



Telling New Friends About Your Baby

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It has been nine years since my husband Byron and I lost our son Jonathan, and I still cringe when strangers or casual acquaintances ask how many children we have. Referring only to our twelve-year-old at home by merely answering "one" seems a betrayal to Jonathan as well as the tiny baby we miscarried a couple of years ago.

Shortly after Jonathan's stillbirth, explaining that we had one child at home and one in Heaven was a bit uncomfortable but was the best answer I could think of without feeling guilty for just saying "one". Now that we've lost two babies, replying to that innocent inquiry is more difficult. Figuring out what to say is not easy, especially since several years have gone by since we lost our babies. I want to reply without sounding nutty, yet not feeling as though I'm discounting the lives of my two children in Heaven. For the most part I find myself only acknowledging my living son and have learned to deal with a twinge of guilt for not being completely honest.

But what about friends we have made since our loss who have never asked that dreaded question and just assume the only children we have are the ones they see? To establish a solid friendship, isn't that something they should know about us? Most of us are not private about our losses and in fact delight in telling others of our precious babies in Heaven. So when do we spring this bit of information on our new buddies, and how do we tell them? It may be easier for me because I'm often asked the meaning behind my email address (Rebekah@mend.org)

and because people want to know what M.E.N.D. is, which gives me an opportunity to explain. Or they may be aware that I direct a non-profit organization and are curious as to what kind of charity I advocate. For those of you who are not given an open door to share and want your new acquaintances to know about this very big part of your life, just come right out and tell them early in the relationship. It's nothing to be ashamed of or anything you need to make a huge drama out of. I recommend beginning by simply and bluntly saying something along the lines of, "Have I ever told you that we lost a baby?" Some may argue, why tell anyone – especially if many years have passed? Well, if a relationship is to be honest and true, then they should know that about you. It's not as though you are revealing some deep, dark secret or private sin. Our losses have molded us into who we are today, and our character is what it is because of our sufferings. So if a person is to know us, then they need to know *about* us.

Many times at our support groups we talk about some people just not being "worthy" enough to know of our losses. They may need to earn the right to be introduced to that part of our lives. We have the authority to choose who is allowed to know and share in that reverent section of our past. We don't need to tell everyone with whom our paths cross, yet we certainly do not need to feel as though we have to hide it out of fear of making our new friends feel uncomfortable. You will know when and if the time is right and you can gauge how many details to share by their reaction. Just never feel ashamed, inadequate or embarrassed to expose that hidden part of your heart.

Rebekah Mitchell

Table of Contents

<i>Sharing the Memory of Your Baby</i>	Page 2
Upcoming Newsletter Topics, Meeting Schedule, <i>Your Name</i>	Page 3
Birthday Tributes to Our Special Babies	Pages 4-5
<i>Thoughts from Our Readers</i>	Page 6-8
<i>The Answer</i>	Page 8
<i>Sharing My Daughter</i> , Subsequent Births,	Page 9
In Loving Memory	Page 10-11
Organizations and Internet Support	Page 12
T-Shirt Order Form, Fundraisers	Page 13
Newsletter Subscription Information	Page 14



Sharing the Memory of Your Baby with Others

After announcing you're getting married, announcing you're pregnant rates in the top list of exciting life moments. All seems right with the world, and then you start to plan how you'll announce if it's a boy or girl...the first birthday cards...the first family portrait Christmas cards. Our lives start to immediately revolve around telling everyone about our child.

Then the unthinkable happens—your baby dies, as did our son Caleb Scott on December 1, 2003. What was supposed to be a handmade, ribbon-tied baby announcement with weights and measures suddenly becomes a black and white obituary in the newspaper. Everyone who knew you were pregnant expects to get that cute announcement, and if they missed the obit, then comes the constant uncomfortable conversations. It's even worse for those people you meet for the first time after your baby went home to be with the Lord.

Talking about our babies after the losses seems to be different for every family. Depending on the timing of the loss, the cause, the other children involved, every one of us makes decisions about future discussions. Without the support of those families in M.E.N.D., I'm not sure that we would be as open to talking about Caleb today.

For my husband Jon and I, we knew very early after Caleb's death that he would remain a part of our family. We had no other children—he is our first—and because of that we choose to speak of him often. I can't say that we're good at it, but we are learning.

We had the full funeral and had a picture of him up during the service. That picture is up in our house now, and those people who were around during our loss have been invited to see it. We ask them to refer to Caleb by name and encourage them to ask us about our grief regularly. That's the only time we get to share about our beautiful little boy who was just born too early.

We knew that the time would come when we would inevitably be asked, "Do you have any children?" or, "So how many children do you have?" We thought much more of ourselves than we should have and knew that we would have the "best" answer: "Yes, we have a son, but he is with the Lord in heaven." How much more strong and faithful could we appear than with that Sunday school answer?! Not once in the six months since I've been fielding those types of questions has my answer come out that well.

I seem to butcher it at every turn. We are torn in telling about our baby, because for us to say "no" negates that he ever existed and seems to dishonor him. But to say "yes" puts an immediate cloud over the conversation. The person you're speaking with becomes uneasy, and then you become angry about their uneasiness, because they're uneasy about your precious baby. I've had people advise me to "weigh the investment you have in the person" to whom you are speaking. Well, that just doesn't work because of this internal tug-of-war you have about honoring your child.

