birthday Jacob!

We miss you every day! I can't believe you would have been three! I watch your two boy cousins who are the age you should have been, and I think, "That's what Jacob would be doing." It makes me smile and cry at the same time. Your little sister would have loved running around with you. I know that you would have been a wonderful big brother!

We think of you all the time.



Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Maegan,
Baby, and your doggie Hope

Jacob Charles Jensen
March 8, 2001
Trisomy 13
Remembering Baby Jensen, miscarried 5/03
Parents: Eric and Melanie Jensen
Little sister: Meagan



Happy 5th Birthday Blake



I can't believe how fast time has gone by! It seems like yesterday my prayers were answered and my first miracle was conceived. I will never forget you and look forward to when I can hold you again in heaven. We are sending lots of love up to you on your birthday!

Love, Mommy

In memory of Blake Leland Allen
4/21/99—Premature labor/incompetent cervix
and remembering Lauren Grace Allen
2/13/00—Cord accident
Parents: Jan & Sean Allen
Brother: Zachary



Happy 1st Birthday to our precious son Lucas James Sutphin

We love you & miss you more every day.

Love, Mommy & Daddy



Lucas James Sutphin
March 15 - October 15, 2003
Complications of prematurity
Parents: Derwin & Regina Sutphin

In Loving Memory of our sweet angel Rebekah Lee Suddeath Happy 2nd Birthday!

We love you and miss you very much. Your sister Heather and baby brother Alex send lots of love and kisses to you.



With all of our love,
Mommy, Daddy, Big Sister Heather,
Baby Brother Alex, and Grandma Helen

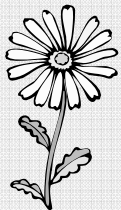
In loving memory of Rebekah Lee Suddeath
March 5, 2002
Trisomy 18
Parents: Rick & Michelle Suddeath
Siblings: Heather and Alexander



Happy 7th Birthday, Rianne Ellisa Scrivner!

We will always remember our short time together and how you changed our lives forever. Happy Birthday our precious first daughter. We will always love you!--

Mommy, Daddy,
and little sisters Chanie, Cassie and Canlie.



Rianne Ellisa Scrivner
March 4-7, 1997
Severe Hydrocephaly
more consistent with Anencephaly
Parents: Bill and Rae Scrivner
Siblings: Chanie, Casidy, and Canlie

Happy 5th Birthday Lauren!

It is so hard to believe you have been gone for five years. Sometimes it feels like it just happened and other times, it feels like it was a long time ago. You have changed our lives so much. We feel your presence everyday. We love and miss you very much and wish you were here on earth, but we know you belong in heaven.

We love you!!

Mommy, Daddy, and Little Sister Rileigh

Lauren Paige Grimes
Stillborn March 6, 1999
Unknown Cause
Remembering Baby Grimes
Miscarried January 25, 2001
Parents: John and Paula Grimes
Sibling: Rileigh



Chandler,

5 years old already! I can't believe it! We miss you everyday and think of you all the time. I look at your brother and sister and wonder what you would be doing if you were here with us. I wonder what kind of toys you would want for your big day and what kind of party you would want to have. Have a wonderful birthday in Heaven with Jesus...what an awesome way to celebrate your special day...looking around Heaven! We love you, little love bug!

Love,
Mommy and Daddy



*Chandler Allred celebrating his 5th birthday in Heaven
Stillborn March 4, 1999
Cause: Fetal Anemia
Parents: Mark and Amy Allred
Little Siblings: Christopher and Kyleigh*

**Happy 5th Birthday,
Chandler!**

Wow, what a big boy you would be! We love you and miss you - we think of you everyday.

