



How Hospitals Handle Bereaved Parents

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I had been in the hospital for over two weeks when Jonathan very unexpectedly died in my womb. Strict bed rest due to a kidney disease I have and 24-hour observation did not save my baby from becoming completely entangled in his umbilical cord when I was seven months pregnant. I had also spent a few weeks in that same Dallas hospital three years prior when I was pregnant with my first baby, so I came to know many of the nurses and the staff quite well.

It has now been ten years since that Saturday afternoon when my nurse could not find Jonathan's heartbeat while routinely checking our vitals. I'll never forget the crestfallen expressions of my obstetrician and the rest of the medical team who hoped against hope that the Doppler device had malfunctioned. I will forever be thankful for the labor and delivery nurse who came to my room from eight floors below to pray for a miracle while the doctors frantically tried to see Jonathan's heart through the sonogram. I have loving memories of my kidney specialist, who tragically died in a plane crash a few months ago, waiting patiently by the elevator for my mom to arrive so he could escort her to my room. I'll always remember the two nurses and floor secretary who came sobbing into my room shortly before my C-section and gathered my family in a circle to pray with them. Nor will I forget how through their own tears, the labor and delivery staff treated my baby with much tenderness and respect.

Never having dealt with this type of situation before, none of us knew what to expect after Jonathan's delivery. I was so afraid of what he would look like and was fearful I would not want to hold him. The nurses assured me he would simply look as though he were sleeping and in all probability he would not be discolored since he had died only hours before birth. I was further told since we had chosen not to have an autopsy we could keep Jonathan in my room for as long as we liked – even overnight! At that point I was sure I would only view him in the operating room and would not take them up on their offer of having him with me once I was back in my regular room. However, my attitude quickly changed after meeting my beautiful baby. I wanted all my family and friends to see him, hold him, have their picture taken with him, and get to know him as best they could before the funeral home came to pick him up. Family members and three pastors from our

church spent about two hours with him following his birth. Before I left recovery Jonathan was taken away, and we were told to contact the chaplain if we wanted him brought back to us. The next morning one of my sisters flew in from out of state so we asked for him again. We kept him from early Sunday morning until after midnight, when a concerned nurse called the chaplain and told him they were worried about my husband, who still was not ready for them to take the baby back to the morgue. The funeral home was scheduled to arrive Monday afternoon, so I asked for my baby once more that morning. I spent about an hour with him before the chaplain came in to say the funeral director had arrived. Most of the shock and the anesthesia from the surgery had worn off, and I became hysterical with the realization of what was happening. I'm sure everyone on the floor could hear my cries as I handed my baby over to the woman for the last time.

One year after Jonathan's death, shortly before forming M.E.N.D., I went back to the hospital to visit with the staff and express my desire to reach out to other moms who had experienced a loss. While there, I was told how my little Jonathan's stillbirth had caused them to change their protocol when someone loses a baby. I was informed that when I was told I could keep Jonathan for as long as we wanted, that was simply the opinion of only a handful of nurses. Many of the nurses were shocked and some uncomfortable with how long we kept our deceased child in my room. I was further told how upset a nurse became when my older sister requested wipes and a diaper for Jonathan because he had a bowel movement – twice! As a result, hospital chaplains had a counseling meeting with many of the staff who were part of our care. Several meetings among various personnel followed that counseling session, and many changes were suggested and implemented. They deduced the way my family handled our loss and the hours and days we spent with our baby was a very healthy way of dealing with infant death and should not be discouraged but instead recommended.

I am deeply saddened when I hear of parents who had nightmarish experiences at their hospital. Far too many moms and dads have told me they were warned NOT to see or hold their child because it may be born looking like a frog, mushroom, E.T., or other horrid creatures. How very unprofessional and insensitive! It should not matter what a couple's baby looks like; the baby is their precious child despite any physical malformations with which he or she may be born. Families should be given the suggestion to take their own pictures in addition to the ones the hospital takes, and parents should be allowed to spend hours or days with their little one (unless an autopsy is being performed).

Thank you to Methodist Medical Center in Dallas for your willingness to change procedures that had been in place for years. Instead of remaining uncomfortable with the way my family dealt with Jonathan, you realized it was time to make some changes. May other hospitals follow your lead in giving families the opportunity to make treasured memories with their babies that will last a lifetime. ♥

Rebekah Mitchell

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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

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Donations make the printing and distribution of this newsletter possible. Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated and should be sent to the address listed above. 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).