I guess what I have resigned to do is answer every question honestly. Yes, I have a son, but he lives in Heaven. I've had to hone my communication skills these past few months to be sure that when I answer, I'm not looking for pity. Sympathy, maybe, but not pity. I need to be sure that I move on from that line of questioning if they seem uneasy and not be angry with them for that. Because, seriously, before any of us lost a child, wouldn't we have cringed at the thought of talking about someone's dead baby? We know that our children are alive in Heaven, safe in the arms of Jesus Christ, and for that we can find comfort and enjoyment in talking about our children.

*By Heather Fann,
Mother of Caleb Scott Fann
December 1, 2003*

Premature Rupture of Membranes at Birth

M.E.N.D.'s Walk to Remember

October 2, 2004, 2:00 p.m.

This year's Walk to Remember will be held at a new location:

Calvary Church (Formerly Calvary Temple)

4401 North Highway 161 Irving, TX 75038 (Hwy. 161 & Walnut Hill)

For more information or to RSVP, contact Rebekah Mitchell

(972) 459-2396 or Rebekah@mend.org

Your Name

by Sharlene Libby,
for Joseph

You were born,
And I spoke your name to the stranger beside me
As we stood with our shopping carts
And she searched for a response
Because I needed someone to know that you were.

You were one,
And I heard your name called out at a Little League game
While I watched your big brother play
And I longed to whisper to the team mom behind me
That I had a son with that name, too.

You were three,
And I blurted your name to a new neighbor
Who asked, "How did you get your baby to be so still
To make such perfect handprints?"
Because I hoped she could be trusted to know you, too.

You are five,
And I sing your name to your little sister as she dances
And I marvel that hearing it out loud is a smile in the air
No matter who notices it or not
Because now I realize it is spoken every day in Heaven.

September/October Topic

Grieving Alone
Deadline—July 31, 2004

November/December Topic

Getting Through the Holidays
Deadline – September 30, 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 to-
gether and discuss concerns unique to them
as fathers. Our moms and dads meet to-
gether for introductions before dividing into
two groups for discussion.**

All support group meetings are held at:

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

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

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

Subsequent pregnancy group

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

*For families who are considering becoming preg-
nant or are currently pregnant after a loss. 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 7th BIRTHDAY, BROTHER JONATHAN For My Baby Brothers in Heaven

Written by: *Kaitlyn Moehlman in 2002 at the age of 9*

Soft and gentle, warm and snug
hold them, touch them
I wish I could give them a hug

You see these things I couldn't do
how I long to see them
how I wish it was not true

That day after school I found out
the death of my sweet brothers
It made me want to shout

As months passed the hurt was through
as still I remember
I still wish I could see you!



Jonathan Moehlman

July 16, 1997

Antiphospholipid Antibodies

Christian Moehlman

December 5, 1996

Antiphospholipid Antibodies

Parents: Mike & Tammy Moehlman

Siblings: Joshua, Andrew, Kaitlyn and Madison

For Jackson

We miss you sweet boy!

How can it possibly be that it has been six years
since we first met you and fell in love with you?

We loved you then, though it couldn't keep you here.

We love you now, though it can't bring you back to us.

We will always love, miss and remember you.

You are still our sweet, precious boy!



In memory of Jackson David Crowe

August 22—September 9, 1998

Congenital heart defect

Parents: Marie and David Crowe

Siblings: Hannah and Andy

Love,
Mommy, Daddy,
big sister Hannah
and little brother Andy



To our cousin and angel,

Erika Brienne Grau

Happy 7th Birthday!

You are forever in our hearts and never forgotten.

Thinking and playing with you in spirit. We love you!

Rilijin, Wendy & Joey Carrillo



Erika Brienne Grau

July 9—August 3, 1997

Anoxic brain injury due to ruptured uterus

Parents: Yvette and Ray Grau

Siblings: Nikryan and Nataly

Samantha's Song



*It is spring again and
each new day brings forth another sign....*

*That God is in His heaven
and that with Him you are fine.*

*In the flowers of each spring day,
and in the warmth of the summer's sun..
we see the beauty in God's world and
know that we are one.*

*In all the ways we knew you,
each memory is here to stay.
We know that you are with us
and a part of each new day.*



*God's victory over death
is a promise to us all.
Follow faithfully His lessons.
Heed His every call!*

*We must have faith and trust in God.
He is a God of Grace.
He can fill our aching hearts with love
....the emptiness replace.*

*Each time I hear a songbird sing,
I hear a "tiny voice",
"Through Christ I will be with you.
Celebrate...Rejoice!"*

*Written for Samantha Angel Hampton
by her grandmother, Marge Hampton.
Samantha was stillborn May 22, 2000,
due to a cord accident.*

*Parents: Steven and Brenda Hampton
Sister: Lauren*



Dearest Brian Jr.,

*This is your third birthday. I can't believe this
much time has passed. You would've been just a
step taller than your brother. I know you're stand-
ing tall in Heaven, and we would never desire to
take that from you. But still you're very missed
even though we know you're in the very best
hands. We love you, our first born, and look for-
ward to seeing you one day.*

*Love,
Dad, Momma,
Ryan and Angel*

Brian Keith Ford, Jr.

