



Getting Through the Holidays

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This is the time of year when we reflect on our accomplishments and achievements as well as our disappointments and sorrows of the past twelve months. On Thanksgiving Day we are expected to give thanks to the Lord for all our blessings, followed by a few weeks of what is supposed to be a season of joy.

If this year has been a year of loss for you, then an attitude of gratefulness, festivity and tranquility may seem impossible. Experts tell us that the rates of depression and suicide reach an all-time high during the holidays, because people in severe grief feel as if they cannot endure hearing plans of family get-togethers or the mood of exhilaration from everyone around them. So how do you plan on getting through November and December without falling into the pool of statistics? How can you maintain a heart of thanksgiving when you truly feel as though you cannot think of one good fortune of the past year, your tinsel has turned to tears and your life seems far from content?

The Bible tells us in Nehemiah 8:10 "the joy of the Lord is your strength." This is a scripture that many of us have been able to quote since we were children, but we may not have paid much attention to its promise. Read the verse again and think about it. The JOY of the Lord is your STRENGTH! We all need strength to get through our personal storms, so according to scripture our endurance comes from the joy we receive from the Lord.

Another familiar passage in the Bible is Mark 4:35-41. Jesus and His disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. The Sea of Galilee is typi-

cally a quiet and serene lake, but on one side there are mountains with deep gorges that can act as funnels and can cause forceful winds to strike with amazing violence. Those on the water can one minute have a joyful time experiencing life's beauty then suddenly, without warning, become victims of a torrential storm.

Does this sound like something you have recently experienced? One day you were happy and joyously expecting the birth of your baby, then the next day while at a routine doctor's appointment, out of the blue you found yourself in the midst of an unpredicted storm.

When the waves came crashing down on the disciples' boat, they panicked while Jesus slept soundly on a cushion in the stern of the boat. They awakened Him shouting, "Don't You care if we drown?"

Do you feel like the disciples did? You're in the middle of a deep black ocean, and vicious waves of grief continue to rage down on you. You feel as if Jesus is sleeping through it all, and you want to shake Him awake and scream, "Don't You care that I am drowning in my sorrow?!"

When Jesus awakened He commanded peace over the storm, then with some irritation reprimanded the disciples by saying, "Why are you so afraid?" In other words, I think Jesus was frustrated with their apprehensiveness of not thinking He was in control and said, "Why are you worried and yelling? I'm here and I always have been!" That's what Jesus wants us to remember today. He is not sleeping through our turmoil. He is here with us, ready and willing to calm whatever forcefully blows into our lives and give us peace. So as we embark on a new year and celebrate His birth this holiday season, let us not forget to give Him thanks for the joy and peace He provides.

*Rebekah Mitchell*

*Originally printed in the M.E.N.D.  
November/December 2001 newsletter*



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## *A Mother's Thought at Christmas*

Beth Moore, from *Things Pondered*

© 2004 by Beth Moore. Published by Broadman & Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN



Had Mary known, just she alone,  
 when in her arms a baby lay  
 The pain and sorrow of His tomorrow,  
 sin in its ultimate display,  
 Would she have hidden Him and safely bidden Him  
 and quickly run for His life?  
 Or could she have faced with no attempt to replace  
 His inevitable appointment with strife?

What if she had known, through a vision been shown,  
 the fate of His downy soft head  
 Which her cheek brushed gently as He cooed so contently,  
 absent all feeling of dread  
 Of a day far too soon, the sun peaked at noon  
 when men filled with hatred and scorn  
 Would picture His skin and abruptly press in  
 a crown protruding with thorns?

Had Mary known all along the fate of the palm  
 she uncurled carefully with her thumb  
 The hideous sound that a hammer would pound  
 when to a nail His palm would succumb  
 Would her grasp have grown tight as she clutched with her  
 might each tiny, searching finger  
 That would stretch out in pain, no relief to be gained  
 as the minutes 'til death only lingered?

What if Mary had perceived the message received  
 in the swaddling clothes wrapped 'round Him  
 That they only foretold a body grown cold  
 and the grave clothes that eventually bound Him?  
 And the clothes He'd wear from his body they'd tear,  
 each garment from the other  
 As they cast their lots no mercy is sought.  
 An eyewitness you'll be, Dear Mother.

As my mind still wanders over the one who pondered  
 each moment in that stable  
 If she had known what Scripture has shown,  
 would she have changed it if she were able?  
 I realize now as my knees drop to bow  
 something of the God of Glory.  
 Had He told her these things, what Christ's future would bring,  
 He would have told her the rest of the story—

“Yes, Dear One, who holds my Son,  
 lifting Him from a hard, wooden manger,  
 He'll be a man of sorrows, all grief to borrow,  
 from birth He'll be in danger.  
 On a tree replete with sin's defeat  
 He'll soon die in your very own stead.  
 No earthly throne, He'll die alone,  
 and thorns will crown His head.”

