



Tenth Anniversary/Holiday Issue
Rebekah's Reflections

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"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

Maybe like me, you were quoted that scripture more times than you can count by well-meaning friends who wanted to offer you words of encouragement after your baby died. When my grief was fresh and my emotions raw, that declaration, written by the Apostle Paul, was anything but helpful. In my state of sadness, I could not fathom how in the world something good could possibly come from the death of my baby. When alone in my house, I would look up and say aloud, "My baby is DEAD! People keep telling me good will come from this. Then You show me the good!"

The first year after my baby Jonathan was stillborn, I spent an unusual amount of time in bed. I was sick a lot and, frankly, I just needed the solitude. During those quiet hours alone in my darkened bedroom, my mind reeled with questions, ideas and scenarios. Despite the separation I felt from God at that time (although the Bible tells us in Romans 8:38-39 that nothing can separate us from His love), I felt He was showing me His ultimate plan—His "good." I encountered indescribable loneliness that only those of us who have suffered the loss of a baby can fully comprehend. Though my family and close friends lavished me with love, kindness, compassion, and comfort, I felt isolated from them. At the time I only knew of one other woman who had endured a stillbirth. I was desperate to talk to her, but I did not feel comfortable being the one to initiate contact. I thought if she knew how I felt, surely she would check on me. Since she had not, I wondered if maybe I was making too big of a deal out of my loss. Some days I would plead with God to lay it upon her heart to call me, but the call never came.

I decided that if I felt this way, despite the efforts of my loved ones, then there had to be women all over the world who were worse off than I was. At least I had people who were *trying* to help. As the months

went by and I pondered these thoughts, I finally realized that God must have a purpose in all this. Truly, there must be a good, but it was up to me to seek Him and make the good come to fruition. During those private times, I could imagine myself speaking to healthcare providers, offering suggestions on how they could better assist families when this kind of loss occurs. I wanted to commend them for the efforts they were already making, and I also had a few ideas for them to consider. But how would I make this all happen? Besides, I was in such bad shape emotionally. Who would listen to this poor, grief-stricken young woman anyway?

I knew I needed to heal emotionally and spiritually before venturing into this mission God had ordained for me. It took just under one year for these healings to take place. Shortly thereafter, I was browsing through *The Dallas Morning News* and found in the obituaries a notice of a stillborn baby girl. I sent a letter to this baby's mom, who later contacted me to express her thanks for my reaching out to her. Over the next few weeks we talked on the phone several times and e-mailed back and forth nearly every day. Eventually, two other grieving moms joined our "club." Thus, M.E.N.D. was formed.

I now realize why the Lord seemingly didn't answer my heart's cry months earlier when I begged Him to have my friend call me. I feel if she had reached out to me and we had an ongoing support system, I would not have realized the need to start a ministry like M.E.N.D. I would have thought everyone had someone. I would never have realized the deep sense of loneliness that accompanies grief.

This "club" began in the summer of 1996, one year after the stillbirth of Jonathan. In September of that year, we obtained our charter with the state of Texas and officially became a recognized organization. In November we held our first support group in the board room of my dad's law firm. I didn't know if anyone would show up but to my surprise, there were four of us there. The next month, the room was half full with twelve bereaved mommies and daddies. To date, 350 families have attended our support group.

That November we also published our first newsletter. At that time, the third member of our "club," Lynne Boer, was the editor. We vacillated as to how many copies to print. We took a step of faith and paid the print shop to print 100 copies, never dreaming we would distribute even a fraction of them. Two weeks after coming off the press, every copy was gone! By January we had over 200 subscribers and were able to apply for bulk mailing, which considerably lowered the cost of postage. Most of our subscribers knew about M.E.N.D. as the result of an Internet infant loss support group in which Lynne and I both belonged.

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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.

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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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M.E.N.D. is a member of
First Candle/SIDS Alliance



A friend of mine, Max Friz, very graciously created and designed a Web site for us. This Web site brought M.E.N.D. to a whole new dimension. Remember, this was ten years ago. The idea of individuals navigating the World Wide Web was a relatively new concept. Soon we began receiving cries for help and comfort from women not just across the United States, but from all over the world. Max put a guestbook on our site that enables women to post messages 24 hours a day. They share the stories of their losses and pour out their hearts to virtual strangers, seeking solace from those of us who understand. I continue to be amazed at where these messages originate, sometimes from places I had never heard of before!

Over the next few years, M.E.N.D. continued to grow and thrive. At one point our mailing list grew to more than 2000 subscribers. Due to the expense of printing and mailing so many, now each year we purge the list by sending postcards to those we have not heard from in a couple of years and ask if they would like to continue receiving our mailings.

Each year we host a Walk To Remember in October. Our first Walk was held in 1997, just one year after we started M.E.N.D. We planned for months and had every detail covered, except the weather and anything else that might go wrong! It rained sideways all morning, so we had to resort to plan B, only we didn't have a plan B. We ended up moving the ceremony to the pavilion at the park where the Walk was held. We wanted to conclude the event with a balloon release. Our plan was to keep the balloons secure in a van until it was time to distribute them. But since we were now at a different location, we had to have the balloons near us, which meant the only option was to keep them in the public restrooms. The van began making its way to the covered area but got stuck in the mud. As families began to arrive, the vehicle created quite a scene, making horrible noises, the tires spinning, and mud flying everywhere! Once the van was free from the mud pit and made its way to the pavilion, we unloaded the balloons. However, the restrooms at this park did not have doors or glass on the windows. So, shortly into the program, the balloons began to squeeze through the bars on the windows and float away. Thankfully some of the committee members realized what was happening quickly enough to salvage enough balloons for our guests. We had a little less than 100 people in attendance that year, and even though it wasn't exactly as we had planned, it turned out to be a lovely ceremony.

We learned from that experience that comic relief in M.E.N.D. is good. It eases the tension and seriousness of our organization, and throughout the years we've had many comic relief experiences. For instance, at the Walk in 2004, when we lost every single balloon before the ceremony began! It was a stressful moment to say the least, but now we all think back and laugh. One year, we even had a fire at our Walk. We put bales of hay around the generator to drown out its sound, and someone put the hay a little too close to the motor. In another fiery experience, our former vice-president, Lori King, caught her hair on fire at our first Christmas Candlelight ceremony. The next year she dripped hot wax on her husband's leg. There are many more stories I could share but I'm afraid putting them in print may not be such a good idea.