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A Nurse's Point of View

Jenny Carpenter, R.N.

I've worked as a nurse for almost ten years and have been a Christian for most of my life. I pray for my patients and do my best to treat them with compassion. I know they are in need, and I'm in a position to show them the love of Christ. Sometimes this is easy to do, and sometimes it's more challenging. Each case requires me to quickly gauge the situation and do my best to determine just what kind of personalities I'm dealing with. Then, I do the job set before me to the best of my ability and pray that the Lord will guide me as I go.

I've spent a lot of my career as a post-partum nurse. I haven't been present for many deliveries, but I've cared for a lot of mothers after their babies were born. I've seen women from all walks of life give birth to children. Most of these births were joyous occasions, and it was a pleasure to be a part of the excitement. However, there were also plenty of times when deliveries didn't go well, or when I knew that the babies being born were going to face lives of hardship. During those times I had to work hard to keep a level of professionalism while keeping some very strong emotions under control.

So many times when I see children born, I think of my own children. If I see a baby being born who isn't wanted, my heart breaks for him. Likewise, when I see a mother facing the death of her baby, I think of my children when they were infants, and I can't fathom going through the grief of not having them with me. Being a nurse means providing the best medical care I can offer, but like anyone in any job, I have life experiences and a personal life that inevitably affect the way I think and react. Sometimes when I see mothers suffering, my instinct is to shield my emotions and jump into professional mode. In these instances I don't mean to be cold or distant; I'm just trying to make sure I'm still functioning well so that I can meet my patient's medical needs. I realize she has emotional needs, too, and though I try very hard to meet those if I can, her medical needs are my priority.

About six years ago, I had a patient who gave birth to a stillborn daughter. This poor mother was overcome with grief. She refused to give the baby up when it was time for her to be discharged. Eventually a representative from social services had to come in and convince the mother that it was time to give the baby's body back to the nurses. I was pregnant with my youngest child at the time, and I had watched my sister go through the pain of a stillbirth just a year and a half before. I was so shaken by this patient's pain that I had problems sleeping for quite a while.

I've helped mothers after their babies died, and most of them reacted with the sadness I expected. I've received special training about how to treat bereaved mothers. I've held their hands, told them how sorry I was. I've cried with them and prayed for them and wheeled them out the hospital doors with hope that they were going to survive. However, there have been other times, like the situation I described, where concern for the family really affected my own well-being. Each case brings with it a certain degree of unpredictability, and I never know when I walk into that hospital room just how things are going to turn out. So, if I don't react with the amount of sympathy or compassion my patients might hope for, it's only because I'm trying to see just what I'm facing so that I can offer my patients the best that I can possibly give.

The death of a child is so hard for everyone who is connected with the situation. My hope is that my patients who have had to face such pain will be able to know that they received good care and kindness from me, their nurse. ♥

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

will be Saturday, October 1, at 2:00 p.m.,

at Calvary Church, 4401 N. Hwy. 161

(161/President George Bush Fwy. & Walnut Hill)

Irving, TX 75038

Reservations Requested

(972) 506-9000 or Rebekah@mend.org

Visit our web site at: www.mend.org

Babies: A Gift from God

What is the reason for what's happened to me?
How can I live and ever feel free?
The pain that I feel is so deep inside
I want to run away and hide.

But listen close and hear a voice say,
"I love you so much, come close and stay.
I will take your pain and your grief;
I will give you blessed relief.

The sorrows of life are hard to bear,
But in these times, please know I care.
You may not understand it all today
But I am right beside you and will stay.

This little life you barely knew
Was still an important part of you,
And even as you mourn its loss
For you and him I died on the cross.

And he is safe now here with me
And the things he would have faced will not have to be,
And even though this gift was taken
I'll give you strength when you feel shaken.

And in the days to come if you seek my face
I'll pour out on you abundant grace
And little by little every day
I will heal your soul as you kneel and pray."

Written by Lavern Craig for her niece

*Submitted by Peggy Herrington, NW Arkansas Chapter
In memory of Levi and Baby Herrington*

September/October Topic

Keeping Your Baby's Memory Alive
Deadline: July 31, 2005

November/December Topic

Getting Through the Holidays
Deadline: September 30, 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 page two of the newsletter for the appropriate address to send your submissions. Any submission printed in our newsletter will also be posted to our website indefinitely unless we receive notice in writing that you are only granting permission for your submission to appear in the printed version of the newsletter.

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M.E.N.D. Support Group Meetings

Join us for a time of sharing experiences.