August 22, 2001

Trisomy 18

Parents: Brian and Angela Ford

Siblings: Ryan and Angel



Happy Birthday Andrew

You are five this year! We hope you and Grandpa are up there together now. I told him you would be waiting there for him. Your sister Abigail reminds us of all the memories we wanted to make with you; riding her bike, singing songs, playing soccer, etc. We think of you often and miss you a lot.

*Andrew Bailey Carpenter, stillborn July 14, 1999, unknown cause
Parents: Melissa and Todd Carpenter, twin sister: Abigail*



Love,
Mommy, Daddy, and Abigail

And I Smiled at My Enemies

Month after month, and day after day,
I longed for the child that God would surely give me one day.
And I cried because of my enemy—disappointment.

Oh, what good news! My sister had a baby due!
What a miracle—my brother's wife did, too!
But I cried because of my enemy—jealousy.

When, oh when, would I be the one?
Was I being punished? What had I done?
And I cried because of my enemy—impatience.

"It's true, it's true!" I finally shouted with glee;
For it was confirmed, I was a mother-to-be!
And I danced because of my enemy—pride.

On a weekend retreat, I was so tired I felt inept;
My growing belly was a secret I kept.
Yet I smiled because of my enemy—smugness.

In 1 Samuel 2:1, Hannah started to pray;
That special verse was given to me that day.
And I smiled because of my enemy—immaturity.

"Smile" was the highlighted word in that verse.
Hannah smiled where many would curse.
And I smiled, too.

This secret I could no longer contain,
I announced that the word "Mom" would soon be my new name.
And I smiled despite all of my enemies!

Someone said, "If it is a boy, the name Samuel would be so fine."
But I said, "Oh, no! I'm planning on keeping mine."
And I laughed because of my enemy—boastfulness.

But my keeping him was not in God's plan,
For His way is not always known to man.
And I cried because of my enemy—unfaithfulness.

I was full of sorrow, as you would expect;
But I was overcome with joy, and that was quite suspect.
And I cried because of my enemy—confusion.

"What's wrong with me?" I wondered with a start.
Why do I feel this sense of joy deep within my heart?
And I prayed in spite of my enemy—guilt.

"Smile!" I heard a voice shouting in my head.
"Smile?" I was certain that's what the voice had said.
"Remember my mercy of which you have learned."
I picked up my Bible. To 1 Samuel I quickly turned.
And I read because of my enemy—ignorance.

**"And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; My horn is exalted in the Lord. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation."
(1 Samuel 2:1, NKJV)**

"That's it, that's it!" I jumped up from my bed.
Salvation comes from the Lord. That's what the Bible said.
And I smiled at my enemy—hopelessness.

Hannah gave up her son with joy,
Now I must do the same, with my little boy.
And I smiled at my enemy—self-pity.

My precious son, Matthew was his name,
Whether he lived a minute or a century, God's love is the same.
And I smiled at my enemy—selfishness.

God's Word is full of encouragement and hope,
Reading the Bible was the only way I could cope.
And I smiled at my enemy—depression.

In addition to Samuel, Hannah had five,
I claimed that as God's promise that my next would be born alive.
And I smiled at my enemy—fear.

God blessed me, on Matthew's due date;
I learned Ashley was coming; now I could really celebrate!
And I smiled at my enemy—sorrow.

And when she was one, I again smiled with joy,
For soon I would be blessed with my second little boy.

Now I must remember to give God all the Glory,
For that's the reason that I tell Matthew's story.
And I smile at all of my enemies, because my salvation comes from the Lord!

*In Loving Memory of Matthew James Mueller
Born into Heaven on August 16, 1998.
Premature labor
Parents: Brian and Jean Mueller
Siblings: Ashley and Mark*

Endless time

To this day, the day he passed on, June 6, 2001
He will forever in our memories live strong.
As the child we knew only in the womb
So fierce and so strong he conquered us all.
As a child who was blessed from above,
We thought he had long,
Endless time to do it all,
But we were wrong.
Even a breath was not to be taken
But hearts he would embrace,
As he ascended to live up above.
Emptiness would be all that remained
And the memory of a soul that still lives through us all.

Remembering Griffin Caleb McIntosh, stillborn June 6, 2001, parents are Naomi and Matthew McIntosh, little sister is Mya.

Spring is blooming

Spring is blooming
And the memory is near
As I look up at the framed picture of the baby so dear
That captured our hearts and filled us with glee
For he was the first son to enter our Family tree
The hopes and the fears all bundled into one,
For our first son was not to stay on,
But to live with his true Father the one and only Son.

*Happy 3rd Birthday my sweet son!
Our love from your family,
Naomi, Matthew & sweet Mya*

Thoughts from Our Readers

Editor's Note: We had an overwhelming response to our request for M.E.N.D. members to share when and how they tell new friends about their babies in Heaven. Following, in their own words, are what M.E.N.D. readers had to say about sharing their babies with others.

"I find the subject of my son's death to be shone in a new light these days. I now have a second child, Mya, who is a ray of sunshine. However because of my second child I now have a new task that seems to reappear on almost a daily occurrence. I find the most frequently asked question I have received since she has been born, which has been over 18 months now, is, 'Is this your first one?' Ahhh! I really had no idea how hard this question would be when I had Mya. Of course the first time it was asked I was devastated that I hadn't really thought about it until that time. Boy, was I plowed over!