Several months after M.E.N.D. began, some of our members became pregnant with their "subsequent babies," as we say. These families wanted to remain a part of our organization but didn't know if continuing to come to the support group would be hurtful to new families. New emotions and issues arose with these pregnancies. The parents' naiveté was gone, and they found themselves very anxious and fearful. We then realized the need for a sequel of sorts to our main support group. As a result, we formed a monthly subsequent pregnancy group for those considering another pregnancy or for those who are currently expecting after a loss. Those ladies delivered their subsequent babies during the second year of M.E.N.D. Some of these moms found themselves in a very unexpected emotional place. Certainly they were thankful for their new babies, but they were surprised and a little ashamed of the moments when they, like all new moms, became frustrated and worn out from middle-of-the-night feedings, colic, teething, etc. At first these women were ashamed to admit they had baby blues, because a year earlier they would have done anything to have had a baby to care for. This prompted the formation of M.E.N.D. group #3, the Parenting After Loss Playgroup. It is a typical playgroup that plans play dates with moms and children, but all those involved have living children born prior or subsequent to a loss.

The next year, one of the dads in our group, Tim Morren (he and his wife Pam now assist with M.E.N.D.—NW Arkansas), suggested that we have a group for just the dads. Tim felt there were things he, as a dad, would like to talk about with the other dads in

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When We Cry

When we cry or shed a tear,
 They are for each day you are not here.
 The smile we would never see,
 The day you would walk for me.
 To hear you say, "Daddy"
 Or cry for your mommy.
 A tear for your first Christmas and present under the tree.
 Your first hugs and kisses from Daddy and me.
 A tear for when we would stay up late
 Or all the bottles we would make.
 A tear for the first time I would hear you cry,
 Rock you to sleep or sing a lullaby.
 A tear for the first step you make,
 Toy you break, rattle you shake.
 A tear for when we would stay up all night
 To make sure you are alright.
 Your first ball, your first bat,
 Or when Daddy buys your first Steelers hat.
 A tear for the food you would spit at me,
 Your first tooth we would never see.
 The hugs, the kisses, the pictures we take.
 A tear for your first birthday cake.
 For all these things I cry,
 The day you were born and the day you died.

You will forever live in our hearts.
 Love, Your mommy and daddy
 Bonita and David Martin
 In memory of Malcolm David, 10/27/94

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January/February Topic

Dealing with Other
 People's Pregnancies
 Deadline: November 30, 2006

March/April Topic

When Those in Ministry
 Lose a Baby
 Deadline: January 31, 2007

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.'s New Look

M.E.N.D. will unveil a few changes with its January/February 2007 newsletter issue. The new year will bring a fresh, new look, along with a new format for our "Tributes to Our Special Babies" section. Though we will continue to treat each baby's tribute with the love and care we have always given, the increased number of tributes in each issue has caused us to streamline the section. We want to make sure that each and every birthday submission we receive can be included and that no family's birthday wishes to their baby will ever be left out due to space constraints. With this goal in mind, we will continue to include personalized messages from parents but will switch to a uniform font and graphic for all tributes. We appreciate all your birthday tribute submissions over the last ten years and are committed to continue doing our best to memorialize your babies. It is a privilege to be able to help you honor your children's memories.



Visit our Web site at:
www.mend.org

Tributes to Our Special Babies

Timothy Joseph Piers

Our Baby Boy arrived today
As pure as pure can be
Untainted by the world out there
His eyes have yet to see

Let not his heart be troubled
As he puts trust in Thee
Reveal Your truths and plan for him
Each time he bends his knee

Place in him a humble heart
Compassion, hope, and love
May he be bold and full of faith
Yet, gentle as a dove

Guide him through each storm in life
As each one comes his way
May wisdom's voice reveal to him
His path from day to day

I don't know what his future holds
I do know it's ordained.....

I wrote this poem three weeks ago
Not knowing this would come
This pain and grief I know will cease
Farewell to you my son.



*Written by Timothy's father, Vinal Piers,
The poem was written before Timothy's birth in 2005,
then the last stanza was added after his death.*



*In loving memory of Timothy Joseph Piers
Stillborn November 28, 2005
Cause Unknown*

Parents: Vinal and Carol Piers

*Siblings: Joshua, Daniel, Kayla, Joy, David, Angel, and Amie-Jo
Grandparents: John and Judy Sullivan & George and Lola Piers*

Happy Birthday, Celeste!

It's been two years	Daddy misses bedtime,
Since you came and left our lives.	Being able to cuddle
Many things have happened since,	and read to you.
Yet it seems like only yesterday.	Mommy misses hearing you laugh
	And seeing your sweet smile.
All of your "firsts"	
We didn't get to share.	We wish you a happy birthday,
But we still think of those things,	Sending many hugs and kisses.
And wonder...	We love you very much
	And will never forget...

Love,
Mommy & Daddy

Celeste Kimberly Reid
December 7 – 8, 2004

Neonatal Hemochromatosis

Also remembering Connor Boston Reid
April 27, 2006

Parents: Skip Reid & Andie Boston



Elizabeth,

We can't believe it has been five years. We miss you so much but keep our faith on God's promise to see you again. We love you. Happy 5th Birthday!!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy,
Graceanne and Jillian

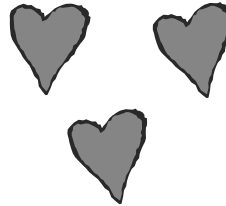
*Elizabeth Ellen Cox
October 25, 2001
Multicystic Kidneys
Parents: Kathryn & Scott Cox
Siblings: Graceanne and Jillian
Also remembering Baby Cox
Miscarried March, 2000*



Happy 2nd Birthday Cole, Kaylyn, and Hannah!

We love and miss you every day! We think about what you would be like and the things you'd love to do. We think about the games we would play and the songs we'd sing to you. We think about the memories we have of holding you so tight. We think about the time we shared before we said goodbye. Please know that you are loved so much with every passing day. Happy Birthday to our three beautiful angels!

All our love,
Mom, Dad, and Ally



*Cole Michael Busker
Kaylyn Rial Busker
Hannah Elizabeth Busker
December 10, 2004, E. coli Infection
Parents: Mike and Kim Busker
Big sister: Ally*

My Little Angel,

You came into our lives May 9, 2003. We were all so proud of this tiny human being. The family had a hard time pronouncing your name Kirsten, so I started calling you "Cassie." I enjoyed every moment I spent holding you and telling you about your huge family. Then twelve days later, God decided He needed you in His heavenly kingdom. My heart was shattered. I thank God for all the precious memories and time we had with you.