All main chapter support group meetings are held at:

Suggs Law Firm
1522 W. Airport Freeway, Suite 200
Irving, TX 75062

(Located on the south side of the highway,
Between MacArthur Boulevard
and Story Road)

For more information or directions,
call (972) 506-9000.

New Chapter Meetings:

M.E.N.D. - NW Arkansas

Held the 1st Tuesday of every month
from 7:00—8:30 p.m.

at the Jones Center for Families, Room 114,
922 East Emma Avenue,
Springdale, AR 72765.

For information, call 479-524-3500
or e-mail april@mend.org.

Subsequent pregnancy group meets in the
same place the 4th Tuesday, 7:00—8:30,
led by Pam Morren (pam@mend.org).

M.E.N.D. meetings

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

Our Daddies group

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

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

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).*

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.)*

M.E.N.D. - Kansas

Meets the 2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
at Cora Miller Hall/Newman Division of
Nursing, Room 1007

1127 Chestnut, Emporia, KS 66801

Director: Stephanie Metzger

Stephanie@mend.org.

(620) 343-6357

M.E.N.D. - Houston

Meets the 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

at South Montgomery County

Community Center

2235 Lake Robbins Dr.

The Woodlands, TX 77380

Director: Jaimie Crump

Jaimie@mend.org

(281) 374-8528

Coming Soon:

M.E.N.D. - Georgia

Opening in October 2005.

**Mommies AND daddies are both welcome
at all M.E.N.D. meetings.**

Tributes to Our Special Babies

Happy First Birthday Noah Adam Barron

Dearest Noah-our sweet baby boy,
We wish we were with you on this great day of joy.
Birthdays are so special and fun;
We would have waterslides, hotdogs, and sun.
The whole family would come to celebrate this day-
Your daddy and I would shout and say our boy Noah is one today!!
There would be laughter, fun, and so much love
But now you can only see it from up above.



We miss you with all of our heart and think of you each day,
But we know you are in a better place
So this year you will have to celebrate!

I'm sure it will be a celebration no one has ever seen.
I bet there will be lots of cake and jellybeans.
The angels will gather around and trumpets will play
And God will say my boy Noah is one today!

Written by: Amanda Ashley



With all our love,
Mommy, Daddy and Anthony & Damien
Grandma and Popo and family...

Noah,

Who would have thought the two weeks God allowed you to be with us
would have such an enormous impact on our lives. Michael and Alexa
ask about you often and wonder when they will get to see you. We all
love you and miss you so very much. We'll see you on the other side.

Happy 1st Birthday!

Love Always,
Tio Ruben & Tia Amanda

Noah Adam Barron
July 5, 2004 – July 19, 2004
Cause: *Hypoplastic Lung Syndrome*
Parents: *Lupe and Clem Barron*
Brothers: *Anthony and Damien*



Happy Birthday Cynthia Karina Sanchez

We love and miss you every day.
We are proud having a little angel with God.
Kisses and hugs
with all our love,
Mom and Daddy



Cynthia Karina Sanchez
June 8, 2000
Parents: *Cris and Victor Sanchez*



Happy 1st Birthday AUSTIN!

We miss you so much, sweet baby boy. It
pains us that you and Blake won't get to celebrate
your first birthday together, but you are here in our
hearts always. It is comforting to know that Blake
has his own special guardian angel. We love you so
much!

Mommy, Daddy and Blake

Austin Townes Swenson
Stillborn July 8, 2004
Cause Unknown
Parents: *Bryan and Corrie Swenson*
Twin Brother: *Blake*
Remembering Baby Swenson
Miscarried July 2002



Happy 4th Birthday Addie!



We love you and miss you. You were in our lives
for a moment, but in our hearts forever.

Love,
Daddy, Mommy,
Colin, and Meg



Addie Grace Metzger
August 1, 2001
Undiagnosed *Vasa Previa*
Parents: *Philip and Stephanie Metzger*
Big Brother: *Colin*
Little sister: *Meg*

Caden James,

*Daddy and I cannot believe that a year has passed since we
held you. We know you are well taken care of and have many
friends in your mansion! Daddy and I are doing better - We have
learned how to laugh and smile again.*

*One day we will all be together and celebrate and rejoice all
day, everyday.*

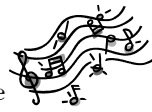
*We love and miss you,
Mommy and Daddy*

In memory of Caden James Gutierrez
August 19, 2004
Incompetent Cervix
Parents: *Shelly and Juan Gutierrez*



Erika,

Eight years ago this July you were born into our lives. In the heart and plans of the Lord you have existed far much more. I speak and think of you daily, even if to myself. The beauty is that you live on through each and every one of us whom you came to bless.