“Grieve only a while o'er the loss of My Child,  
 God incarnate in this baby boy.  
 The grave will soon see the captives set free  
 and your heartache will turn to joy!”  
 The angels restate, ‘How long will You wait  
 to give Him all You've longed for?’  
 My patient reply, “First He must die ...  
 His grave is the Open Door!”

“As life came from the womb, there's life from the tomb.  
 My plan is being perfected.  
 There's a place I prepare after sin I repair,  
 for My children, My heart's own Elected ...  
 Where all bow down at His feet, death in defeat,  
 and call Him the Lord of all lords!  
 Blessed choruses ring, ‘He's the King of all kings!  
 His Word a double-edged sword!’

“For now, My child, but for a while,  
 cuddle Him all you can.  
 Gather hay from the loft, sing a lullaby soft,  
 ‘Sleep, Baby, Blessed God-man.’  
 So much word must we do when time becomes due.  
 Rest for now, My Darling, don't cry.  
 Stars, shine bright! Dance on His face tonight!  
 Look up, your redemption is nigh!”

He is God's God, the Only One  
 through Whom men can be restored.  
 Dry your tears, incline your ears.  
 Your pain is not ignored.  
 Hail His Majesty, the Prince of Peace,  
 the Bright and Morning Star,  
 Bow each knee, and tongues proceed,  
 praise Him wherever you are!

**M.E.N.D.'s new phone number is (972) 506-9000.**

*The toll-free number is no longer in service.*

## My Christmas Prayer

Excerpts from a poem by Lynn Campbell Behnke

Dear Lord,

While other people's Christmases are red-and-green, or white,  
I think the color blue describes my holiday tonight.  
While they can string, and shop, and cook with childish delight  
I'm tense, I'm torn between two worlds, you could say I'm uptight.

For my own peace, I need a way to see the Savior's touch;  
My spirit longs to celebrate while in this worldly rush.  
So, what I need now, Father, is a transformation bright  
That I may think of Jesus when observing all in sight.

Let the candy be a shepherd's crook that guides me day and night,  
Let the peppermint be as hyssop, which washed believers white.  
Let the red be Jesus' blood to me, as He to the cross did yield  
And let the stripes remind me, by His suffering I am healed.

And let me see in holly with its barbs and berries red,  
The crown of thorns that Jesus wore, which pierced his sacred head.  
And let the season's evergreen tree which never seems to die  
Be Jesus' tree, the cross of Christ, which gives me ever life.

And let the lights of Christmas, which sparkle in the night  
Remind me that He told us that He, then we, are light.  
And on each tree and on each roof let every shining star,  
Remind me of the herald that led wise men from afar.

Let the full twelve days of Christmas say the miracle of his birth  
Was just the bare beginning of Christ's wonders here on earth.  
So let the sights around me not convince me of a loss,  
But point me to the Savior, to the cup, the crown, the cross.

*Lynn Campbell Behnke is one of the original founders of Stepping Stones, a Christian newsletter for couples facing infertility. For information e-mail [step@bethany.org](mailto:step@bethany.org) or visit [www.bethany.org/step](http://www.bethany.org/step). Reprinted with permission.*

### January/February Topic

Grief Can't Be Rushed  
Deadline—December 10, 2004

### March/April Topic

Seeking Professional Help  
Deadline – January 31, 2005

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  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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**  
will begin January 18 and will run  
weekly for six weeks every other Tues-  
day, 7:30-8:00 p.m., at the regular  
M.E.N.D. meeting place.

Contact Lisa Durham for more info:  
[liscdurham@sbcglobal.net](mailto:liscdurham@sbcglobal.net).

#### Playgroup

*For families with children born prior to  
or subsequent to a loss.*

Contact DaLana Barsanti  
at (817) 589-0588  
[fivekids@ev1.net](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:ssmith@dallas.net)  
or (972) 899-0405.



## Tributes to Our Special Babies

### MERRY CHRISTMAS, MATTHEW!



This is your second Christmas with Jesus in heaven. Bask in the sweet arms of our Lord. We miss you terribly and love you so much! We think of you every day! Love you forever!

Love,

Mommy, Daddy, Thomas and Michelle

Matthew Joel Mifflin  
Stillborn June 6, 2003  
True Knot in Umbilical Cord  
Parents: Dennis and Janet Mifflin  
Siblings: Thomas and Michelle



### Dearest Allison,

Nanna can't believe it has been almost four years since I held your tiny, perfect body in my arms. Your beautiful black hair and blue eyes just shined! Nanna made a garden spot for you under a beautiful pecan tree. I have a bench and a statue of a little girl reading to a squirrel. Lots of times I sit on the bench and I thank God for sending you into our lives.

Since you were born you have a baby sister named Megan. She, too had dark hair and blue eyes. If you'd have been born at the same time I'm convinced you'd be twins. She is very special, too. She is a little over two years old, but I assure you when she gets old enough Mommy and Daddy will make sure she knows all about you. Nanna is also proud to announce you're gonna have a baby brother soon. Nanna and Pop Joe are so proud of each one of you. We are proud of your mommy and daddy, too!