Now my heart is shattered again. Yes, your mommy went to heaven in April. It's very hard, but I'm at peace knowing you're with God. No more tears, no more pain, just loving and enjoying each other. And nothing will ever separate you again. Love is forever.

Love, Me Me



*In memory of Kirsten Cassidy "Cassie" Terrazes
May 9 - May 21, 2003, congenital heart disease
Dad: Mario Terrazes
Grandmother: Janet Franklin
Also in memory of Kirsten's mommy,
Jamie Laura Franklin, 1983 - 2006*



Happy Second Birthday My Son, Kevin Paul

Two... Incredible you!

My heart aches for you every day. I think of the anticipation and excitement of you coming into our world with all of the little boy things we would do. So much loss – too many broken dreams to write.

Kevin Paul, you are forever in my heart, and I pray to God to do for you on this, your second birthday, all the things I yearn to do.

Our Love Is Forever

Forever Your Mommy xxxooo

P.S. Kevin Paul, please watch over your sister, Cassandra. She loves and misses you too.



*Kevin Paul Denuel
December 14, 2004
Cord Accident
Mom: Kathy Denuel
Sister: Cassandra*

Happy 1st Birthday Rylie Grace!

Our precious baby girl,

It does not seem possible that a year has passed since we held you in our arms. You were so tiny and beautiful all wrapped up in your new pink blanket. Your Daddy and I will never forget your sweet little face. We all miss you so very much and speak of you every day. Your big brother Blake prays for you each and every night and wishes he could visit you in heaven. We may never understand why God needed you to be with Him rather than with us, but I know in my heart we will hold you again one day. My prayer is that you are with GranGran and PaPa and that they are loving on you and spoiling you rotten just like we would. We love and miss you more than words can express. Oh how we long to be with you, sweet baby girl. Please know that you are cherished in our hearts forever and ever. Have a wonderful birthday celebrating with Jesus.

Loving you always,
Momma, Daddy, and Blake



*Rylie Grace Addison
Stillborn November 21, 2005
Parents: Blaine and Shannon Addison
Big brother: Blake
Remembering Baby Addison
Miscarried December 22, 2004*

Happy 1st Birthday Hopie!

We can't believe it was one year ago that we held you, our little pink bundle, in our arms. We love you so much! Not a day goes by that we don't think of you, our sweet baby girl. We are looking forward to the day when we can hold you in Heaven.

Love, Mama and Daddy



*Hope Kirkpatrick
November 5 - 8, 2005
Amniotic band syndrome
Parents: Kirk and Aly Kirkpatrick*

Happy 5th Birthday Catherine Mary

I imagine you at five years old and I see a pretty little girl with long, dark brown hair and blue eyes. I wonder how it would have been to have you here as the big sister to Alex and Allison.

I imagine taking you to your first day of kindergarten. It's an image that I would have captured with lots of pictures, and I know I would have cried.

I imagine each Easter bringing you to church in your new Easter outfit. On this special day, mommy and daddy bring you an Easter lily and send a prayer and blessing to you.

I imagine every Christmas what it would have been like to have you here on this very special day. Since your birthday is December 15, we decorate your resting place with Christmas flowers, poinsettias and roses each year. After reflection and a prayer, we will release five pink balloons this year and watch them float away.

I imagine your birthday each year, and I picture what it would have been like to have you here. You are very precious, and we are so blessed to have our guardian angel watching over us.

We love you so much and wish you a happy birthday sweet Catherine.

Love,
Mommy and Daddy
and little brother Alex and baby sister Allison

*In Loving Memory of Catherine Mary Martin
Stillborn, December 15, 2001*

Trisomy 18

Parents: Nancy and Glenn Martin

Siblings: Alex and Allison



Carter,

We miss you so much, sweet boy. My arms still ache when I think of you. My only comfort is knowing we will all be together again someday.



All of our love,
Mommy, Daddy and Erin

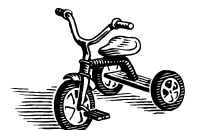
*Carter Patrick Outen
Stillborn November 6, 2000, unknown cause
Remembering Baby Outen, miscarried April 3, 2001
and Baby Outen II, October 5, 2001
Parents: Shannon & Chris Outen
Sister: Erin*

Happy Birthday Lucas!!!

I can hardly believe that it has been three years. We all miss you very much. We will see you when God calls us home.

We love you,
Daddy, Momma, Dillon and Dalton

*Lucas Bureson
December 9, 2003, cord accident
Parents: Bradley and Celina Bureson
Siblings: Dillon and Dalton*



Happy Birthday Ashley Rain!

You would be turning eight years old this year! We miss you so much and think of you often. We know you are looking down on us and watching over you little brother and new little sister. We thank God for allowing us to know such a remarkable child, even if it was only for six months.

Happy birthday Angel!

Love

Daddy, Mommy, Joseph, and Olivia



*Ashley Rain DeLoach
Nov. 18, 1998 ~ June 12, 1999*

CHARGE association

Parents: Phillip and Niki DeLoach

Siblings: Joseph Albert and Olivia Sky

Joshua and Jeromy,

In my mind ten years seems like an eternity ago, but in my heart it feels just like yesterday. I don't go a day without thinking of you. It sounds crazy since I am so busy with your four brothers, but my mind always pauses to think of you and what you would be doing in this stage of your life. Every time Taylor does well in sports or school I can't help but wonder if you would be like him. Or I wonder if you would be as gentle and happy as Collin or as sensitive and loving as Harrison. I even look at baby Riley and wonder if you would have been as silly as he is. I have spent so much time wondering what you would look like and how you would talk and act.

I will never know the sound of your voice or know the warmth of your smile. I will never bandage your knees or wipe your tears. I will never share your successes or help you through your failures. I will never send you off to college or cry at your wedding. All I can do is wonder what these things would have been like.

I wonder what you are doing now in Heaven. I wonder if you think of me. I wonder if you love me as much as I love you. But most of all I wonder when I will see you again.

For the rest of my life all I can do is wonder.

Love,
Momma

*Joshua & Jeromy Barsanti
Stillborn November 21, 1996, Anencephaly
Parents: DaLana & Randy Barsanti
Siblings: Taylor, Collin, Harrison, and Riley*



Happy Birthday Andrew!!