Your younger sister asks if you're still a baby or if you've grown to be as big as she.

I smile and think to myself, "Yes, your beauty is as big as she." Your older brother wonders, too. I see so much of you in him. I have this special hymn I sing; it's so special to us all. I sing it to the kids, to myself or just because. I'm sure you know the one, but just in case I'll share just the chorus which goes like this:

*I have three angels, one in heaven,
Two here with me for me to hold.
Oh how I love you my little angels,
I thank the Lord up above for you all.*

1 Thessalonians says, "Give thanks to God in all circumstances for this is God's will for me in Jesus Christ." I give thanks with all my heart, you see, for I was blessed to hold you here on earth for 26 full days. Surely not enough for me, but our Heavenly Father knows best. I will hold you once again, this I know for sure.

I so miss you in my arms, my sweet angel in heaven.
Feliz cumpleaños Erika, te amo y te adoro mi preciosa.

Love,
Mom

Remembering your 8th birthday with much love,
Mom, Dad, NikRyan & Nataly



*In memory of
Erika Brianne Grau
July 9 – August 3, 1997
Uterine Rupture
Parents: Ray and Yvette Grau
Siblings: NikRyan and Nataly*

Happy Birthday, Spencer!

We think of you often and remember you in our prayers each night. Your sisters know that you are watching over them.

Five years, sweet angel. It's a lifetime.



Love,
Mommy and Daddy
and little sisters Clara & Katie

*In loving memory of Spencer Charles Tschoepe
Born into Heaven July 24, 2000
Cause unknown
Parents: Ernie and Mandy Tschoepe
Siblings: Clara and Katie*



Happy 7th Birthday, Jackson!

How can it possibly be that you would be seven years old now? We miss you every day and have especially been thinking about you lately since your granddad just joined you in Heaven. I hope you are playing tiger with him just the way your little brother Andy played with him while granddad was alive.



We love you and know we will all be together and with you someday!



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

*In memory of Jackson David Crowe
Born August 22, 1998
Died September 9, 1998
Cause: Congenital Heart Defect
Parents: David and Marie Crowe
Siblings: Hannah and Andy*



♡ Happy 3rd Birthday Michelle! ♡

We can't believe you would be three years old! We miss you every day and talk about you often to your little brother and sister. We are so thankful God gave you to us, though only for a little while. What a blessing you have been to all our lives! We love you and miss you and can't wait to be with you again!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Caleb & Audrey



*Michelle Grace Stockdale
August 22-September 16, 2002
Congenital Heart Defect-
Ebstein's Anomaly
Parents: Joe and Marie Stockdale
Siblings: Caleb and Audrey*

When Medicine Won't Work

Sharlene Libby

If there's one thing I've learned in the six years since my son Joseph was stillborn, it's that nobody quite knows what to say or do when a baby dies. Even those of us who have gone through such tragedy in our own lives feel helpless and a little lost when we see friends going through such loss. Yes, we know what words hurt or helped us in our own pain, but watching someone else endure the same feelings can leave you feeling absolutely powerless.

These thoughts have been pretty prevalent in my own mind lately as I've attempted to guide bereaved friends of ours along the path of grief my family and I traveled those years ago. It's an awful feeling to know someone is hurting so badly and that nothing you do is going to make that pain go away anytime soon. I feel like I have all this knowledge, all this experience, about how to get through the pain of grief, but it was hard-earned. I realize that there's no way my friends will gain the same knowledge without going the full distance of grief themselves.

I can't help but think that my doctors and nurses must have felt some of these emotions themselves as they lovingly treated me during and after Joseph's birth. My own doctor was almost speechless when he realized that my baby had died. He held my hand and said over and over, "I'm so sorry." My nurse cried with me in her private office as I sat there after the ultrasound and let the news sink in that my baby was dead. The physician who delivered the baby could say nothing as he held that still little body immediately after birth. I didn't even know the doctor who delivered Joseph (he was in practice with my OB and was on call during the delivery). However, this compassionate stranger looked at me with unspeakable sympathy in his eyes, which were glistening with tears.

It must be hard to have all that medical knowledge and professional experience ready to put into practice, only to understand that in the instance of stillbirth and so many neonatal deaths, nothing can be done to change the tragic outcome. Doctors and nurses train to save lives, and sometimes all their training is useless. It must be an awful feeling to know that no power on earth is going to be able to save the baby in your care.