Just always know, Allison, when you are looking down on me from heaven that I'll always love you, and I will be in heaven with my little angel girl some day.

Happy Birthday!  
Nanna and Pop Joe



Allison Paige Bausch  
November 1 - November 10, 2000, prematurity  
Parents: Brian and Tonya Bausch  
Little sister: Megan  
Grandparents: Vickie and Joe Hime

### A Special Birthday Wish!

My Dearest Andrew,

On November 11, 2000, God called you home, and it's your fourth birthday in heaven. By now you've probably seen your Grandma Jack. She's been in heaven since December 30, 2003, and she's going to celebrate with you today. I love you very much, my son, and someday I'll be there with you. Mommy thinks of you every day. I look at your picture and I wonder how big you might be and what color eyes and hair you may have. Remember, Andrew—I will always love you. There is an empty space in my heart that cannot be filled. You have that space in my heart forever and ever.

I wish you the best birthday, Andrew. Say hi to Mama for me.

Love, hugs, and kisses,  
Mommy

Andrew Joseph Jack, stillborn 11/11/00, heart attack during labor  
Mom: Patty Jack



### Sweet Caleb,

I can't believe you left us a year ago. Some days it feels like an eternity since I held your tiny fingers. Other days, the memories are so clear that I'm sure I can feel your soft lips as I kissed you goodbye. There is so much that we've learned in this year about our strength, our faith and ourselves. Yet there's so much left to know. I often wonder what color your eyes were and about the timber of your voice. Would you look like your Daddy? Would you have my temperament? What would your first word have been, and what would we have done to celebrate your first year of life? But now as your birthday draws near, I wonder if I've done all I can to be sure you know how very much we long for you, how much we miss you and how much we love you. Your Daddy and I anxiously await until we are reunited some day in heaven...meet us at the gates.

Happy 1<sup>st</sup> heavenly birthday, honey.

We love you,  
Mommy and Daddy

In memory of Caleb Scott Fann,  
December 1, 2003

11:12 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Infection from premature rupture of membranes  
Parents: Jonathan and Heather Fann  
The Fanns also lovingly remember Baby August,

### In loving memory of Jameson

Joy to our family  
Adorable  
Much wanted  
Eight days old  
Son  
Oodles of love  
Newborn baby



Happy 3rd birthday, little man!  
We love and miss you so much!

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, Julianna, Jared and Janelle

Jameson Cole Ripple  
December 14-22, 2001  
Skeletal Dysplasia (Compomelic Dwarfism)  
Parents: Dawn and Kevin Ripple  
Siblings: Julianna, Jared and Janelle

**Joshua and Jeromy,**

Your Daddy and I miss you every day! We cannot believe that you would have been eight years old in November. We love being here with your brothers, but when we think of you it makes us long for heaven. Someday we will all be together. Happy birthday, boys!!!!

Joshua and Jeromy Barsanti

November 21, 1996

Anencephaly

Parents: Randy and DaLana Barsanti

Brothers: Taylor Wesley, Collin, and Harrison



Love,

Mom and Dad

**Lucas,**

You are always in our hearts. You are loved and missed each day. Happy first birthday.

We'll meet you when our chores are through here.

Love,

Daddy, Momma, Dillon and Dalton



Lucas Burluson

December 9, 2003

Cord accident at 22 weeks

Parents: Bradley and Celina Burluson

Brothers: Dillon and Dalton

**Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Catherine Mary**

Another year has come and gone ...

Three years have passed since our precious baby girl was born

Oh, how I wonder what you would be doing now ...

Imagine what our lives would be like if you were here on earth  
with us

Catherine, you are cherished and adored by Mommy and Daddy  
You are part of us and we love you completely

So many feelings, emotions and imagined dreams we experience

As another year passes with our hearts so full of love

We wish our angel a happy 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday in heaven



Love,

Mommy, Daddy

and your little brother Alex

In Loving Memory of Catherine Mary Martin

Stillborn December 15, 2001

Trisomy 18

Beloved child of Nancy and Glenn Martin

Brother: Alex



Michelle and Gary McHone, along with little brother Ryan and little sister Eryn lovingly remember the birthday of their daughter, Cassandra Voulis, stillborn 11/11/92, cord accident.

We miss you sweet girl!

**Hello, Goodbye**

By Michelle McHone

In Memory of My Baby Girl Cassandra

Born and Died 11/11/92

Tiny girl with big blue eyes

Your passing caught us by surprise

I felt you move, and kick and fight

Yet you never saw the light

Into silence you came from me

My tears so fast I couldn't see

They tried to wake you, yet could not

The fight was over, fully fought

I held your tiny body close

Checked your fingers, eyes and toes

You were still, my heart was full

My tiny baby, stillborn girl

Dark hair, soft skin and mommy's hands

I touched your fingers, felt the strands

Of silky hair atop your head

I could not believe that you were dead

Yet, we bonded, me and you

Inside my body nine months you grew

Your toys lay silent, bed was cold

This year you would be 12 years old

Not one day has passed without a thought

Of who you'd be, or how I fought

To keep you in my heart each day

And not forget to think and pray

Or thank the Lord for the son I have

And husband who's the greatest dad.