"I'm sure all of you who have lost a child and now have another child can relate to this feeling—not just because you lost the most precious life you had ever known, but because now you feel that your loyalty is not only with your existing child but with the child you lost. Without acknowledging the child's existence you feel you would be disrespecting the very being that you conceived and carried in your womb. I know without a doubt that it is not a question to be meant harmful, but the general public just has no understanding of what turmoil and trials you have been through.

"Of course this question, 'Is this your first' is one I have struggled with since I had my daughter. Every time I am approached with it I feel as though it is the very first time I have heard it. I feel frightened and alarmed as if I will answer incorrectly and shame my heavenly ascended child. Of course in the end I tell them 'no' and I try to delicately put it in a matter that they will feel most comfortable, but still I am unsettled at best. This isn't to say that some people aren't kind and understanding and sometimes have stories of their own that I may find to be even more heart-wrenching than mine, but in the end it is still going to be that void that continually makes life 'real' at best. The loneliness and emptiness have taken a place in my heart that can not be filled, no matter how many children I have.

"I feel that the fact that I am unsettled at this question that frequently comes my way is ok, possibly a great sign that the flame and desire to keep my son in the forefront of my thoughts continually keeps his memory alive."

*Naomi McIntosh
Mother to Griffin Caleb
Stillborn on June 6, 2001*

"First, I do not always act consistently, and I am comfortable with that. I usually follow my heart and my instincts on what and when to say to a new friend about our middle child, who died as an infant. Enough time has passed and I have healed enough to be able to have a conversation about our baby dying without breaking down and crying. So, if the time seems appropriate, I usually give the basic facts and judge from the response whether to say more. I don't struggle with guilt anymore if I don't mention Jackson when discussing our family. I used to think maybe that was disloyal or that it minimized his importance in our life, but I don't feel that way any more. He knows that his dad and I think of him every day and that we love him and miss him. That seems to be all that is important to me now. Still, he is so important to us that I can't imagine not telling people that become important in my life about him at some point.

"My advice to others, especially those with a new loss, is to do whatever you want to do – even if that is not always the same thing. Your needs and feelings change as you go through the grief process, so you need to be flexible and patient with yourself and with your spouse."

*Marie Crowe
Mother to Jackson David
August 22-September 9, 1998*

"It is still very difficult for me when people ask, 'How many children do you have?' I usually don't tell complete strangers, but it is hard because I know I have three children. It saddens me to say only two, but it is usually in small talk that someone asks, and to explain my third child would be quite longer. I am very interested to hear how others deal with this. I usually don't tell people unless I feel comfortable with them or there's more time and it's not just 'small talk.'"

*Stacy Hunt
Mother to Olivia Grace
February 8-9, 2000*

"How many children do you have? Such a seemingly simple and frequently asked question can become very difficult for the many of us who have lost children. To mention our children in Heaven can be uncomfortable and bring hurt and embarrassment to the conversation. At the same time it seems to be an injustice to our sweet little ones in Heaven not to mention them. After all, they are as much our children as the ones here with us on earth.

"Even after seven years, I still have a hard time knowing how to answer this question. There is no magic formula as to when or even if to tell. Every new acquaintance is a new and unique situation. You have to follow your heart and allow God to guide you. Who knows—God may have brought this person into your life in order for you to help bring comfort and healing to their life or even vice versa. *II Corinthians 1:3-4* says, 'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.'

Continued on next page

“Being a Mother's Day Out director, I meet new people all the time. Most of the time, in a new relationship, I will only mention the four children that I have here with me on earth in order not to make the other person feel uncomfortable. Then it just depends on where the relationship goes from there. When relationships grow, the conversation will always come back around to children, and I am happy to tell them about my sweet babies that are with Our Lord Jesus Christ. I have been amazed at how many people who have also lost children or have someone close to them who has also experienced a similar loss.

“One of the ways my husband handles the question is he will say we have four children with us. Then, if people ask, he will explain a little more and let the other person lead the conversation. If they are comfortable talking about it, they'll ask, and if not they will shy away from it.

“No matter how you choose to tell, you will find as time goes on it will get easier to talk about your child or children who are no longer with you. I find myself talking about Jonathan and Christian with great joy. I am very proud to be their mommy and can't wait to see them someday.”

*Tammy Moehlman
Mother to Jonathan Moehlman
Stillborn July 16, 1997,
and Christian Moehlman
Stillborn December 5, 1996*

“After my son Carter was stillborn, I went through a difficult time opening up to many people, even my friends. As time went on and my emotional wounds were healing, I was able to open up more and meet new friends.

“Usually one of the first questions you get when you meet someone new is, ‘Do you have any children?’ I always knew this question was coming, and I never knew exactly how I wanted to answer it. Did I want to put a damp blanket on our conversation by telling them that yes, I had a baby and he died? Did I just want to take the easy way out and say no? After doing a little of both, I came to the conclusion that I felt so much better if I told them what I had always been dying to say: ‘Yes, I had a baby boy who was stillborn.’ I realized that I owed it to myself and Carter to acknowledge his short life.