Love,
Nana and Papaw

*In Loving Memory of
Chandler Allred
March 4, 1999
By Grandparents,
Bill & Doris Yancey*

**Happy 5th Birthday,****Carson**

**We hold you in our hearts every-
day, and we love you and miss
you very much!**

**Mommy, Daddy,
Blake and Brooke**

*Carson Mitchell Shaw
Stillborn April 1, 1999
Unknown cause*

*Parents: Randy and Aimee Shaw
Siblings: Blake and Brooke*

Happy 1st Birthday Sydney Marie Gros*Our special little angel*

Wish you were here to sing & cheer
the birthday melodies we wanted so dear
Gone but never forgotten

Love, Mom, Dad & SY



*In memory of Sydney Marie Gros
March 30 - April 3, 2003
Trisomy 13
Parents: Nelson and Angelle Gros
Big brother: Sy*

"You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed." Ps. 139:16

Our dear precious Grace,

The Lord knew you would come, despite our plans to not have any more children. The Lord knew you would be with us for exactly 40 days and 40 nights - not an insignificant amount of time by any means! The Lord knew He would use your short life to touch hundreds of lives, maybe more, to bring glory to His name. And He knew how much He would bless us through you. We miss you, our sweet gift from above. We look forward to joining you in the arms of Jesus for eternity one day. Until then, pray for us as we continue to serve our Lord and Savior, and know that you are loved more than ever.

Love,
Mommy and Daddy, and big brothers Noah and Aidan

*Grace Ann Davidson
April 7—May 17, 2003
Trisomy 18
Parents: Todd and Jill Davidson
Brothers: Noah and Aidan*



Oh, my little blessed boy,
time goes by so fast.
It seems like only yesterday,
your first day, too, your last.



Though we do not know the reason why,
of this I can be sure,
you touched the lives of everyone,
your brief life true and pure.

The lives you touched, the soul you saved,
it's so easy for me to see,
God took my precious baby boy to keep
watch over me.

Happy 3rd Birthday Jacob!

We love you and miss you so very much.
Love, Mommy, Daddy
and your little sister, Emily



*Jacob Theodore Oxendine
April 29, 2001
Premature Rupture of Membranes
Parents: Chip and Christine Oxendine
Little sister: Emily*

For Bereaved Grandparents: Heavy Hearts

by Katie D. Irby

When the tragic loss of a baby occurs, attention for care and support is often given to parents, while grieving grandparents may often be forgotten about. Their hearts are heavy and sad, not only for the loss of their precious grandbaby, but also for the pain their children are enduring from such tragedy. Bereaved grandparents deserve to have a network for support during such trying times. Many times they take on the responsibility of caring for their adult children's needs for comfort as they grieve; yet, grandparents are in need of similar comfort. I applaud all grandparents who have given their whole hearts to their children who have experienced a loss. My only hope is that more support becomes readily available to such devoted people. They deserve a voice!

My mom has been extremely supportive of me since I lost my son, Charles. I can't ever thank her enough for all she has done and has continued to do in her grandbaby's memory and honor. I know it has been a long and difficult road for her...for both of us. I'll always be here for her even if she just needs a warm hug. We will always grieve the loss of our Charles. We will forever miss him. Charles' Grandma wrote the following letter to him. It was our first Christmas without Charles:

12-24-1999

*To my dear Charles Christopher,
a beloved & wonderful grandson.*

You are in my thoughts & prayers.

I know you are safe and loved in the arms of the Lord

While your mom and I celebrate Christmas.

You will always be a part of me; after all, you have my chin!

I'll always love you!

Love, Grandma

About the Author: Katie is the co-editor of the KotaPress Loss Journal, active member of Neo Fight, co-founder of IN MISS Foundation Chapter, and bereaved mommy to Charles Christopher.

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Keepsake Resources

For Brittany

www.forbrittany.com

Offers 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.

A Loss Remembered

2908 South Clemont Dr.

Denver, CO 80222

(303) 692-9668

lossremembered@cs.com

Provides 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.

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 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/](http://www.tearsoup.com/pl/certificate%20of%20life.htm)

[certificate%20of%20life.htm](http://www.tearsoup.com/pl/certificate%20of%20life.htm)

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

Angels in Heaven Ministries

www.angelsinheaven.org

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

Once Upon a Family™

www.onceuponafamily.net

Contact: Amy Gill

(214) 725-6116

Offers special pieces to keep memorabilia safe. Donates a percentage of sales of the Baby Keepsake Box, Tiny Treasures Box, and Memory Trunk made to M.E.N.D. members back to M.E.N.D.

Angel Babies in Heaven

(843) 871-3071

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

Offers hand-painted memorial stepping stones to honor our babies.

Angel Lady

www.angelady.net

Artist Ethel Pontsler offers custom artwork of deceased loved ones based on photographs.