I miss my girl, I think we'd play

With makeup, dress up and with clay

I think of Barbies, dolls and toys

And even how you'd flirt with boys

If only I could see your smile

It would make the pain seem quite worthwhile

You have a brother, six, is he

a baby sister, one, is she

"Big Sister" is who you would be  
to these sweet blond babes who call me mom

and want to know where they came from

"Heaven" I'll say

to them one day....

Where Cassandra runs and plays

Tributes ... continued**Happy 1st Birthday to our sweet Marissa Joy!**

It's been a year now since Jesus took you home to heaven. We think of you and miss you every day. Stephen, Season and Ethan like to color pictures for you. They make up songs for you and about you all the time. In those times I really miss you, wishing you were here to sing, dance, and color with them. Summer vacation, trips to the park or zoo and holidays remind us all of your "firsts" we have missed. But, we know that God's plans are perfect and that you are eternally safe in the arms of Jesus. There is no greater peace than that knowledge. We will always treasure the memory of you. Looking forward to the day when we will hold you in heaven.

With all our love,

Mommy, Daddy, Stephen, Season, and Ethan

**Dearest Marissa Joy,**

You have touched the hearts of many. What a privilege it has been getting to know you and to be praying for you and trusting God for his plan for your life. Even though God chose your life to be short here on earth you have taught us all so much about life and how precious it truly is. We're sad we won't be able to see or touch you or witness your many "firsts" in your life, but knowing you are now safe in the arms of Jesus gives us the hope that someday we will see you and be together for all eternity.

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven;*

*A time to be born and a time to die ... Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

From your loving church family at Amazing Grace

*Marissa Joy Jordan*

*November 26, 2003*

*Skeletal Dysplasia*

*(Thanatophoric Dwarfism)*

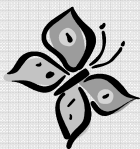
*Parents: Sean and Sarah Jordan*

*Siblings: Stephen, Season, and Ethan,*

*and sibling due in February 2005*

*Remembering Baby Jordan,*

*miscarried October 1999*

**Christmas in Heaven**

*written by Samantha Iliff,  
in memory of Logan David,  
December 2000*

The miracle of birth is such a joy  
Especially on Christmas day  
We gather new to honor Jesus  
As we pray to God and say

Thank you God for all Your gifts  
Thank you for Your love  
Thank you for the trees and lakes  
And the beautiful sky above

The Christmas lights are burning bright  
As people gather to sing  
Silent night is my favorite song  
And I love to hear the bells ring

Thank you for the animals  
And thank you for Your Son  
Thank you for my family  
And thank you God, for my son

My son is up in heaven with you  
He sings with the angels above  
Please give him a short note from me  
Tell him Dad and I send our love

I had a dream the other day  
About being in heaven with You  
You held my baby lovingly  
And said, "You can hold him, too."

"He's here with Me," You said out loud  
"He'll never cry or feel pain  
He's always here upon My knee  
He helps Me send down the rain."

We laughed and played, my son and I  
We shared a song, or two  
We decked the heavenly halls with cheer  
His daddy held him, too.

Christmas in heaven, without a doubt  
Is a glorious sight to see  
The most perfect Christmas imaginable  
With my Lord, my son, and me.

**M.E.N.D.'s Annual Christmas Ceremony**

Monday, December 13, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

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) 506-9000 or Rebekah@mend.org*

“Unto us a child is born. Unto us a Son is given.” Every time I heard that scripture passage (which was quite often!), anger and bitterness gripped at my heart. “That’s great,” I would think, “but what about *me*?” My child had died. My son was taken. Of course, I knew I should be celebrating the birth of Jesus, for if there had been no Jesus – no birth in the manger, no perfectly lived life, no sacrifice on the cross - I would have no hope of a joyful reunion with my son. And yet, I had lost my joy.

Christmas is a difficult time for grieving families everywhere. Before last year, I never understood why there are so many suicides during the holiday season. How could anyone be depressed during such a wonderful time of year? I was naïve. I believed that family gatherings, Christmas carols, gift giving and getting, tree decorating and fires in the fireplace were enough to lift anyone’s spirits. Oh, to be that naïve again!

In reality, it’s terribly painful when it seems the whole world is celebrating while you are mourning. Countless times I found myself standing in the mall and wanting to scream, “*What is wrong with you people? Don’t you understand that my son just died?*” My world had stopped, and no one seemed to notice. They all went about their business – shopping, eating, decorating, singing – as if nothing had happened. How dare they?