“I always wanted everyone to know about my precious baby but was afraid how others would react. To be happy, I knew my feelings had to come first. If they were willing to be my friend, then they would have to be able to handle this part of my life. I needed understanding people who I could be honest with, not friends with whom I had to tip-toe around the delicate subjects of our lives. Friends are people who take the good with the bad and are supportive of you regardless of the tragedies that occurred in your life. Making the decision to be honest with people in the beginning relieved a lot of stress for me. I knew that when the dreaded questions of children came up, I would know just what I was going to say.”

*Shannon Outen
Mother to Carter Patrick
Stillborn November 6, 2000,
Baby Outen I
Miscarried April 2001,
And Baby Outen II*

“I'm finally becoming comfortable with the manner in which I introduce myself and my children to new people. For over a year, I dreaded the inevitable question, ‘How many kids do you have?’ Well, now I answer on a case-by-case basis, upon good advice from my friend, Samantha. If the person is someone I'll never see again, I usually say ‘two’ and then give the ages of my living children. I've found that if I tell these strangers about the children I have in Heaven, they become very uncomfortable, which is their problem, but I hate to deal with the awkward silence and sometimes intrusive questions that follow. If the person is someone who I'm going to be around in the future and potentially become close friends with, I'll say with confidence, ‘I have a four year old, two precious babies in Heaven, and a seven month old.’ Then we can either discuss my children in Heaven, or not. I once felt like I had to announce on all occasions each of my children, but the pain of discussing my loss with strangers sometimes lingered for days. I've realized that some people just aren't ‘worthy’ of hearing the special story about my babies, and possibly shedding a tear with me at the same time. These stories are sacred and special, and we have the right to decide with whom we will share them.”

*Jennifer Brimmage
Mother to Angel Hope
June 8 - June 8, 2002,
and Precious
December 23, 2002*

Continued on next page

Thoughts from Our Readers ... continued

"Often times I am asked, 'How many children do you have?' and I answer, 'Well, I've had three children: two boys, and a daughter that we lost shortly after her birth.' It's not always appropriate to answer that way. I judge it according to the situation and where we are having this discussion. Sometimes people ask to know more, and it gives me a platform to praise the Lord on how He carried us and even gave us joy through our experience. Sometimes people just say, 'I'm sorry to hear that.' I try to ask another question of them so that they have an 'out' like, 'How far apart are your children?' or 'Are you planning on having any more?' They'll come back to the topic if they want to know. I let them be in control of whether that conversation will take place. Sometimes people don't want to know more and I'll admit, it hurts my feelings a little. But I realize that like my mother-in-law, some people just don't want to face the unpleasant reality that babies die sometimes. It hurts too much.

"I don't feel I can leave out my baby daughter because she was a real person who was a part of our life. I also feel I would be doing an injustice to a friend by not at least letting them know that I went through that...our family went through that. That lets them in to my world and gives them insight as to who I am. It also gives them a right to let their guard down. They may have a similar struggle they've survived. I have learned through this experience that often people have experienced something very difficult in their lives and we just don't realize the pain that's out there. It helps us all to encourage one another and be supportive. So remember, your story could be the light at the end of the tunnel for your new friend or vice versa."

*Jill L. Davidson
Mother to Grace Davidson
April 7-May 17, 2003*

"I think in general is it a very sensitive topic, because when you meet someone new, usually the first thing out of their mouth is, 'Is she (our living one) your only one?'" I am the kind of person who tells them we have two in heaven, and from there, I decide what else to tell them. Some of them want will want to talk more about it, and others won't. I try not to take it too personally if they do not want to talk about it. It seems like it is an ongoing process, and I guess it always will be."

*Paula Grimes
Mother to Lauren Paige
Stillborn March 6, 1999,
and Baby Grimes
Miscarried January 25, 2001*

"My husband and I both wear rings that say 'Lucas.' So, often after people meet both my two other boys and my husband, they ask 'Who is Lucas?' At this point, they are comfortable enough to ask the question and I am usually comfortable about answering. This also helps me to be able to talk about it.

"I am a crossing guard at an elementary school. I have been there three years. My two-year-old was just three months old when I started. He goes with me every day, so the children and the parents feel that they know me. In December when I lost Lucas, I went back after Christmas break not pregnant and with no baby. I had questions from both children and parents. They wanted to see the baby or wanted to know what happened. The children were satisfied with, 'He went to heaven.' The adults usually felt bad for asking. Finally after a lot of prayer I came up with the only answer that seemed to not make everyone uncomfortable. I will say that my little boy was called by God to serve him in Heaven."

*Celina Burlison
Mother to Lucas
Stillborn December 9, 2003*

The Answer

There it is again, that question. The one you wish you could ignore. But, someone is waiting. What do they want? Do they know? Can they sense the sudden drop of temperature in the room? Can they feel the coldness? No, they couldn't know. They would not have asked the question that way if they knew. So, how do you respond? Where do you begin or do you begin at all?

And how do you say what your heart longs to say but your mind can't form the words? You know you can't keep it to one sentence. No, not your reply.

It's just not a plain and simple answer. But what about the person who is waiting? Do you spare the other the embarrassment and guilt? What about the pain? Uh-oh. You've been lost in your thoughts again. Too much time has passed when you should have responded. They've got that look as if they know they struck something without meaning to. So, as they wait expectantly, what will you say? It's time to answer. Can you fathom the question? Not the one you were just asked but the one that's been hounding you since that day? You've got to stop the fall. Everything is spiraling out of control as these thoughts continue to swirl around in your mind. Bring yourself back to the present. Open your mouth. Tell that patient person. Your answer is...