I've learned the past few weeks as I watched my friends mourn the loss of their son, that sometimes the best thing I can offer is a listening ear or tears of my own. I can mention their son's name, let them talk about him, ask questions about him, and let them know that I appreciate his worth. Nothing I say or do is going to change what happened. What they really need now is to feel like people care and understand that the baby they lost was a real person, one who was loved and is now missed.

Healthcare professionals can offer this much-needed compassion. Doctors and other medical personnel are like the rest of us—they're people who sometimes don't know what to say or do. However, the tears that were shed by that doctor who didn't even know my son were priceless to me. The nurses who lovingly wrapped my son's body in a blanket and held him so carefully as they placed him in my arms were showing me more kindness than I think they could ever realize. Sometimes words don't help much, but actions offer tremendous solace.

I realize that not everyone receives the kind of care I did during my hospital stay. I heard enough well-intentioned but hurtful comments after Joseph's birth to realize that sometimes people just don't know what to do in such a situation and don't react in the most helpful way. Doctors and nurses, like the rest of the general population, sometimes make mistakes when dealing with bereaved parents. I realize there are instances where bereaved parents receive great medical care but are given little compassion and comfort. That's because medical people are indeed people.

Unless a baby's death was the result of malpractice, usually the best thing to be done when medical personnel handle bereaved parents poorly is to educate them and forgive them. Take a copy of this newsletter to your OB's office, or drop one off at the hospital. Do your best to let them know how they can do a better job next time, then move on toward people who are going to give you the kind of support you need.

And if you found the compassion and kindness from medical staff that you needed, let them know how much you appreciated it. Tell them what they did right. Let them know how helpful their actions were to you. They'll remember this the next time they face delivering a baby who won't make it, and the parents of that baby will benefit.

My friends are slowly making their way through grief. I'm pleased that they received great medical care from a compassionate medical staff. I still feel helpless, as I know their doctor and nurses did. However, I know we're all doing our best, and that's all anyone can ever offer. That's all the Lord requires. ♥

Understanding the Causes of Neonatal Loss

By Michelle McHone, BBA

While proofreading a recent copy of the M.E.N.D. newsletter I realized that after all of the years I've spent in healthcare as a manager and director, I simply don't grasp the medical terminology surrounding the losses listed in the tributes. I fully understand the reasons for the loss of my own babies. After an autopsy confirmed that my daughter Cassandra's death was caused by asphyxiation due to a "cord accident" in 1992, and the scientific explanation of "fetal demise" was given to me over and over again in September of 2002, I was able to make my own peace with the facts. Although I understand the medical reasons that caused the loss of my children, I still don't understand the reasons why. I'm sure that many of you feel the same. You may understand the reasoning or the terminology surrounding your loss, but if you're like me, you read our newsletter amazed at the number of parents who are experiencing the same kind of losses as you, yet we are so different. You might then wonder what exactly does a "blighted ovum" or "vasa previa" mean?

There are many reasons I chose to write this article. First, I wanted those who have been through this type of loss to understand what happened to my stillborn daughter and unborn baby. I also wanted others to be able to understand the many causes of loss that are listed in the newsletter so that we might all have a better understanding of the anomalies that put us all here, together, left behind.

For reasons of the heart, please know that during my research it was determined that in each case there was simply nothing that could have been done differently to prevent or secure a different outcome. These losses are not your fault, your spouse's fault, or your body's fault. Letting go of the guilt is one of the first steps to healing. This article is not meant to deter anyone who is considering a subsequent pregnancy, nor is it meant to scare anyone who is currently pregnant. This article is also not meant to replace any information that you may have received from a current or past healthcare provider. It is simply intended for your education and greater understanding of the types of anomalies that others have dealt with in the loss of their children.

Through prenatal screening and diagnostic testing many of these diagnoses become a reality. There is a difference between screening and testing, as a screening does not give a concrete answer. It will only provide risk factors and the average chance of the condition occurring. Testing, however, does give a more definite answer. If you have an abnormal result from a screening you can go on to have a perfectly healthy child. With an abnormal screening you could choose to move on to diagnostic testing to get a "yes" or "no" answer in regard to your baby's health.