Christmas day finally came, and I could scarcely believe what happened. *I lived through it.* I even smiled some and laughed a little. I cried a little, too. My husband and I spent the day at my parents’ house and we lit a small candle in David’s memory. There were some difficult moments, but not nearly as many as I thought there would be.

And now that Christmas is coming again, I can’t help but look back on the last couple of years. At Christmastime 2002 I was hoping and praying that it would be our last Christmas without a baby to hold. I imagined all the cute pictures we would take the next year and the adorable Christmas outfits our baby would wear. During Christmas 2003 I stayed in “survival” mode as I mourned the death of our son, David. Again, I hoped and prayed (even harder) that the next Christmas would find me with a baby in my arms. So here we are, Christmas 2004. I’m not pregnant. There is no new baby. I still struggle with that anger and bitterness that I felt a year ago, but my sorrow has overcome most of my anger; I’m fighting bitterness with faith.

“Unto us a child is born. Unto us a Son is given.” This year, those words aren’t quite so painful. I will focus on their true meaning. I will remember the baby Jesus. And little by little, I will find my joy.

*By Melissa Stephens, in memory of David Atkins Stephens, October 23, 2003, Omphalocete*

## M.E.N.D.

*would like to recognize the sponsors for our recent Walk to Remember.*

*We are very grateful for their support.*

Tim and Pam Morren	Calvary Church
Pat Boedeker	Mark Shelton Productions
Laurie Ottinger	At Once Party Rental
Curves for Women/Eastchase Parkway	W.D. Webb Printing
Sonic/Irving	Art and Denise Wozniak
Garabedian Properties	Byron L. Mitchell, D.D.S.
L.J. Stanley & Assoc./ d.b.a LB Roof Systems	Kathryn Padilla of Mary Kay Cosmetics
Frito Lay	Nationwide Insurance/David King
Brian and Marilyn Brown	Brewer Sr., Couch, Asatico & Assoc. Attorneys at Law
Texas Women’s University	Hobby Lobby/Arlington
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Stephanie Shelton of F.A.I.T.H. Jewelry	The Brockett Family
Inspired Creations by CEO	Your Texas Lawn, Inc./Gary Boedeker
Craig and Melani Boyd	Traditions
Spartan Thistle Bed & Breakfast	Doug and Angelique Sohn
Presbyterian Women/Highland Park	Bill and Rae Scrivner
Presbyterian Church	Joseph and Samantha Iliff
Chris and Monica Gregory	Lynn and Mary Steen

**HELPFUL READING ...**

*A Deeper Shade of Grace*  
by Bernadette Keaggy.  
Sparrow Press, Nashville, TN, 1993.

*Empty Arms: Emotional Support for Those Who Have Suffered a Miscarriage Stillbirth, or Tubal Pregnancy*  
by Pam Vredevelt.  
Multnomah Press, Sisters, OR, 1984

*Empty Cradle, Broken Heart – Surviving the Death of Your Baby*  
by Deborah L. David, PhD.  
Fulcrum Publishing, 350 Indiana St., Golden, CO 80401, 1991

*Grieving the Child I Never Knew: A devotional companion for comfort in the loss of your unborn or newly born child*  
By Kathie Winnenberg  
Zondervan Publishing House

*Heaven's Not a Crying Place*  
by Joey O'Connor.  
To order, visit his website at  
<http://www.joeyo.com/>  
or e-mail [joey@joeyo.com](mailto:joey@joeyo.com)

*I Can't Find A Heartbeat: Hope and Help for Those Who Have Lost an Unborn Child*  
By Melissa Sexson Hanson  
Review and Herald  
Publishing Association

*I'll Hold You in Heaven*  
by Jack Hayford.  
Regal Books  
Ventura, CA

*In Search of Hope*  
by Susan R. Lowe  
AmErica House  
[www.publishamerica.com](http://www.publishamerica.com)

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

*Morning Light – Miscarriage, Stillbirth and Early Infant Death from a Catholic Perspective*  
by Bernadette Zambri.  
To order, call 905-278-2058 (in Canada).

*Silent Grief*  
by Clara Hinton.  
Published by New Leaf Press

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

*36 Hours with an Angel*  
by Lindsay Roberts.  
Richard and Lindsay Roberts Ministries,  
P.O. Box 2187, Tulsa, OK 74171

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

*When God Doesn't Make Sense*  
by Dr. James Dobson.  
Published by Tyndale House Publishers,  
Wheaton, IL, 1993

**SIDS ...**  
*The SIDS Survival Guide*  
by Joani Nelson Horchler and  
Robin Rice Morris.  
To order, call 301-773-9691.

**Subsequent Pregnancy ...**  
*Another Baby? Maybe ...  
Thirty Questions on Pregnancy After Loss*  
by Sherokee Ilse and Maribeth Wildre Doerr.  
Contact Centering Corporation  
[www.centering.org](http://www.centering.org)  
402-553-1200

*Pregnancy After a Loss – A Guide to  
Pregnancy After a Miscarriage, Stillbirth, or Infant Death*  
by Carol Cirulli Lanham.  
Berkley Books, a Division of Penguin Putnam,  
Inc., 375 Hudson St., New York, NY. To order  
directly, call toll-free 1-877-853-3595.