*Lynn Steen
Father to Chrysanthemum "Chrissie" Steen May 3, 2000 ectopic pregnancy*

Sharing My Daughter

About a year after Rose had died, I decided that I would no longer mention her to new friends. I was tired of the silence, the awkwardness, tired of feeling the embarrassment of grief for both sides. I was done being "the woman whose baby died." I was going to a women's retreat; this would be a perfect time to try my new resolution as I would be meeting many new people and I was currently pregnant. I prayed that God would keep me held to it.

I sat down at dinner that night and a woman came up to me and said, "You don't know me, but I've prayed for you. I'm so glad to hear you are expecting again! I know it can be hard after a loss—my baby died too. How are you dealing with it? I'm so nervous about trying again." Ok. I'll talk about it once. I mean, after all, she mentioned her loss first, and I don't want her to feel like I have in the past. Then the next morning, another woman I had seen a few times at church but never spoken to came up to me and said, "You're pregnant again?! How close in age will these two be?" I had no idea how to answer without mentioning Rose had died, because my boys at home were four and three—obviously not the children she was thinking of. So I answered, "They would have been about 11 months apart, but my daughter died before birth last year." SILENCE. *God, I hate this. Why did you let her ask??* Then finally, "Oh. I'm so sorry. I've had several miscarriages. How far along were you?" We went on to have a very long conversation. She had rarely, if ever, told anyone of these children she held only in her heart. Even her husband did not speak of them. It was a relief to talk to someone who truly understood her heart. *Oh, I guess that's why you let her ask, God. She needed to talk. It wasn't about me.*

The weekend proceeded with my talking about Rose more than I ever had. I kept being approached by others who insisted on it. And every single time, I was blessed. I got to meet others who had never told of their losses but wanted to and sought me out because I was "the woman whose baby had died." I got to hear the testimony of someone whose son's death of SIDS brought her to Christ, but she had yet to share her testimony with anyone out of fear that they would think God took her son to bring her to Christ. She knew I would understand. I got to share with others the healing power of truly letting God hear how hurt and angry I was when Rose died and see others start that process of healing because I "had" to share her. At the end of the weekend, I realized (again) that Rose wasn't mine to choose to share or not. She was the Lord's to use as He willed.

Now, four and half years later, I am more sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. That sounds so mystical, but really, I do just get a feeling of when to share or not. I still have my days, like at the family carnival last year. Someone asked how many children I had and I answered four (counting only the living) boys. She then said, "Oh I had heard you had a daughter who died." Now it was my turn to be embarrassed. For the most part, I use the rule of answering this question: Is this someone I will have a relationship with? If so, I share my babies if it comes up. If it isn't, i.e., the lady at the counter making conversation and asking how many children I have, I don't. I do, however, always remember that weekend when God showed me that He will use my daughter as He chooses. All I have to do is listen and be faithful to share her and her Father.

*by Tracy Morris,
wife to Chris
and mother to Lael, miscarried 6 weeks,
Rose Adriel, delivered still at 16 weeks,
Joseph Zephaniah, delivered still at 14 weeks,
and 5 boys at home*

Subsequent Births

**Mark and Geniffer Roach,
along with siblings Cameron, Collin,
Evan, and Caroline**

of Highland Village, Texas,
joyously announce the birth of

Erin Kathleen,
born April 6th, 2004.

She weighed 6 lb., 4 oz.,
and was 19 3/4 inches long.

The Roach family lovingly remembers

Samuel Rakestraw,
born still November 18th, 2001,
due to cord accident
and Baby Roach,
miscarried October, 1999.

**Cindy and Mike Garabedian,
along with big sisters Victoria
and Elizabeth**

of Roanoke, Texas,

joyfully announce the arrival of

Catherine Rose,
April 12, 2004,

5 lb., 9 oz., 18 inches long.

The Garabedian family lovingly remembers

their two sons in Heaven:

Michael, Jr.,

stillborn February 2, 1998,

cord accident /villamentous cord insertion,

and Adam Michael,

stillborn July 25, 2001,

cord accident.

**Melanie and Eric Jensen,
along with big sister Maegan**

of San Diego, California,

proudly announce the birth of

Amelia Monique,

March 25, 2004.

She weighed 7 lb., 3 oz.,

and was 19 inches long.

The Jensen family lovingly remembers

Jacob Charles,

March 8, 2001,

Trisomy 13.

**Claudia and Billy Kettrey,
along with big sister Dalila**

of DeSoto, Texas,

joyfully announce the arrival of

Aiden Alois Ibrahim,

born April 23, 2004,

weighing 8 lb., 10.3 oz.,

and measuring 20 1/4 inches long.

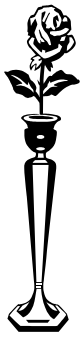
The Kettrey family lovingly remembers

Maria,

May 10, 2001,

complications of amniocentesis.