The Alpha Fetoprotein (AFP) test is the most commonly administered test for pregnant women. This consists of taking a small amount of blood for testing most commonly between the 15th and 20th week of gestation. AFP is made only by the baby during the time it's developing in the womb. It's a protein found in the spinal fluid and blood of the baby. An elevated result can mean there may be a neural tube defect, such as Anencephaly or Spina Bifida. The AFP test can indicate approximately 80% of neural tube defects. Doctors have become diligent in advising pregnant women to take Folic Acid before and during pregnancy to help prevent these disorders.

The AFP test is also used in conjunction with hCG (Human Chorionic Gonadotropin) and estriol levels to determine Trisomy 21 (more commonly known as Down Syndrome) in babies. The result is normally a low AFP, a higher hCG, and a lowered estriol level as analyzed from the blood work. The measurement of these three substances is commonly referred to as the "Triple Screen," or multiple marker screening, i.e. AFP triple marker screen. There are a small percentage of normal pregnancies that may come back with an abnormal triple screen result. These are false positives, hence the importance of diagnostic testing when attempting to confirm the presence of an anomaly.

Common diagnostic tests are CVS (chorionic villus sampling, or the removal of a small amount of chorionic villi tissue for testing between the 10th and 13th week of pregnancy), amniocentesis (the removal of a small amount of fluid surrounding the baby for testing between the 15th and 20th week of pregnancy), and High Resolution Fetal Ultrasonography (commonly known as a Level 2 Sonogram, this offers the ability to detect birth defects or other abnormalities. This is best performed by a facility that specializes in high resolution radiology between the 18th and 22nd weeks of pregnancy [April 28, 2005, www.givf.com/pren-test.cfm]). ♥

In the next issue, Michelle will begin to explain some of the causes of death that are commonly listed in our newsletter.

Music Resources

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

Home Free

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

Thought You'd Be Here

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

With Hope

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

Goodbye for Now

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

Glory Baby

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

Empty Arms

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



Better Hands

By Julie Ann Gvillo
From her CD *I Stand in Awe*
Available for purchase at
<http://www.julieanngvillo.com/music.htm>

Held

By Natalie Grant
From her CD *Awaken*, available for purchase at most Christian bookstores.

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

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

972-506-9000

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

P.O. Box 1625, Maple Grove, MN 55311

763-497-0709

Candy McVicar, Founder and Executive Dir.:

candy@missinggrace.org

Email organization for support:

support@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 Ministry

c/o St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

11 Peter Street South, Mississauga, Ont. L5H 2G1

http://ca.geocities.com/

morninglightministry@rogers.com

morninglightministry@rogers.com

24 hour voice mailbox telephone: 416-765-2155

For bereaved Catholic parents who have experienced the death of their baby, including up to one year old.

Perinatal Bereavement Services Ontario

6060 Hwy. 7 E., Ste. 205, Markham, ON L3P 3A9

905-472-1807

www.pbso.ca

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/~katetf/sspl/

Remember the Roses

www.remember.theroses.com

SHARE

St. Joseph Health Center

300 First Capitol Dr.

St. Charles, MO 63301-2893

314-947-6164

Silent Grief

www.silentgrief.com

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

♥ Continuing a Pregnancy After Adverse

Prenatal Diagnosis

Anencephaly Support Foundation

http://www.asfhelp.com/

♥ Infertility

Hannah's Prayer

Providing Christian support for fertility challenges. Online newsletter available.

PO Box 5534, Maryville, TN 37802

(281) 485-8986

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

The Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome

Foundation

411 Longbeach Parkway

Bay Village, OH 44140 440-899-8887

http://www.ttttsfoundation.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

SIDS and Kids

www.sidsandkids.org

♥ For Clergy

National SIDS and Infant Death Program

Support Center—Bereavement Guidelines

www.sids-id-psc.org

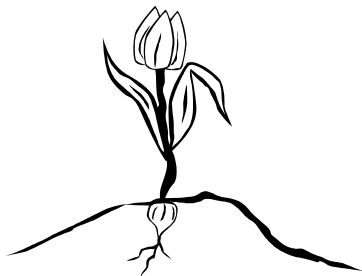
♥ Spanish

Fundacion Esperanza

A Spanish-speaking, non-profit organization dedicated to support bereaved parents, based in Mexico City.

www.fundacion-esperanza.org

carlaroelh@yahoo.com



Senate Bill 271 Passes in Texas

On June 9, 2005, Governor Rick Perry signed into law a bill that will grant certificates commemorating the births of stillborn children in Texas. Introduced by Senator Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, the bill allows parents of stillborn children to secure a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth.