*Trying Again--A Guide to Pregnancy After Miscarriage, Stillbirth, and Infant Loss*  
by Ann Douglas and John R. Sussman, M.D.  
Taylor Publishing, 2000.  
<http://www.having-a-baby.com/tryingagain.htm>

**Infertility ...**  
*When the Cradle Is Empty - Answering Tough Questions About Infertility*  
By John and Sylvia Van Regenmorter  
To order, call Focus on the Family at  
1-800-232-6459.

**For Children ...**  
*The Cherry Blossom Tree – A Grandfather Talks About Life & Death*  
by Jan Godfrey.  
Augsburg Fortress, 426 S. Fifth St., Box 1209,  
Minneapolis, MN 55440, 1996

*Let's Talk About Heaven*  
by Debby Anderson.  
Chariot Books, David C. Cook  
Publishing Co., Elgin, IL, 1991

*Molly's Rosebush*  
by Janice Cohn, D.S.W.  
Albert Whitman & Company, Morton Grove,  
IL 1994

*Mommy, Please Don't Cry – Tender Words for Broken Hearts*  
by Linda DeYmaz.  
Multnomah Publisher, Bend, OR  
Contact [www.multnomahbooks.com](http://www.multnomahbooks.com)

*Someone I Love Died*  
by Christine Harder Tangvald.  
Chariot Books, David C. Cook Publishing  
Co., Elgin, IL, 1988

**Holiday Grieving ...**  
*The Christmas Box*  
by Richard Paul Evans.  
Simon and Schuster, Rockefeller Center, 1230  
Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY  
10020, 1995-1996

*A December Grief*  
by Harold Ivan Smith  
Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City  
Kansas City, MO

To see more reading suggestions, visit [www.mend.org](http://www.mend.org). The views expressed by authors on this page do not necessarily reflect M.E.N.D.'s views, and their listing here does not equate an endorsement by M.E.N.D.

### Matters of Faith Bible Study will begin in January running six weeks:

Jan 18: Intro/Foundation of Faith  
Feb 1: My Baby & Heaven/Grief  
Feb. 15: Guilt, Fear, Glimpse of Hope/Anger, Jealousy, Resentment

March 1: God's Will/Prayer  
March 15: Obedience/Peace  
March 29: Rejoice/Remember

Will meet for six weeks every other Tuesday, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at regular M.E.N.D. meeting location.  
Contact Lisa Durham for more info: [lissadurham@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lissadurham@sbcglobal.net)



## Subsequent Births

**Lloyd and Tricia Henry**  
of McPherson, Kansas,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Joseph Edward,  
born September 6, 2004,  
weighing 7 lb., 11 oz.,  
and measuring 18.75 inches long.  
The Henrys lovingly remember  
Patricia Grace (Gracie),  
October 23, 2003,  
extreme prematurity.

**Menaca and Bhaskar Padakandla,**  
**along with big brother Aakash**  
**and big sister Rumya**  
of Carrollton, Texas,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Seth Abhishek,  
born September 20, 2004,  
weighing 4 lb., 13 oz.,  
and measuring 17 inches long.  
The Padakandla family lovingly remembers  
Amar,  
June 28, 2001,  
multiple congenital heart defects.

**Brian and Jean Mueller,**  
**along with siblings Ashley and Mark**  
of Richardson, Texas,  
proudly announce the arrival of  
Kristen Claire  
on October 1, 2004.  
She weighed 6 lb., 11 oz.,  
and measured 19 ¾ inches long.  
The Mueller family lovingly remembers  
Matthew James,  
died at birth August 16, 1998,  
due to premature labor.

**Dave and Shannon Steinberger**  
of Rockwall, Texas,  
joyfully welcome  
Harrison Dane,  
born May 28, 2004.  
He weighed 6 lb., 6 oz.  
The Steinbergers remember with love  
Hayden,  
stillborn December 23, 2002,  
due to placental abruption,  
and two angels,  
miscarried July 2, 2003,  
and September 12, 2003.

**Eric and Cheryl Fritsch,**  
**along with siblings Jerod and Joley**  
of Denton, Texas,  
excitedly announce the arrival of  
Jadyn Mark,  
born September 28, 2004.  
He weighed 9 lb., 8 oz.,  
and was 20 inches long.  
The Fritsch family lovingly remembers  
Jacob Andrew,  
stillborn March 21, 2002,  
due to a cord accident.

**Lori and Aaron DeLaTorre,**  
**along with siblings Alex and Adyson**  
of Irving, Texas,  
gratefully announce the arrival of  
Kolt,  
born October 27, 2004,  
weighing 6 lb., 9 oz.  
The DeLaTorre family  
lovingly remembers  
Kane Christopher,  
stillborn August 6, 2003,  
due to a cord accident.