It's been six years since you left my loving arms and went to be with Jesus. You would have been in kindergarten this year, and I know you would have been a great student! I miss you each day, even though you didn't get to see me. I love you dearly, so much the void is very big in my heart. Tell Grandma Jack hello for me and tell her I miss her, too. You have all kinds of great-grandparents, great aunts, and uncles and cousins in Heaven with you, so you are not alone my son.

Love, Mom

*In Memory of Andrew Joseph Jack
Stillborn November 11, 2000
Heart attack during labor
Mother: Patty Jack*



My Dear Baby Cassandra,

It's been 14 long years since I held your tiny body and said goodbye to you. Not one day has passed that you have not been in my thoughts. Your brother and sister call you their guardian angel, and I believe that you watch over them both and keep them safe. I wonder what you'd look like...if you'd be in your terrible teens, rebelling and wanting your ears pierced and to wear makeup? I wonder if you'd have a boyfriend or if you'd be a straight A student? I can't believe you'd be in high school. It seems like yesterday that I delivered you into silence and held your body close for hours. I miss you so much. Your brother is eight and your sister is three. I think you would love being their big sister. I hope you know how much you are loved and missed and how often we think about you.

With all our love,
Mommy and Daddy

*Michelle and Gary McHone
lovingly remember Cassandra Voulis
Stillborn November 11, 1992
Cord Accident
Siblings: Ryan and Eryn
Also remembering Baby McHone,
Miscarried September 19, 2002*



*Little fingers, little toes
I wish we could have seen them grow.
Running, laughing, jumping, playing
I wonder now what you'd be saying.
Something clever, to be sure
Your smile for my broken heart a cure.
The years pass by one-by-one,
But you always remain our first son.
Your party I'm sure is a sight to see,
Wish it were here, Happy, Heavenly Birthday Number 3.*



Caleb,
Although our arms held you only once,
Our hearts hold you for a lifetime.
We miss you and love you!
Love,
Mommy & Daddy

*Caleb Scott Fann
December 1, 2003
Premature rupture of waters
Remembering Baby August, miscarried August 13, 2004
Parents: Heather & Jonathan Fann*

Happy 5th Birthday, Jameson!

Now in God's hands,
Still in our hearts.
Though we miss you so much,
Since you've been gone.
We know that in Heaven your spirit shines on.
We think of you often and miss you SO much!
Love, Mommy, Daddy, Julianna, Jared and Janelle



*Jameson Cole Ripple
December 14 - 22, 2001, Campomelic Dysplasia
Parents: Dawn and Kevin Ripple
Siblings: Julianna, Jared, and Janelle*

M.E.N.D.'s 2006 Walk to Remember

Thanks to all of you who attended our 10th Annual Walk To Remember on October 7. Approximately 300 of us gathered to remember 100 of our babies. The weather was perfect, and the balloon release was among the most beautiful we've had. Russ Massey, father of M.E.N.D.—Houston director Jaimie Crump, was our speaker and he delivered a wonderful message.

Thanks also to our wonderful sponsors, without whom the Walk to Remember would not be possible.

Walk Sponsors

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M.E.N.D. would like to thank Macy's for their nationwide fundraiser, Shop for a Cause, which raised \$1,385 for our charity. Macy's provided M.E.N.D. with store coupons that we gave to individuals who donated \$5 to our organization. Macy's also allowed us to set up tables in their store for three consecutive Saturdays to solicit donations from customers.



Rebekah Mitchell and Melissa Stephens at Vista Ridge Mall in Lewisville, Texas, for Macy's Shop for a Cause.

Why We Walk

Sharlene Libby

We say it's to remember,
 And though that's partly true
 I don't go through a single day
 Without remembering you.

I know the footprints that we make
 On this Walk today,
 Like you, my precious little boy,
 Are not long here to stay.

So why the gathering this year,
 When nothing here we try
 Will bring me any closer
 To being by your side?

We walk to share the footprints
 That you left here on our hearts,
 To try to bless a world in which
 You'll never be a part.

You are a gift that most won't know
 Unless we tell your story,
 And say how, even though you're gone,
 You wait for us in glory.

So know we wait to join you there
 With Jesus up above,
 And until then we walk down here
 To let the world see love.



Jana Spigener completed this quilt project to display at one of the first Walk to Remember ceremonies. M.E.N.D. members designed blocks in memory of their babies, then Jana gathered the squares and completed the quilt.

M.E.N.D. Memories: Ten Years of Help and Hope

At M.E.N.D.'s first Christmas Candlelight ceremony. From left to right: Stephanie Irizarry (pianist), Rebekah Mitchell, DaLana Barsanti, Denise Gradel-Wozniak, Lori King, Lynne Böer, Paul Böer, Jr., and Maggie Böer.



One year after our son Carter was stillborn, I finally gained the courage to attend my first support group at M.E.N.D. I remember feeling as if a huge weight had been lifted off my chest, just listening to others who were actually going through the same thing as me. Your head knows that you are really not alone in your grief, but it only seems to sink into your heart when comfort comes from others who have actually been there. At this meeting, I also heard about the M.E.N.D. Walk to Remember. When my family and I attended, we really didn't know what to expect. The ceremony was beautiful, but what really stuck out in my mind was the balloon release. I can still see my blue and white balloons soaring up to heaven with so many others. At that moment, I felt as if I was not only letting go of my balloons, but letting go of some of my grief. It was then that I really started focusing on healing myself. Thank you M.E.N.D. and Rebekah for all the hope and comfort you have given me and so many other families.

Shannon Outen



Lynne Böer, Rebekah Mitchell, and Lori King near a tree planted in memory of M.E.N.D. babies at Andy Brown Park in Coppell, Texas, in 1997.

Dear Rebekah,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to you for founding M.E.N.D. and commend you on your hard work and commitment these past ten years. God answered my prayers the day I received a sympathy card from M.E.N.D. After the death of my son Schuyler, I was desperate to talk to another mom who had experienced the death of a child. When I attended my first meeting, I could feel the compassion and love from the other moms and dads who were complete strangers to me. Over the next year M.E.N.D. became my family, and I looked forward to going to the support meetings every month. M.E.N.D. gave me strength and hope, and it helped me survive this devastating time in my life. M.E.N.D. also gave me faith in God. I had lost my faith and couldn't believe that God would let this happen. My faith grew stronger as I opened my heart and realized that God had given me the most precious blessing, my first-born son, and I should be grateful for his three months of life. M.E.N.D. also gave me the courage to have another baby. As a result, God blessed me with Ashton, Alexa and Benjamin. M.E.N.D. also gave me life-long friendships that I will cherish forever. It is hard to believe that it will be nine years since Schuyler's death this December. M.E.N.D. is my way of keeping Schuyler's memory alive. Thank you Rebekah!