ArtInUtero

www.artinutero.com

2250 FM 407, Suite 108, PMB 119

Highland Village, Texas 75077-7164

(469) 293-5577

Artist Lisa J. Wood creates portraits from sonograms.

Heavenly Toes

www.heavenlytoes.com

Contact: Elisabeth Brandenburg

eb@heavenlytoes.com

(972) 393-5565

Offers crosses, frames, mugs, etc., made from hand, foot, or finger prints of your baby. Ten percent of sales to M.E.N.D. members will be donated back to M.E.N.D.

Remember Me With Love ...

As years pass by and others rarely mention my name, remember me with love.

When my anniversary date arrives, take a moment to say my name aloud.
If tears fall, let them.

Wherever you are—I am. I live in your heart, mind, and soul. Don't worry, you will never forget me. And we will be together again.

“And this is what he promises us—even eternal life.” 1 John 2:25

I have taught you about a mother's love in a way nothing else possibly could. Don't waste this lesson. Use the love you possess to still give to others. Comfort others who've had a loss; do it in my memory. The world needs more people who care. And besides that, a little of me lives in each person you touch. You have the power to make my legacy one I would be proud of.

“Dear children, let us love not with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:18

Light a candle, buy a rose, perform an “act of kindness.” Simple things. But then, our love is so great, no remembrance could ever be large enough to show how much you love me. For true love has no boundaries. And don't forget ... I love you, too!

Look at a puffy cloud, flower, or bird. Have no doubt “my angel spirit” is with the One who created these things. Remember, He created me too!

“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you ...” Jeremiah 1:5

Contemplate the many gifts I've left, and how I've affected your life in a good way. I've shown you how precious life is, and given you a greater appreciation of it. I've let you discover how strong you really are. I hope my short time here has made you discover what's really important. Has it made you a better person? I hope so.

“Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up.” Psalm 71:20

Your faith was tested, and hopefully, strengthened. God mends broken hearts. I hope He has mended your heart and filled it with a peace that only He can.

“The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him.” Lamentations 3:35

“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7

Most of all, know that the Bible says our love is eternal.

“And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.” Corinthians 13:13

If you think of me today
I'll be rejoicing from above
To know you have remembered me
With your precious mother's love.

By Gail Fasolo, mom to Christina, stillborn February 5, 1991

Music Resources

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

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

MOMS (Maternal Observations and Memories of Stillbirth) is a new Web-based research study on stillbirth. Its objective is to increase scientific knowledge about stillbirth in order to reduce its incidence worldwide. The study is being sponsored by the MISS Foundation (www.missfoundation.org) and facilitated by the International Stillbirth Alliance (www.stillbirthalliance.org).

The MOMS study is being conducted by an international group of renowned research facilities, including Oslo University in Norway, Harvard University, and Yale University. All women whether they have experienced stillbirths and/or live birth(s) are invited to report their experiences through a questionnaire.

To find out more or to participate in the study, visit www.momstudy.com.

In Loving Memory



Gabriela Faith Gregory

Stillborn January 24, 2002
Anomaly of Umbilical Cord
Given by parents,
Chris and Monica Gregory

Elizabeth Gentry

Stillborn August 24, 1996
Cystic Hygroma & Anasarca

Baby Gentry

Miscarried May 10, 1997

Meghan Elizabeth "Meggie" Gentry

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

Logan Wayne Fish

September 17, 2002
Skeletal Dysplasia
Parents, Brittney and David Fish
Brothers, Landry and Hudson
Given by Curves of Fort Worth

Michael Christopher Walton

Stillborn September 1, 2003
Placental Abruption
Given by parents,
Brian and Michele Walton
and brothers, Nathan and Garrett

In memory of our grandchild

Given by grandparents,
Andrew and Mary Hill

Mindy and Maggie Smith

Stillborn November 4, 1997
Twin To Twin Transfusion Syndrome
and Polyhydramnios
Given by parents, Scott and Karla Smith
and little siblings, Travis and Julia

Sydney Marie Gros

March 30 - April 3, 2003
Trisomy 13
Given by parents, Nelson and Angelle Gros
and big brother Sy

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

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995
Cord Accident
Baby Mitchell
Miscarried December, 2001
Parents, Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
and big brother, Byron, Jr.
Given by Lynette Nally

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995
Cord Accident
Baby Mitchell
Miscarried December, 2001
Parents, Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
and big brother, Byron, Jr.
Given by Dentistry of Las Colinas/
Byron L. Mitchell, D.D.S.