## To Sean and Sarah, For Marissa Joy

*Written by Elizabeth Ward, reprinted with permission*

The beauty of a little child  
The faithfulness of God  
Both are precious blessings  
We're undeserving of.

But God, He gives good gifts to us  
If only for a time  
Marissa Joy, a wished-for child,  
A gift of the Divine.

Now she cuddles Heaven's breast  
Her Creator holds her close,  
Wrapped up in a Greater Love  
Jesus, Lord of hosts.

He says, "You're home, my servant child,  
For your job there is done.  
Your days spent there were but a mist  
But I numbered every one.

"You reflected your Creator,  
Made precious every breath -  
Through dark hair and two tiny hands,  
The Master's plan expressed ...

"You did change lives and hearts alike,  
Showed My glory in your face,  
Reminded those that remain there  
Of their final resting place.

"You reminded them, each day we have,  
A gift ordained above,  
How family and relationships  
Are a covenant of love.

"You showed them how to carry  
Heavy burdens to the cross  
To accept unanswered questions,  
To surrender aching loss.

"You taught them how to cry out  
When there were no words to shout.  
You taught them how to know a love  
That they never knew about.

"You taught them how to empty out  
Their own will and desires,  
To raise their eyes to heaven's throne  
Through one of earth's worst trials.

"The faith you helped them build in Me,  
The loss that's planted there,  
You wait and see—the harvest great—  
The reward in which they'll share.

"You taught them much, my little child,  
The privilege of trusting,  
The need to walk in grace anew,  
The gift of earthly suffering.

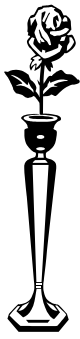
"For you will be the one I use  
To grow them up in passion,  
To cultivate My comfort,  
Understanding and compassion.

"For ALL My ways are righteous  
And I'm kind in ALL my deeds.  
And they will know Me, deeper still,  
As I feed their every need.

"So, well done, good and faithful one,  
Precious servant here with Me.  
You did your job, your work is through -  
You touched eternity."

*Marissa Joy Jordan  
November 26, 2003  
Skeletal Dysplasia*

*(Thanatophoric Dwarfism)  
Parents: Sean and Sarah Jordan  
Siblings: Stephen, Season, and Ethan,  
and sibling due in February 2005  
Remembering Baby Jordan,  
miscarried October 1999.*

**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

**Baby Southern**

Miscarried October 21, 2001  
Given by parents  
Julie and Doug Southern  
and little brother John David

**Schuyler Morren**

September 28 - December 23, 1997  
SIDS

Given by parents Tim and Pam Morren  
and little siblings Ashton, Alexa,  
and Benjamin

**Ella Jane Jones**

August 14, 2003  
Premature

Given by parents April and Marc Jones  
and siblings Sydney and Evie

**Alexis Leigh and Nicole Leigh Rudeen**

Stillborn March 11, 2002  
Unknown Cause

Given by parents  
Sherri and Randy Rudeen  
and big sisters Julie and Sara

**Clara Shea Huey**

Stillborn June 16, 2003  
Unknown Cause

Given by parents Sara and Ashley Huey

## 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!**

**Abigail Joy Boyd**

Miscarried June 22, 1999

**Hannah Elisabeth Boyd**

Miscarried October 21, 1999

**Michael Aaron Boyd**

Stillborn April 23, 2000

**Baby Christian Boyd**

Miscarried December 17, 2000

**Baby Hope Boyd**

Miscarried February 26, 2004

Given by parents Melanie and Craig Boyd  
and siblings Samuel and Emma Grace

**Independence Sky Kelley**

Stillborn June 19, 2004

Unknown Cause

Given by parents Shawn Kelley  
and Heather Zielinski

**Jackson David Crowe**

August 22 - September 9, 1998

Congenital Heart Defect/Heart Failure

Given by parents David and Marie Crowe  
and siblings Hannah and Andrew

**Jackson David Crowe**

August 22 - September 9, 1998

Congenital Heart Defect/Heart Failure

Parents, David and Marie Crowe  
Siblings, Hannah and Andrew  
Given by Presbyterian Women/  
Highland Park Presbyterian Church

**Aiden Xavier Sohn**

October 13, 2002

HELLP Syndrome

**Hope**

Miscarried May, 2003

**Whisper**

Miscarried October, 2003

Given by parents Doug and Angelique Sohn  
and big brother Josh

**Rianne "Ryan" Ellisa Scrivner**

March 4 - 7, 1997

Severe Hydrocephaly

Given by parents Bill and Rae Scrivner  
and little sisters Chanie, Casidy, and Canlie

**Ethan Lloyd Gereke**

Stillborn October 23, 2000

Group B Strep

Parents, John and Wendy Gereke  
Brothers, Matthew and Will  
Given by grandparents  
Lloyd and Sandy Hoffman