Sincerely,
Pam Morren

What a friend M.E.N.D. has been for me along my journey through grief! It has been an incredibly difficult struggle for me, but I am convinced that God has used each newsletter issue to speak to my heart and promote continued healing. M.E.N.D. has been, and continues to be, so instrumental in my healing. I love every issue of my M.E.N.D. newsletter, but I especially appreciate its Biblical foundation. For how else can we endure the loss and grief of our babies except through the Word of God? So although there is no single particular memory of M.E.N.D. that stands out in my mind, it is the continual encouragement and uplifting I receive that is beneficial. When I see that colored newsletter in my mailbox, I rejoice, for it is a source of fellowship and comfort to me. The fellowship comes from the other mothers who have endured the losses of their babies. Without this fellowship, I am much alone in my grief journey. The comfort comes from God's Word incorporated into the articles. EVERY issue speaks directly to me in my heart. Often I cry, as emotions are worked through and healing continues.

I did not "discover" M.E.N.D. until three months after my son Matthew was stillborn. I only wish I had known about this organization sooner! It's been three years now, but I still eagerly look forward to every issue, anticipating God's words to me through the voices of others who have suffered and keep me walking forward on this path.

Thank you to all who donate time and resources to produce this newsletter ministry. You are so appreciated! M.E.N.D. has been a true blessing in my life.

Janet Mifflin

Subsequent Births

Bryan and Kelly Dixon
of Keller, Texas,
joyfully announce the birth of
Conor Ryland,
August 14, 2006.
He weighed 6 lb., 14 oz.,
and measured 21 inches long.
The Dixons lovingly remember
Ryland Michael,
stillborn August 12, 2005,
due to infection.

Richard and Melissa Maily
along with big sister Grace,
of Lauderdale, Minnesota,
joyfully announce the birth of
Moses Paul Matthias,
June 25, 2006.
He weighed 7 lb., 3.75 oz.,
and measured 19.5 inches long.
The Maillys lovingly remember
Matthias Paul,
August 9-10, 2005,
hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy/
Group B strep.

Bryan and Brandy Wilson,
along with big sisters Emma and Evelyn
of Spring, Texas,
joyfully announce
the finalization of the adoption of
Eli Clark,
age 2 ½.
The Wilson family lovingly remembers
Elaine Kelly,
stillborn February 28, 2000,
unknown cause.

Justin and Adria Livensparger,
along with big sister Elley
of Littleton, Colorado,
are thrilled to announce
the safe arrival of
Signe Faith,
born August 28, 2006.
Signe weighed 6 lb., 14 oz.,
and measured 19 inches long.
The Livenspargers lovingly remember
Luke Harlan,
May 6, 2005,
PROM and prematurity.

Sherri and Rob Norwood
of Siloam Springs, Arkansas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Andrew Benson,
born September 29, 2006.
He weighed 8 lb., 3 oz.,
and measured 20 ¾ inches long.
The Norwoods lovingly remember
Matthew Wade,
stillborn March 5, 2004,
due to possible cord accident.

Phillip and Niki DeLoach.
Along with big brother Joseph,
of Talladega, Alabama,
joyfully and thankfully announce
the birth of
Olivia Sky,
July 28, 2006,
weighing 6 lb., measuring 19 inches.
The DeLoach family
lovingly remembers
Ashley Rain,
Nov. 18, 1998 - June 12, 1999,
CHARGE association.

The tenth anniversary of M.E.N.D. is upon us. Born out of tragedy, so many accomplishments have been made by our organization under the leadership of Rebekah Mitchell and those who were with her from the beginning. I was one of the "Mystery Members." I find this comical as I was involved for a couple of years through contributing and proofing the newsletter, but no one had met me in person until our conference in March.

At that conference I took over the PR responsibilities for M.E.N.D. locally with a goal to touch every hospital, facility, provider, midwife and funeral home in the metroplex. We started small and close to home. Each attendee filled out information about her experience with her hospital, provider and funeral home (if applicable). We also began asking new members who were attending group meetings to let us know if they'd like us to include their contacts on our outreach list. Rebekah has sent those to me as we've gone along.

In September 2006, 46 letters were completed, addressed, and mailed. These letters were sent to as many hospitals, doctors, funeral homes and other facilities as possible that directly impacted our members. This is such an accomplishment, as not only did we reach one of Rebekah's goals in beginning this outreach program for the Dallas area, but we exceeded the number of letters we had expected to send.

When this started I thought it would be a fairly simple task. What I found was that some hospitals were unwilling to provide me with contact information. Multiple calls had to be made, transfers took place, but I was persistent (as was Shannon Outen) in making sure we had as many personal contacts as possible to whom we could direct these letters. Without Shannon's help I could not have completed this first major step, so Shannon Outen, thank you for all of your help in getting these names and addresses together. Without your efforts this could not have reached the magnitude it has reached.

We've made advances on our Web site with the help of our Internet partners to create an active "HCP" (Health Care Provider) link that allows the recipients of our letters to go online, register for our newsletter, and request fulfillment of brochures as needed. This is an exceptional way for us to keep track of how successful our mailings have been and how many new Health Care Professionals are being added to our network. This is a great accomplishment and one I felt necessary to share, as many of you provided me with details on experiences with these contacts and requested that we reach out to them to offer our services and assistance. Without your participation our contact list would be empty.

I am so pleased to have been a part of this new and exciting arena for M.E.N.D. Education and assistance for Health Care Professionals is a big task. M.E.N.D. is moving forward in the right direction to ensure that all bereaved parents will, at some point, have confidence that M.E.N.D.'s information and services will be recommended and provided. If we can touch only one family through education, then that is enough for me.