In Loving Memory

**David Atkins Stephens**

October 23, 2003
Omphalocele
Given by parents,
Rob and Melissa Stephens

Madison Angela Moore

May 3, 2000
Turner's Syndrome and Hydrops Fetalis
Given by mom, Jennifer Moore

Baby Cox

Miscarried March, 2000

Elizabeth Ellen Cox

October 25, 2001
Multicystic Kidneys
Given by parents, Kathryn & Scott Cox
and siblings, Graceanne and Jillian

Jacob Theodore Oxendine

April 28, 2001
PROM
Given by parents,
Christine and Chip Oxendine
and little sister, Emily

Troy Carlin Smith

February 19, 1999
Blocked Bladder Outlet
Given by parents,
Shane and Allyson Smith
and sisters, Hannah and Mia

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

Sarah Ann King

Stillborn June 22, 1995
Unknown Cause
Parents, David and Lori King
Siblings, Brooks, Kaylee and Brady
Given by David H. King Insurance Company

Kyanna Kathleen Chris Dees

Stillborn November 27, 2000
Velamentous Cord and Cord Accident
Given by parents, Holly and Chris Dees
and brother Lane

Joseph Charles Libby

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

Travis Stone Cates

August 24, 1999
Abnormal Placenta
Given by parents, Michael and Jodie Cates
and little siblings Abbie, Sadie, and Cooper

Amanda Morgan Galleger

Stillborn January 7, 1997
Trisomy 18
Given by parents, Diane and Steve Galleger
along with siblings, Sydney and Jack

Avery McKenzie Schambacher

March 10 - April 4, 2002
Possible Meningitis
Given by parents,
Scott and Charlotte Schambacher
and sisters, Taylor and Ashley

Katherine Elizabeth Kjolhede

Stillborn May 10, 1999
Unknown Cause
Given by parents, Kristine and Jim Kjolhede
and siblings Lauren, Jared, and Savannah

Colten Benjamin Ballmer

Stillborn May 28, 2000
Umbilical Cord Stenosis - Congenital
Parents, Jamieson and Regan Ballmer
Given by grandparents,
Kathie and Gilbert Menough

Lyle Donald Daggett

September 18, 2002
Unknown Cause
Given by parents, Brad and Lisa Daggett
and little brother, Alexander Lyle

Lyle Donald Daggett

Stillborn September 18, 2002
Unknown Cause
Parents, Lisa and Bradley Daggett
Little brother, Alexander Lyle
Given by grandparents,
William and Deborah Perdue

Logan David Iliff

Stillborn May 5, 2000
Placental Abruption

Little Darlin'

Miscarried March 4, 2004
Given by parents, Joe and Samantha Iliff
and brother Blake

Logan David Iliff

Stillborn May 5, 2000
Placental Abruption

Little Darlin'

Miscarried March 4, 2004
Parents, Joe and Samantha Iliff
Brother, Blake
Given by grandmother, Ruth Iliff

Kane Christopher DeLaTorre

Stillborn August 6, 2003
Cord Injury
Given by parents, Lori and Aaron DeLaTorre
and siblings Alex, Adyson,
and baby DeLaTorre due 11/29/04

Ross Donoho Kennedy, III

Stillborn October 29, 2000
Cord Accident
Given by parents, Nicole and Ross Kennedy,
little sister Cammy, and little brother Will

Catherine Mary Martin

Stillborn December 15, 2001

Baby Martin I

Miscarried June 14, 2002

Baby Martin II

Miscarried September, 2002
Given by parents,
Glenn and Nancy Martin
and little brother, Alexander

Erika Brianne Grau

July 9 - August 3, 1997
Anoxic Brain Injury Due to Ruptured Uterus
Given by parents, Ray and Yvette Grau
and siblings Nikryan and Nataly

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!

In Loving Memory ... continued***Catherine Mary Martin***

Stillborn December 15, 2001

Baby Martin I

Miscarried June 14, 2002

Baby Martin II

Miscarried September 2002

Parents, Glenn and Nancy Martin

Little brother, Alexander

Given by grandparents,

R. Lee and Mary Ann Meuret

Kyle Charles Walton

November 19, 1998

Group B Strep & lack of proper nourishment from placenta

Given by parents, Kristen and Jason Walton and siblings Jessica, Laura, and Joshua