Christopher Parker Williams

February 14 - February 14, 2001
Genetic - Short Rib Polydactyl Syndrome
Given by parents, Larry and Paige Williams
and siblings, Madeleine and Camille

Ryan Davis Vermillion

January 30, 1997
CCAMS Disorder
Congenital Cystic Adenomatoid Malformation
Parents, John Mark and Misty Vermillion
Given by friends, David and Jennifer Langley

Angel Hope Brimmage

June 8, 2002 - June 8, 2002
Spina Bifida

Precious Brimmage

Miscarried December 23, 2002
Given by parents,
Ashley and Jennifer Brimmage
and siblings, Lindy and Mark

Chandler Allred

Stillborn March 4, 1999
Fetal Acrania
Given by parents, Mark and Amy Allred
and little siblings, Christopher and Kyleigh

Allison Grace Powell

May 14, 2002
Given by her family Jamey, Twyla
and James Powell

Rianne Ellisa Scrivner

March 4 - 7, 1997
Severe Hydrocephaly
more consistent with Anencephaly
Given by parents, Rae and Bill Scrivner
and little sisters Chanice, Casidy, and Canlie

Garrett Anthony Mayer

October 12 - December, 18, 1999
Tetralogy of Fallot
Parents, Tony and April Mayer
Little sister, Samantha
Given by Wells Fargo
Community Support Campaign



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!

Subsequent Births

**Karen and Nate Schockmel
and big sister Alexandra**
of Plano, Texas,
excitedly announce the arrival of
Benton Joseph Nettles,
born Friday, January 2, 2004,
at 8:06 a.m.

The Schockmel family
lovingly remembers
Elizabeth Mai,
stillborn May 13, 2002,
Intrahepatic Cholestasis.

**Pam and Tim Morren,
along with big sisters Ashton and Alexa**
of Frisco, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Benjamin Joseph,
born Wednesday, January 7, 2004,
weighing 8 lb., 15 oz.,
and measuring 20 1/2 inches long.
The Morrens lovingly remember
their first born son
Timothy "Schuyler" Morren II,
September 28 - December 23, 1997,
SIDS.

**Brian and Angela Ford,
along with big brother Ryan**
of Hurst, Texas,
proudly announce the new little addition
to their family,
Angel Diane,
born Tuesday, January 13, 2004,
7 lb., 9 1/2 oz., 19 inches long.
The Ford family lovingly remembers
Brian Keith Ford, Jr.,
August 22, 2001,
Trisomy 18.

**Brian and Michele Walton,
along with big brother Nathan Thomas**
of Glen Allen, Virginia,
joyfully announce the birth of
Garrett Lee,
born December 19, 2003,
7 lb., 1 1/2 oz., 20 inches long.
The Walton family lovingly remembers
their son in heaven,
Michael Christopher,
stillborn September 1, 2003,
Placental Abruption.

**Chris and Tracy Morris,
along with their four boys at home**
of Denton, Texas,
joyfully announce the birth of
Asher Jonathan
November 11, 2003.
He weighed 7 lb., 5oz.
Another Redhead!

The Morrises lovingly remember
Lael,
miscarried September 1994
due to unknown causes,
Rose Adriel,
stillborn January 13, 2000,
unknown cause,
and Joseph Zephaniah,
delivered still October 19, 2002,
due to blood clot in placenta.

Glenn and Nancy Martin
of Trophy Club, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Alexander Lee,
born January 13, 2004,
weighing 8 lb., 9 oz.,
and measuring 20 1/2 inches long.
The Martins lovingly remember
Catherine Mary,
stillborn December 15, 2001,
Trisomy 18,
Baby Martin 1,
miscarried June 14, 2002,
and Baby Martin 2,
miscarried September 2002
blighted ovum.

Joe and Marie Stockdale
of Atlanta, Georgia,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Caleb Christopher,
born November 24, 2003,
weighing 8lb., 15 oz.,
20.25 inches long.
The Stockdales lovingly remember
Michelle Grace,
August 22 - September 16, 2002,
due to a heart defect (Ebstein's Anomaly)
and Baby Stockdale,
miscarried January 2003.