PR News



With Love,
Michelle McHone
M.E.N.D. Public Relations Coordinator

**Taylor and Kaden Beard**

August 19, 2005

Unknown Cause

Parents: Kristi and Steve Beard

Given by Martha Bradshaw

Olivia Breazell

April 23, 2005

Placental Abrupton

Given by mommy Suzette Breazell

Cole Michael Busker**Kaylyn Rial Busker****Hannah Elizabeth Busker**

December 10, 2004

E. coli Infection

Given by parents

Mike and Kim Busker

and big sister Ally

Baby Cox

Miscarried March, 2000

Elizabeth Ellen Cox

October 25, 2001

Multicystic Kidneys

Given by parents

Kathryn and Scott Cox

and siblings Graceanne and Jillian

Abigail Grace Crump

Stillborn July 1, 2003

Trisomy 18

Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump

Little sister: Cami

Given by UBS Foundation USA

Matching Gift Program

Designated by Brian Benandi

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!

Kane Christopher DeLaTorre

Stillborn August 6, 2003

Cord Accident

Parents: Aaron and Lori DeLaTorre

Siblings: Alex, Adyson, and Kolt

Given by AKA Expressions

Lawson Thomas Dody

Stillborn January 8, 2006

Cord Accident

Parents: Blythe and Aron Dody

Given by Jennifer Danford

Faith Elizabeth Durham

September 25, 1999

Triploidy

Given by parents Leighton and Lisa Durham

and siblings Leighton IV, Olivia,

and Suzanna

Kyler Paul English

Stillborn January 20, 2006

Cord Accident

Given by parents Bob and Laurie English

and siblings Justin, Kinser, and Kelson

Caleb Scott Fann

December 1, 2003

Premature Rupture of Membranes

Given by parents Heather and Jonathan Fann

Gift of Support

Given by First Baptist Church

of Bolivar, Missouri

Logan Wayne Fish

September 17, 2002

Skeletal Dysplasia

Given by parents David and Brittney Fish

and brothers Landry and Hudson

Elizabeth Gentry

Stillborn August 24, 1996

Cystic Hygroma & Anasarca

Baby Gentry

Miscarried May 10, 1997

Meghan "Meggie" Elizabeth Gentry

June 3, 2001

Kidney Abnormality

Given by parents Shary and John Gentry

and siblings Alison and Mark

Ethan Lloyd Gereke

Stillborn October 23, 2000

Group B Strep

Parents: Wendy and John Gereke

Siblings: Matthew, Will, and Celeste

Given by grandparents

Lloyd and Sandy Hoffman

Erika Brianna Grau

July 9 - August 3, 1997

Anoxic Brain Injury due to Ruptured Uterus

Given by parents Ray and Yvette Grau

and siblings Nikryan and Nataly

Gabriela Faith Gregory

Stillborn January 24, 2002

Anomaly of Umbilical Cord

Given by parents Chris and Monica Gregory

and little siblings Daniel, Amarise, and Eliana

Jack Henvey

July 4, 2001

Tetralogy of Fallot

Baby Henvey

Miscarried October, 2003

Parents: Renee and Chris Henvey

Little brother: Evan

Given by grandparents Jim and Sandra Henvey

Clara Shea Huey

Stillborn June 16, 2003

Unknown Cause

Given by parents Sara and Ashley Huey

and little sister Olivia

Gifts of Support

IBM Charities

Andrew Joseph Jack

Stillborn November 11, 2000

Heart Attack During Labor

Given by mommy Patty Jack

Joseph Charles Libby

Stillborn May 26, 1999

Cord Accident

Given by parents Wim and Sharlene Libby

and siblings Will, John, and Mary Grace

Angelica Meza

Stillborn July 1, 2000

Cord Accident

Andrea Meza

August 3, 2001

Premature @ 22 Weeks

Parents: Elizabeth and Victor Meza

Little siblings: Abigail and Victor

Given by Meza Engineering, Inc

Matthew Joel Mifflin

Stillborn June 6, 2003

True Knot in Cord

Little One Mifflin

Miscarried February 6, 2006

Given by parents Dennis and Janet Mifflin

and siblings Thomas and Michelle

Tristan Lane Mills

Stillborn November 22, 2005

Unknown Cause

Parents: Jennifer and Jacky Mills

Siblings: Daniel and Zachary

Given by Vester and Floice Daniel

In memory of Tristan's great-grandmother

Helen Maurine Fowler

Bay Miltenberger, Jr.

Stillborn December 9, 1998
 Preterm Labor
 Given by parents
 Paula and Bay Miltenberger
 and little brothers Bryce, Bo, and Brady

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 friend Melissa Hilyard

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 Jeff and Lana Montgomery

Timothy "Schuyler" Morren

Sept. 28 - Dec. 23, 1997
 SIDS
 Given by parents Tim and Pam Morren
 and little siblings Ashton, Alexa
 and Benjamin

Jameson Cole Ripple

December 14 - 22, 2001
 Campomelic Dysplasia
 Given by parents Dawn and Kevin Ripple
 and siblings Julianna, Jared, and Janelle

Samuel Rakestraw Roach

Stillborn November 18, 2001
 Cord Accident
 Given by parents Mark and Geniffer Roach
 and siblings Cameron, Collin, Evan,
 Caroline, & Erin

Alexis Leigh and Nicole Leigh Rudeen

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

Christian Allen Scott

June 1, 2005
 Bilateral Renal Agenesis

Savanna Scott

Miscarried January 7, 2003
 Given by parents Scotty and Mary Scott
 and siblings Lenny, Will, and Ariel

Mindy and Maggie Smith

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

Mercedes Ruth Spigener

Stillborn September 21, 1995
 Intramembranous Insertion
 of Umbilical Cord

Twin Blossoms

Miscarried July 1996 / August 1996

Baby Spigener

Miscarried February 2004
 Parents: Grant and Jana Spigener
 Brothers: Wyatt, Ford, and Porter
 Given by Spigener Enterprises

Mercedes Ruth Spigener

Stillborn September 21, 1995
 Intramembranous Insertion
 of Umbilical Cord

Twin Blossoms

Miscarried July 1996 / August 1996

Baby Spigener

Miscarried February 2004
 Parents: Jana and Grant Spigener
 Brothers: Wyatt, Ford, and Porter
 Given by grandparents
 Barry and Sheryln Spigener

Savannah Kate Stanley

January 3, 2004
 Prematurity / Incompetent Cervix

Baby Stanley

Miscarried November 10, 2004
 Parents: Joel and Calli Stanley
 Siblings: Colton and Danika
 Given by grandparents
 Timothy and Debra O'Brien

Savannah Kate Stanley

January 3, 2004
 Prematurity / Incompetent Cervix
Baby Stanley
 Miscarried November 10, 2004
 Parents: Joel and Calli Stanley
 Siblings: Colton and Danika
 Given by David and Rachel Weidman

Savannah Kate Stanley

January 3, 2004
 Prematurity / Incompetent Cervix

Baby Stanley

Miscarried November 10, 2004
 Parents: Joel and Calli Stanley
 Siblings: Colton and Danika
 Given by LJ Stanley & Assoc.
 dba IB Roof Systems

Kirsten Cassidy "Cassie" Terrazes

May 9 - May 21, 2003
 Congenital Heart Disease
 Parents: Jamie and Mario Terrazes
Jamie Laura Franklin Terrazes
 1983 - 2006
 Given by Cassie's Me Me
 and Jamie's mom Janet Franklin

Baby Thompson

Miscarried June 12, 2006
 Given by mommy Paula Thompson

Henry Maichel Wiebe

August 22, 2006
 Parents: Ryan and Arlinda Wiebe
 Given by P. Kay and Don Duncan

Looking Ahead...