Kyle Charles Walton

November 19, 1998

Group B Strep & lack of proper nourishment from placenta

Parents, Kristen and Jason Walton

Siblings, Jessica, Laura, and Joshua

Given by Martha Thomas and Eric Huefner

Bryce Ross

Stillborn October 29, 2002

Unknown Cause

Given by parents, Mike and Tammy Ross and new little brother Ethan Michael

Mary Elizabeth Forrest

Stillborn August 7, 1997

Unknown Cause

Given by parents, Jim and Barb Forrest and little sister Kristin

Baby Matthews I

Miscarried April, 2001

Zachary Neal Matthews

Stillborn February 24, 2002

Triploidy

Baby Matthews II

Miscarried January, 2003

Given by parents,

Nick and Marsha Matthews

Carter Patrick Outen

Stillborn November 6, 2000

Unknown Cause

Baby Outen I

Miscarried April 3, 2001

Baby Outen II

Miscarried November 5, 2001

Given by parents, Chris and Shannon Outen and little sister Erin

Mindy and Maggie Smith

Stillborn November 4, 1997

Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome and Polyhydramnios

Parents, Scott and Karla Smith

Siblings, Travis and Julia

Given by SBC Employee

Giving/United Way Campaign

Baby Rodriguez

Miscarried August 15, 2001

Given by parents,

Ariel and Claudia Rodriguez

and brother Jacob

Olivia Grace Wayne

Stillborn May 11, 1995

Jesse

Miscarried April 20, 1996

Angel

Miscarried July 23, 1998

Given by parents,

Richard and Jeanette Wayne

and siblings Emmaline, Chloe,

and Benjamin

Kirsten Cassidy "Cassie" Terrazes

May 9 - May 21, 2003

Congenital Heart Disease

Parents, Jamie and Mario Terrazes

Given by "Me Me" Janet Franklin

Jace Kayde Johnson

April 19 - August 13, 2002

SIDS

Given by parents, Ross and Kim Johnson and brothers Jarett and Carson

Jace Kayde Johnson

April 19 - August 13, 2002

SIDS

Parents, Ross and Kim Johnson

Brothers, Jarett and Carson

Given by great grandparents,

Art and June Tate

Patricia Karla Cheshire

Miscarried at 13 weeks on May 10, 1999

Christian Joseph Cheshire

Miscarried at 9 weeks on April 3, 2004

Given by parents, Leah and Vince Cheshire

and siblings, Nathan and Karla

Andrew Bailey Carpenter

Stillborn July 14, 1999

Parents, Melissa and Todd Carpenter

Twin sister, Abigail

Given by Bay Village Junior

Women's Club of Bay Village, OH

Jonathan Moehlman

Stillborn July 16, 1997

Antiphospholipid Antibodies

Christian Moehlman

December 5, 1996

Antiphospholipid Antibodies

Given by parents,

Mike and Tammy Moehlman

and siblings Joshua, Andrew, Kaitlyn,

and Madison

Caleb Scott Fann

December 1, 2003

Premature Rupture of the Membranes

Given by parents,

Jonathan and Heather Fann

Bryce Elizabeth Spaniel

September 2 - 8, 2000

Brain Bleed

Given by parents,

Tom and Kelly Spaniel,

twin sister Shelby, and little sister Abbey

Bereaved parents often find that their names show up on mailing lists of companies offering infant care products. Diaper coupons, offers of free formula, and samples of baby lotion can serve as painful reminders of your loss. If you are receiving unwanted promotional information, write "Please delete my name and address from any and all mailing lists" to the following address.

Direct Marketing Association
Mail Preference Service
P.O. Box 9008
Farmingdale, New York

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

13611 Merton Woods Ln.,

Charlotte, NC 28273-9008

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@h-a-n-d.org

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

Hygeia

http://www.hygeia.org

Kota Loss

www.kotapress.com

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

The Missing Grace Organization

Candy McVicar

612-220-8945

mcvicar@mninter.net

www.missingGRACE.org

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, including up to one year old.

Nathaniel's Friends

P.O. Box 2372

Frazier Park, CA 93225

www.nathanielfriends.homestead.com

bayonne@bigvalley.net

Our Loss Heaven's Gain

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/ourlossheavensgain

Precious Children Remembered

P.O. Box 534

Huron, OH 44839

http://www.accnorwalk.com/~mom2nich/

PCR – Chat Room

Monday 10 p.m. Eastern

Contact Shanna at Ladyinno@aol.com or

HostiVHShanna@aol.com for info.

Pregnancy/Infant Loss Center

1415 East Wayzata Blvd. #30

Wayzata, MN 55391

612-472-9372

Pregnancy Loss Newsgroup

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

Remember the Roses

www.remember.theroses.com

S.A.N.D.S.

http://www.sandswa.org.au

http://www.sandsvic.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/

Abundance of the Heart

c/o Mark & Tonya Bayonne

P.O. Box 2372

Frazier Park, CA 93225

http://www.abundanceoftheheart.homestead.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

Terry45@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.tttsfoundation.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

♥ Helping Others in Grief

Memory Box Artist Program

www.taraleigh.com/memoryboxes

♥ 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 M L XL XXL

Price per T-shirt: \$25.00 with monogram \$15.00 without monogram

Sales Tax: \$ 1.88 per monogrammed shirt, \$ 1.13 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 (7.5 %) = _____

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.

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.

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.

Glenn Martin is looking for M.E.N.D. families willing to grant space for small gumball machines in order to raise funds for M.E.N.D. If you have a retail business or connections to a high traffic location, like a restaurant, and are willing to place a gumball machine in your location, Glenn will place, stock, and service the equipment and give M.E.N.D. 35 percent of the proceeds. His business has most of its route in the Grapevine and Southlake areas and could travel further into the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex for a high traffic location. Glenn can be contacted at (817) 874-5366 or gmartin@attg.net.

M.E.N.D. can now earn funds through **i.think inc.**, an online marketing research firm. You can help by signing up as a survey panel member and designating us as the recipient of your fee. Every time you complete a survey M.E.N.D. will be automatically credited. Go to the website at <http://www.ithinkinc.com> and choose "Sign up to become an i.think inc. panel member" Fill out the sign-up survey. Under the "Funds for Charity" section, select M.E.N.D. from the list of names. Once you have completed the sign-up survey, including a valid email address, you'll be contacted with an Internet address and password for specific surveys for you to take part in. At the end of the survey, press the "Submit" button, and M.E.N.D. will be automatically credited as the recipient of all money you have earned.

<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</p> <p><i>Editor</i> Sharlene Libby</p> <p><i>Co-Editors</i> Rebekah Mitchell Byron Mitchell, D.D.S.</p>
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