M.E.N.D.'s

2004 Walk to Remember

will be held October 2, 2004

Mark your calendars and look for
details about time and place in up-
coming newsletters.

Looking for a way to help other be-
reaved parents? **THE TEARS
FOUNDATION** is a local 501(c)(3)
non-profit organization that seeks to
compassionately assist bereaved par-
ents with the financial expenses they
face in making final arrangements for
their precious baby who has died.
Many of the founders and volunteers
at **THE TEARS FOUNDATION**
have experienced the loss of their own
baby and want to reach out in this
way to support newly bereaved par-
ents in their time of devastating sor-
row. To find out more, visit
www.thetearsfoundation.org.

**I'll Hold You in Heaven Remem-
brance Book**, written by Debbie Hey-
drik, is an excellent resource for
newly bereaved parents. The book
contains a forward by Jack Hayford
and a chapter written by M.E.N.D.
founder Rebekah Mitchell. It is avail-
able in most Christian bookstores, or
you can order books from M.E.N.D.
for \$15 per book, plus shipping and
handling. Use the contact informa-
tion on the back page of this newslet-
ter if you're interested in ordering
books directly from M.E.N.D.

The Missing GRACE Organization
announces its 2nd annual conference
on Pregnancy, Infant Loss, Infertility,
& Adoption. "On the Journey" will be
held March 26-27, 2004, in Minnea-
polis, Minnesota, at First Covenant
Church. For more information, visit
www.missingGRACE.org.

Mikela's Miracles is sponsoring
their second annual "Gone But Not
Forgotten" scrapbook retreat for be-
reaved moms March 12-14 in the
scenic Arbuckle Mountains of Okla-
homa. The cost is \$125 per person.
They are also hosting a scrapbook
cruise in September and will have a
grief counselor onboard. For more
information, visit www.campcrop-a-lot.com.

ARIZONA **Support Groups**

♥ *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 95031-0341
www.handonline.org, e-mail info@handonline.org
(408) 995-6102, toll free (888) 908-HAND
Support meetings in the California counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, and parts of the Central Valley - call for info
♥ *Good Mourning Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support*
3389 Via Dona, Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 733-5225, ctmontel@best1.net
601 East Ocean Ave Suite 6, Lompoc, CA 93436
♥ *HAND of Peninsula*
Sequoia Health and Wellness Services
702 Marshall St., Redwood City, CA
Celia Hartnett: (650) 367-6993
♥ *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)*

Kim Lotz: kim.lotz@missfoundation.org
**Arcadia Chapter*
Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:00, Church of the Good Shepherd, 400 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia, CA 91007
Kristin Jared: (626) 963-9120
kristin@missfoundation.org

ILLINOIS

♥ *Healing Hearts of Rockford*
c/o Rockford Memorial Hospital
Dept. of Maternal - Fetal Medicine
2400 N. Rockton Ave., Rockford, IL 61103
(815)971-5186 Lori Forelich
(815) 971-3737 (press number 3 for general information)

INDIANA

♥ *Healing Hearts*
219 S. Logan St., South Bend, IN 46615
(574) 282-5276
www.healing-hearts-of-indiana.com

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 7:00 p.m.
at Good Samaritan Hospital, 235 N. Pearl St
Brockton, MA, Community Conference Room, 1st floor

♥ *A Ripple in Time*

Meets 1st Monday at 7:00 p.m. at St. Theresa of Lisieux Parish Hall, Room 6, Boston Rd., Billerica, MA
Contact Donna McDonnell, 978-663-5477

♥ *HOPE*

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at Baldwin Park I,
Woburn, MA, 781-273-2624
Contact Rindy Heubner, DHeub1028@aol.com

NEW JERSEY

♥ *UNITE, Inc.*
Has groups in Turnersville, Trenton, and at Princeton.
Call (215) 728-3777 for more information.