November 11: Infertility Seminar at Irving Bible Church, sponsored by Stepping Stones, a Christian infertility & adoption ministry. M.E.N.D. will have an information table set up and Rebekah will briefly speak in the afternoon. Contact Rebekah for more information (Rebekah@mend.org).

December 5: Christmas Candlelight Ceremony, 7 p.m. at Calvary Church in Irving, Texas. R.S.V.P. to Rebekah.

December 8: M.E.N.D.—Houston Candlelight Ceremony, 7 p.m. at Metropolitan Baptist Church fellowship hall. Contact Jaimie for more information (Jaimie@mend.org).

December 12: M.E.N.D.—NW Arkansas Candlelight Ceremony, 7 p.m. at the Jones Center Chapel. Contact April for more information (April@mend.org).

M.E.N.D. can now earn a penny every time you search the Internet.

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter M.E.N.D. as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

GoodSearch

a separate room, away from the women.

Just when I thought we had created all types of groups, we discovered another need. We are a Christian organization, yet our support groups are a time for sharing, not preaching the Gospel. So two of our ladies wrote a wonderful ten-week Bible study called “Matters of Faith.” Around the same time the Bible study was organizing, some of our pregnant women expressed an interest to have a M.E.N.D. childbirth class refresher. They had no desire to return to the class the hospital offered because they felt having first time parents as classmates would be too emotional. So, we began offering M.E.N.D. childbirth classes.

As soon as M.E.N.D. began, we recognized the possibility that some of our newsletter subscribers may become interested in starting chapters of M.E.N.D. where they live. For months we talked about how we would go about starting new chapters, then developed and put together a fairly extensive application packet. It remains our policy never to ask someone to direct a chapter. We feel one must be “called” to take on this responsibility. It’s a very time-consuming effort, and I never want anyone to look at it as a “job.” It’s a ministry that I feel must be birthed within the potential director, not something she feels pressured to do because she was asked. Just as we suspected, before long ladies began to inquire about starting chapters in their states. I sent several packets but never heard from those women again. I think once they realized all that was involved, they decided the task was too big. This went on for years until the summer of 2004.

One of our members, April Moreton, lived in Dallas while she and her husband attended seminary. During this time, they suffered three miscarriages and came to M.E.N.D. to find support. After seminary they moved to northwest Arkansas, where they settled and had two beautiful babies. The Lord placed a burden on April for the hurting women in her part of the state, so she contacted me about starting a chapter of M.E.N.D. I really thought this would be another unreturned application packet, like all the others, but I was wrong. April was serious, and the requirements and guidelines for a chapter director were not overwhelming for ambitious April. This scared me a little; I really didn’t know what I was doing or what would be involved with branching out. April and I decided we’d learn together. Eventually, through trial and error, we would figure it out so that in the event someone else wanted to start a chapter, we would know what to do. In January 2005, before M.E.N.D.—NW Arkansas opened in March, Stephanie Metzger of Emporia, Kansas, called me to say she was interested in starting a chapter. A few days later, I received a call from Jaimie Crump of Houston, Texas, with the same inquiry. I was blown away! What was happening? For years no one wanted to do this, and within a matter of months we had three new chapters open. While in the process of opening this trio of groups, I received a call from Marie Stockdale of Atlanta, Georgia. She, too, wanted information on beginning a chapter in her state. Shortly after M.E.N.D.—Georgia opened in October 2005, Kari Westbrook of Texarkana, Texas, called to ask if she could start a chapter in far east Texas. That chapter opened this past June. As you can imagine, this has been a very busy, exciting 18 months for M.E.N.D.!

Because we had such an explosion of sudden growth, I feared M.E.N.D. would become a fragmented organization in which the leaders and their assistants would not know the true mission and heart of our ministry. No one would know each other, and we would become just these little, isolated groups across the United States. I want us to all be one big ministry, not individual organizations with the same name. So I planned our first leadership conference in March of this year. It was incredible! Each of our chapter leaders came, along with Sharlene Libby, our newsletter editor. Most of my leadership team in Dallas attended, and we spent two full days in fellowship as well as necessary meetings and workshops. My favorite part of the weekend was the first night. After our barbecue dinner, we gathered in a circle in my den. I asked everyone to introduce themselves, give a brief description of how and when they lost their baby, how they came to know about M.E.N.D., and what their responsibilities are within the ministry. It was a beautiful night of sharing and allowing everyone to finally put faces with names.

M.E.N.D.—Houston is our fastest growing chapter. Not long after Jaimie started her group, she too realized the need to offer something more than just once-a-month meetings. So, M.E.N.D.—Houston began what they call Ladies Night Out. They meet at Starbucks on certain Sunday nights to give their members the opportunity to meet outside a support group setting and have an evening of fellowship. Because of their success, I asked Brittney Fish, one of our members in Dallas to start a similar fellowship time for our group. Not long after we started, Stephanie began one in M.E.N.D.—Kansas.

I remember in June 1996, shortly before the conception of M.E.N.D., my husband Byron and I went to New Orleans for the weekend. On the way there, I shared with him that I felt God had given me a vision to start a ministry for couples whose baby died. I told him I wasn’t sure what exactly it was going to be or entail, but I felt it was going to be big. He politely smiled and pacified me with nice reactions to my thoughts. Certainly he supported my ideas and did not shoot them down, but I don’t think he had any idea of the magnitude of what I was saying. Really, neither did I.