"Incredibly, under current law these grieving parents receive a certificate of death, but not a certificate of birth," said Senator Zaffirini, former chair and current member of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. "This compounds their anguish. My bill provides them a means to memorialize and commemorate their child's life."

The bill requires any person who prepares a fetal death certificate in Texas, including funeral home employees, to offer the certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth, to parents of stillborn children. Certificates can be requested by parents whose children were stillborn in Texas before the bill's passage.

Several other states have similar laws, and other states are currently working on legislation to make such laws come to pass. To find out more, visit www.missingangelsbill.org.

Subsequent Births

Melissa and Aaron Cunningham

of Red Oak, Texas,
proudly announce the arrival of
Sophie Marie,
born April 22, 2005,
weighing 7 lb., 4oz.,
and measuring 20 1/4 inches.
The Cunninghams lovingly remember
Chloe Marie,
stillborn January 10, 2004,
Anencephaly.

***Marie and Joe Stockdale,
along with big brother Caleb***

of McDonough, Georgia,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Audrey,
born May 20, 2005.
She weighed 4 lb., 2 oz.
The Stockdales lovingly remember
Michelle Grace,
August 22 - September 16, 2002,
Ebstein's Anomaly (heart defect).

***Chris and Monica Gregory,
along with big brother Daniel
and big sister Amarise***

of Bedford, Texas,
joyfully and ecstatically
announce the arrival of
Eliana Joy,
born May 17, 2005,
weighing 6 lb., 12.9 oz.,
and measuring 21 inches long.
The Gregorys always lovingly remember
Gabriela Faith,
January 24, 2002,
cord accident.

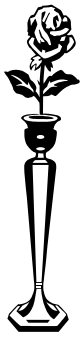
Christie and Iain Michie

of Dallas, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Duncan Stewart,
born June 7, 2005,
5 lb., 6 oz., and 18 inches long.
The Michies lovingly remember
Ziggy,
October 10 - 12, 2001,
Vasa Previa,
and Baby Michie,
miscarried July 2003.

***Tracy and Chris Morris,
along with siblings
Sam, Jake, Elia, Zane, and Asher***

of Denton, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
their second set of twins
born May 11, 2005:
Tobia "Toby" Scott,
6 lb., 9 oz., 18 inches long,
and Jeshaiiah "Jesse" Vernon,
5 lb., 9 oz., and 17 inches long.
The Morris family lovingly remembers
Lael ,
miscarried September, 1994,
Rose Adreil,
January 13, 2000,
unknown cause,
and Joseph Zephaniah,
miscarried October 19, 2002 .

In Loving Memory

**Christian Allen Scott**

June 1, 2005
Renal Agenesis
Parents: Scotty and Mary Scott
Siblings: Lenny, Will, and Ariel
Given by friends from Lowe Drive,
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

John William "Jack" Sharpe

July 25, 2004
Cord Accident
Parents: Bill and Betsy Sharpe
Big sisters: Maddie and Campbell
Given by Wim and Sharlene Libby

Alexis and Nicole Rudeen

Stillborn March 11, 2002
Unknown Cause
Given by parents,
Randy and Sherri Rudeen
and sisters Julie and Sara

Jacob Theodore Oxendine

April 29, 2001
PROM
Given by parents,
Chip and Christine Oxendine
and little sister Emily Grace

Gift of Love

Given by
James and Pamela Urbanowicz

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

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

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995
Cord Accident
Baby Mitchell
Miscarried December, 2001
Parents: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
Big brother: Byron, Jr.
Given by Dentistry of Las Colinas

Catherine Mary Martin

Stillborn December 15, 2001
Baby Martin I
Miscarried June 14, 2002
Baby Martin II
Miscarried September, 2002
Blighted Ovum
Parents: Nancy and Glenn Martin
Little brother: Alexander Lee
Given by Barron Vending

Mindy and Maggie Smith

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

Abigail Crump

Stillborn July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Given by parents, Jaimie and Gerald Crump
and little sister Cameron

Abigail Crump

Stillborn July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Parents: Jaimie and Gerald Crump
Little sister: Cameron
Given by grandparents,
Russell and Rosemary Massey

Andrew Bailey Carpenter

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

Joseph Charles Libby

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

Logan David Iliff

Stillborn May 5, 2000
Placental Abruption
Little Darlin'
Miscarried March 4, 2004
Given by parents, Joseph and Samantha Iliff
and brother Blake