♥ *MISS*

502 Montgomery Ave., Somers Point, NJ 08244
(609) 601-0563
www.missfoundation.org
Kathy@missfoundation.org, Contact: Kathy Evans

♥ *MIDS (Miscarriage, Infant Death & Stillbirth Support Group, Inc.)* Contact: Janet Tischler
180 Jillian Blvd., Parsippany, NJ 07054-1605
(973) 884-0061, mids1982@yahoo.com
www.midsinc.org **NEW YORK**

♥ *GAPS (Guardian Angel Perinatal Support Group) A SHARE Group*

Molloy College, Wm J. Casey Center, Room #107,
1000 Hempstead Ave, Rockville Centre, NY 11570
Meets 1st Friday of each month, 7:30—9:30 p.m.
Martha Weiss (516) 249-8589, martyk9@optonline.net

PENNSYLVANIA♥ *UNITE, Inc.*

Has various groups across the state. Call (215) 728-3777.

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 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. Dinner is provided.
2302 Northeast Pkwy, Garland, TX

♥ *Healing Matters 1*

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, Class C. Call 214-345-2613

Contact: Brooke Arnold, brookearnold@texashealth.org

♥ *Bereavement Services/RTS*

Methodist Charlton Medical Center
3500 W. Wheatland, Dallas, TX 75237
Meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
For info on meeting place call (214) 947-7127

♥ *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

♥ *Bereaved Parents of North Texas, Inc.*

3rd Monday of every month 7:15p.m.
First UMC, 201 S. Locust, Denton, TX
Cole Chapel Lounge

♥ *TAPS (Tiny Angel Parents Share)*

North Hills Hospital, Grapevine Hwy & Hwy 820
Meets 2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Lorin Koemel: (817) 595-0833

E-mail koemel@hotmail.com

♥ *SHARE Of The Mid-Cities—Home of the original*

© *Christmas Box Angel*

Harris Methodist HEB Hospital, Bedford, TX
Beverly A. Wallach, RN, CBE, Coordinator
1st Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.
phone: 972-601-1676, fax: 866-307-4163
share_rts@yahoo.com

♥ *Angels Away*

c/o CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health Care
Chaplain/Facilitator Peggy Hubor
333 N. Santa Rosa Street, San Antonio, TX 78207
Meetings are 3rd Thurs., 7 p.m.

♥ *Alliance for Infant Survival, Inc.*

4351 Booth Caloway, Ste. 310
North Richland Hills, Texas 76180
(817)589-2124, Fax (817) 590-0060
Toll Free 1 (800) 650-7437

www.infantsurvival.org

e-mail info@infantsurvival.org

Executive Director, Sandi Wiggins

Development/Public Affairs, Juliet Holden
Meet 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

♥ *The Pregnancy Loss Support Group of Austin*

South Austin Hospital, 901 Ben White Blvd.
Austin, TX 78704, (512) 282-4123
Meets 1st Sunday at 2:00 in hospital auditorium
Contact: Pat Ebilsizer

VIRGINIA♥ *Empty Arms Support Group*

Sentara Women's Health Source
801 Volvo Pkwy, Ste. 120,
Chesapeake, VA 23320
2nd & 4th Monday, 7-8:30
Ann Prescott: 757-545-2667,
ahprnmssed@yahoo.com

♥ *The Perinatal Loss Support Group**at Harbourview*

(Located at Women's Imaging Ctr. Reception Area)
Harbour View Dr., Suffolk, VA 23435
(757) 673-5800, Contact: Terry Zawacki
(757) 398-4832 or Gayle Deas: (757) 398-4857

Held on the 3rd Thursday of every month

♥ *MISS—Perinatal and Infant Loss*

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Forest and Patterson Ave., Richmond, VA
3rd Monday, 7-8:30 p.m., parlor
Contact Twyla Powell, twyla@missfoundation.org

WISCONSIN♥ *Resolve Through Sharing*

St. Michael Hospital, 2400 W. Villard
Milwaukee, WI 53209—Meets 7p 1st Wednesday
www.coperesources.net/iri/fox01lygq.htm
(414) 527-8164—Ask for Resolve Through Sharing
(414) 527-8350—Support group info

AUSTRALIA♥ *Murraylands Lutheran Stillborn*

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

CANADA♥ *Morning Light Ministry*

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church
11 Peter St. South
Mississauga, Ontario L5H-2G1
(416) 969-0545

morninglightministry@rogers.com

♥ *Perinatal Bereavement Services Ontario*

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



A letter from Alfred, Lord Tennyson, to his friend Robert Monteith, after the stillbirth of Tennyson's child in 1851