**Baby M**

Miscarried October 15, 1999

**Baby Boy Moreton**

March 17, 2000

**Angel #3**

Miscarried August 1, 2000

Given by parents, April and Sam Moreton  
and little siblings, Asher and Ava

**Matthew Joel Mifflin**

Stillborn June 6, 2003

True Knot in Umbilical Cord

Given by parents Dennis and Janet Mifflin  
and siblings Thomas and Michelle

**Brianna Rae Carroll**

November 13 - December 5, 2001

Congenital Heart Defect

Given by parents Brian and Sheryl Carroll  
and sisters, Courtney and Merideth

**Jameson Cole Ripple**

December 14 - 22, 2001

Skeletal Dysplasia (Campomelic Dwarfism)

Given by parents Dawn and Kevin Ripple  
and siblings Julianna, Jared, and Janelle

**Andrew Joseph Jack**

Stillborn November 11, 2000

Heart Attack During Labor

Mom, Patty Jack

Given by Aunt Marla Turner

**Kane Christopher De La Torre**

August 6, 2003

Given by parents Lori and Aaron De La Torre  
and siblings Alex and Adyson

**Logan Wayne Fish**

September 17, 2002

Skeletal Dysplasia

Parents, David and Brittany Fish

Brothers, Landry and Hudson

Given by Sterling Sales & Solutions

**Caleb Scott Fann**

December 1, 2003

Infection from PROM

**Baby August**

Miscarried August 13, 2004

Given by parents Jonathan and Heather Fann

**Marissa Joy Jordan**

November 26, 2003 (1:05 - 2:00 p.m.)

Skeletal Dysplasia (Thanatophoric Dwarfism)

Given by parents Sean and Sarah Jordan  
and siblings Stephen, Season, and Ethan

**Marissa Joy Jordan**

November 26, 2003 (1:05 - 2:00 p.m.)

Skeletal Dysplasia (Thanatophoric Dwarfism)

Parents, Sean and Sarah Jordan

Siblings, Stephen, Season, and Ethan

Given by great-grandparents Marvin and Fay  
Stephens, Grandma Anderson, Uncle Michael,  
Uncle McKenzie, Uncle Myles,  
and Aunt Stacy

**Marissa Joy Jordan**

November 26, 2003 (1:05—2:00 p.m.)

Skeletal Dysplasia (Thanatophoric Dwarfism)

Parents, Sean and Sarah Jordan

Siblings, Stephen, Season, and Ethan

Given by the Cox, Hutchinson,  
and Young Families

*In Loving Memory ... continued***Riley Marshall Sharpless**

Stillborn September 3, 2001  
Placental Abruption  
Given by parents  
Ken and Lisa Sharpless  
and big brothers Reid, Tyler,  
and Cameron

**Joseph Charles Libby**

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

**Allison Paige Bausch**

November 1 - November 10, 2000  
Prematurity  
Parents, Brian and Tonya Bausch  
Little sister, Megan  
Given by grandparents  
Vickie and Joe Hime

**Garrett Anthony Mayer**

October 12 - December 18, 1999  
Tetralogy of Fallot  
Parents, April and Tony Mayer  
Little sister, Samantha  
Given by Sharon and David Schwans

**James "Jack" Henvey**

July 4, 2001  
Tetralogy of Fallot  
**Baby Henvey**  
Miscarried October, 2003  
Parents, Renee and Chris Henvey  
Given by Southwest Furniture Company

**Gabriela Faith Gregory**

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

**Catherine Mary Martin**

Stillborn December 15, 2001

**Baby Martin I**

Miscarried June 14, 2002

**Baby Martin II**

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

**Lauren Paige Grimes**

Stillborn March 6, 1999  
**Baby Angel Grimes**  
Miscarried January 25, 2001  
Given by parents John and Paula Grimes  
and sister Rileigh

**Baby Jordan Tschoepe**

Miscarried August 11, 1999

**Spencer Charles Tschoepe**

Stillborn July 24, 2000  
Unknown Cause  
Given by parents  
Mandy and Ernie Tschoepe  
and little sisters Clara and Kathleen

**Kyle Charles Walton**

November 19, 1998  
Group B Strep  
Parents, Kristen and Jason Walton  
Siblings, Jessica, Laura, and Joshua  
Given by Moxie Pest Control

**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 Randall's 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](http://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 stationery, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [glmartin@attg.net](mailto:glmartin@attg.net).

M.E.N.D. can now earn funds through **i.think inc.**, an online marketing research firm. You can help by signing up as a survey panel member and designating us as the recipient of your fee. 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.

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

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

Coppell, TX 75019  
Phone and Fax: (972) 506-9000  
(Please call before faxing)

E-Mail: Rebekah@mend.org  
Sharlene@mend.org

Donations make the printing and distribution of this newsletter possible.

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

M.E.N.D.  
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Coppell, TX 75019.

If your gift is made in memory of a baby, please include that baby's name (if named), date of birth and/or date of death, the parents' names, and the name of the benefactor. You may also include the cause of death (if known).

Visit our web site at:  
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