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 sisters Emmaline and Chloe

Patricia Karla Cheshire

Miscarried at 13 weeks May 10, 1999

Christian Joseph Cheshire

Miscarried at 10 weeks April 3, 2004

Olivia Joy Cheshire

Miscarried at 9 weeks July 31, 2004
Given by parents, Leah and Vince Cheshire
and siblings Nathan and Karla

Austin Townes Swenson

Stillborn July 8, 2004
Unknown Cause
Given by parents, Bryan and Corrie Swenson
and twin brother Blake

Zachary David Laprade

November 2 - December 26, 2002
Premature/Infection
Given by parents, Lara Lee and David Laprade

Cynthia Karina Sanchez

June 8, 2000
Given by parents, Cris and Victor Sanchez

Aiden Xavier Sohn

October 13, 2002
HELLP Syndrome

Hope

Miscarried May, 2003

Whisper

Miscarried October, 2003
Given by parents, Doug and Angelique Sohn
and brothers Joshua and Sebastian

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 page 2 of this newsletter for more information regarding where to send your donations and what information to include.

Thank you so much!

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 \$ _____

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH ON MISCARRIAGE: TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

*The following is information on a research project in which M.E.N.D.
members are invited to participate if they desire.*

My name is Lauren Woolley, and I am a Counseling Psychology doctoral student at Texas Woman's University. Pregnancy loss is a tragic event that affects the lives of many women and their partners. Medical professionals' responses to miscarriage can play a significant role in the way women adapt to their losses. I want to learn more about the relationship between these two factors. I would like to invite you to participate in my research on miscarriage. The purpose of this research project entitled, "Perceptions of Health Care and Emotional Adaptation to Miscarriage" is to gain a better understanding of how the care women are given by medical staff during and following miscarriage contributes to their emotional adjustment to their loss. For this study, you will be asked to complete a demographics questionnaire and self-report rating scales measuring perceptions of medical care received for your miscarriage, the impact of your miscarriage and your mood state. Your maximum total time commitment in this study is estimated to be 45 minutes.

All research materials gathered will remain anonymous. Confidentiality will be protected to the extent that is allowed by law. The potential risks or ill effects from participating in this study may include, but are not limited to, some psychological discomfort and/or irritation at questions being asked. If any question makes you feel uncomfortable, you will not be required to answer it. The direct benefit of this study to you is that at the completion of the study a summary of the results will be e-mailed or mailed to you.

Participation in this study is completely voluntary and you are free to withdraw from the study at any time for any reason without penalty or prejudice from the investigator. If you are interested in participating in this study please e-mail me at lmwoolley@hotmail.com or call me at the number below, and I will mail you a research packet. If you have any questions about the research study please contact my advisor, Misty Hook, Ph.D., or me. Our contact information is listed below.

Thank you for your time.

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 940-898-2289
mhook@mail.twu.edu

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 (Rebekah@mend.org) and let her know how many you need.

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**. Reward cards can also be used at Randalls and Simon David stores.

Shannon Outen, a M.E.N.D. member, operates **Oh! For Keepsakes**, which offers photographic keepsakes and quilts. For every order that is placed in which the purchaser mentions M.E.N.D., Shannon will donate \$2 to M.E.N.D. Visit her business at www.ohforkeepsakes.com.

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, 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.

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.ithink.inc.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.

Bob Nordberg is owner of www.buildatee.com in San Antonio. BuildATee.com is dedicated to providing customers with quality customized shirts, ballcaps, athletic wear, and gift items. Ten percent of online sales at BuildATee.com will be donated to M.E.N.D.

Little Beads & Macaroni & Cheese, owned by M.E.N.D. member Marilyn Brown, offers custom jewelry. Her keepsake angel bracelets are \$20 each, and ten percent of each angel bracelet sale will be donated to M.E.N.D. Marilyn can be reached at 817/996-1920 or msbrown16@hotmail.com.

Tiffany Chalk is a consultant with **Arbonne International**, offering pure Swiss skin care, color, nutrition and aromatherapy. Tiffany will donate twenty percent of all sales by M.E.N.D. members back to M.E.N.D. To find out more, call 302-658-3775 or visit www.arbonne.com. Use Tiffany's consultant ID #15111516 to shop online. Tiffany can also be reached at gr8skin@hotmail.com.

IBM employees may now make charitable donations to M.E.N.D. through automatic payroll deductions. Choose Charity Code 0M562 from the [IBM Employee/Retiree Approved Charity List](#).

M.E.N.D. Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death
P.O. Box 1007, Coppel, TX 75019
USA
(972) 506-9000
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Coppel, TX 75019 Permit No. 139