My dear Robert,

I am quite sure you feel with me. My poor little boy got strangled in being born. I would not send the notice of my misfortune to the *Times* and I have had to write some 60 letters. If you desire to know about it ask Edmund Lushington to show you that letter which I wrote to him. My wife has been going on very well since; but last night she lost her voice and I thought I should lose her: she's however free from all danger this morning according to my medical man. I have suffered more than ever I thought I could have done for a child still-born: I fancy I should not have cared so much if he had been a seven months splindling, but he was the grandest-looking child I had ever seen. Pardon my saying this. I do not speak only as a father but as an Artist—if you do not despise the word from German associations. I mean as a man who has eyes and can judge from seeing.

I refused to see the little body at first, fearing to find some pallid abortion which would have haunted me all my life—but he looked (if it be not absurd to call a newborn babe so) even majestic in his mysterious slice after all the turmoil of the night before.

He was—not born, I cannot call it born for he never breathed—but he was released from the prison where he moved for nine months on Easter Sunday. Awful day! We live close upon an English-church chapel. The organ rolled—the psalm sounded—and the wail of a woman in her travail—of a true and tender nature suffering, as it seemed intolerable wrong, rose ever and anon.

... God bless you and your wife, dear Robert,

For ever and ever,
A. Tennyson

From *Remembrances and Celebrations: A Book of Eulogies, Elegies, Letters, and Epitaphs*, edited by Jill Werman Harris, from Pantheon Books

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.

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.

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. 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.

Diana McNelly is a consultant for **Usborne Books at Home**, a children's book company. Diana is donating 10 percent of purchases made off her Web site by M.E.N.D. members back to M.E.N.D. You must e-mail Diana if you purchase from the Web site so that she'll know you are a M.E.N.D. member. The Web address is www.luvusborne.com, and you can e-mail Diana at rmcinely@hotmail.com.

Once Upon a Family offers beautiful keepsakes to keep memorabilia safe and sound. Consultant Amy Gill is offering M.E.N.D. 20 percent of sales of the Baby Keepsake Box, Tiny Treasure Box, and Memory Trunk made to M.E.N.D. members back to M.E.N.D. The items can be viewed at www.ouonafamily.net, and Amy can be reached at 214-725-6116 or texasgills@hotmail.com

Shannon Outen, a M.E.N.D. member and co-owner of **Paper Patch**, represents several lines of business stationary, specializing in customized holiday/Christmas cards at a discounted price. Shannon will donate 10 percent of her profits to M.E.N.D. from each Christmas card order. Contact Shannon at (817) 557-4733 or email outencs@aol.com to receive a current catalogue.

Christine Oxendine is now a representative of **Avon**. She has offered to give to M.E.N.D. 10 percent of any orders placed by M.E.N.D. members. To receive a catalogue, contact Christine at 940-381-6617 home or 682-365-7448 cell or e-mail bearpals@charter.net.

<p>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.</p>	<p>Donations make the printing and distribution of this newsletter possible.</p> <p>Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated and should be sent to:</p> <p>M.E.N.D. P.O. Box 1007 Coppell, TX 75019.</p>	<p>Visit our web site at: http://www.mend.org</p> <p>Board of Directors</p> <p><i>Founder/President</i> Rebekah Mitchell</p> <p><i>Vice President</i> Lori King</p> <p><i>Secretary</i> Byron Mitchell, D.D.S.</p> <p><i>Medical Advisor</i> Gonzalo Venegas, M.D.</p> <p><i>Directors</i> Jana Spigener DaLana Barsanti Lisa Durham Christine Oxendine</p> <p><i>Officers</i> Denise Gradel Rae Scrivner Pam Morren Nicole Didier</p> <p><i>Editor</i> Sharlene Libby</p> <p><i>Co-Editors</i> Rebekah Mitchell Byron Mitchell, D.D.S.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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).</p>	

M.E.N.D. Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death
P.O. Box 1007, Coppell, TX 75019
USA
(972) 459-2396 or Toll Free 1-888-695-M.E.N.D. (1-888-695-6363)
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