The day after delivering Jonathan, I held him in my arms, and even though I loved him, I couldn’t help but think this was all a waste. He wasn’t a waste, but I felt my pregnancy was. It was a high-risk pregnancy because of a kidney disease I have, so carrying him was a literal risk to my life. Then all that resulted was a dead baby and kidneys that were on the verge of failure. Now I know my pregnancy with Jonathan absolutely was not a waste; despite the outcome, it had a purpose. While pregnant with Jonathan I prayed every day that his life would be a testimony of God’s grace. Of course I had other ideas of how his life would glorify the Lord, but God knew the true plan. He had the “good” all set up as long as I obeyed the call. The Bible tells us in Psalm 139:16 that all our days were ordained for us and were written in His book before any of them came to be. Does that mean we’re puppets and God is the puppeteer pulling the strings of our lives? No, it means He has a plan for us, but we have the free choice to heed His plan or ignore it. So if He knows of *our* days, doesn’t that mean he knew our babies’ days as well? If so, then He foreknew of our losses. He knew that while we were carrying our babies that they were not going to live. Sound cruel and unfair? In our carnal minds, yes. But spiritually I think we have to become mature and ask God, “Okay, You allowed this to happen—so what do I do with it? What’s the good?”

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

Holding on to Hope

by Nancy Guthrie
Tyndale House Publishers

Holding on to Faith, Hope after Miscarriage and Loss

by Audrey Carney
Available at www.amazon.com and
www.publishamerica.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

Letters to Gabriel

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

Safe in the Arms of God

by John MacArthur
Nelson Publishing
www.gty.org

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
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 ...***Blessings of Barrenness, How to Surrender Infertility and Pregnancy Loss***

By Christy Kari
To order, go to www.publishamerica.com/
bookstore. On the right side of the Web page un-
der "Search," type "Blessings of Barrenness."

The Infertility Companion

by Sandra L. Glahan, TH.M.
and William R. Cutrer, M.D.
Published by Zondervan, 2004

Longing for a Child: Devotions of Hope for Your Journey Through Infertility

by Kathie Wunnenberg
Zondervan Publishing House

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 ...***Always My Twin***

by Valerie R. Samuels
For young children who have experienced the
death of their twin sibling
<http://www.trafford.com/05-0937>

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

I'm Still a Sister

by Brooke Lara Caputo
www.imstillasister.com

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

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

We've been getting a few questions lately about where M.E.N.D. members from our various chapters should send donations. All M.E.N.D. donations should be mailed to our main chapter mailing address:

M.E.N.D.
P.O. Box 1007
Coppell, TX 75019

Donations can also be made online at www.networkforgood.org.



M.E.N.D. Chapter Corner

Chapter Meeting Information

M.E.N.D. - NW Arkansas

Meets the 1st Tuesday from 7:00—8:30 p.m.
Jones Center for Families, Room 114,
922 East Emma Avenue,
Springdale, AR 72765
Director: April Moreton
April@mend.org, (479) 524-3500

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

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.
HEALTHSOUTH Houston
Rehabilitation Institute
17506 Red Oak Drive, Houston, TX 77090
Director: Jaimie Crump
Jaimie@mend.org, (281) 374-8528

M.E.N.D. - Georgia

Meets 2nd Monday at 7:00 p.m.
Southern Regional Hospital
Education Center Rm A
11 Upper Riverdale Rd., Riverdale, GA 30274
Director: Marie Stockdale
Marie@mend.org, (770) 954-1115

M.E.N.D. - Texarkana

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m.
CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehab Hospital
2400 St. Michael Drive
Texarkana, TX 75503
Director: Kari Westbrook
Kari@mend.org, (903) 490-1210

To find other organizations that offer support
groups in your area, visit www.mend.org.

M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates

NW Arkansas

M.E.N.D.—NW Arkansas hosted its first fundraiser on Saturday, October 21, in Fayetteville, Arkansas. In addition to offering lunch in the Wal-Mart parking lot, the chapter gave out information about its ministry in NW Arkansas. We are also awaiting a grant decision from the Wal-Mart Foundation. Save the Date notices will be mailed in October for our first annual Candlelight Service scheduled for December 12. Many organizations have already committed items and refreshments for this special ceremony.

April Moreton

Kansas

Our group continues to grow closer. I am incredibly blessed to see the encouragement and support that these families provide for each other. In our meetings we have been discussing subsequent pregnancies. Many couples are either pregnant or trying again. We pray that God would protect these precious little ones and continue to use our group to share his love with hurting families.

Stephanie Metzger

Houston

We had a beautiful first Walk to Remember on October 28. We remembered over forty babies and heard a wonderful inspirational message from Rebekah. I want to thank Metropolitan Baptist Church for supporting the Walk and letting us hold it on their grounds. I also want to thank Brandy and Brian Wilson, Sarah and Tim Winebrenner, Robyn Andersen and Gerald Crump for all their hard work in making our first Walk a success. I really appreciate all of those who helped with the balloon release and all the little ones who sang "Jesus Loves Me" – what a blessing!

We will be starting our subsequent pregnancy group on the first Thursday of each month, starting November 2, at our same location. Anyone who is pregnant or thinking of becoming pregnant after the loss of their baby is welcome to attend.

Jaimie Crump

Georgia

Our new meeting location is ideal. So far our groups have been small, which sometimes allows for a deeper time of sharing and encouragement. We pray God will bring a greater awareness of M.E.N.D. in the metro Atlanta area and that those He would have attend will be able to come to our meetings. Though our meetings have been small, we have been ministering greatly through our Christian book collection, often sending books to grieving parents through the mail. Our newest book and a great read is John Piper's *Suffering and the Sovereignty of God*. I highly recommend it.

Marie Stockdale

Texarkana

Our group keeps seeing God's blessings fall on us. We feel like we've just gotten off the ground, but already we've seen families receive ministry and comfort at our meetings. My prayer is that the Lord will keep using M.E.N.D.—Texarkana to share His love with the grieving families of our area.

Kari Westbrook



Attention North Texas Federal Employees:

M.E.N.D. has recently been accepted into the Combined Federal Campaign of North Central Texas. This year M.E.N.D. will be among the options from which North Texas federal employees (military families, postal workers, government employees, etc.) can choose when they make charitable donations through payroll deduction. The 2006 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) will run until December 15.

If you are a federal employee in the North Texas region, check with your employer to see how you can participate in the Combined Federal Campaign. If you wish to designate M.E.N.D. as your recipient charity, our CFC code is 8050.

For more information, visit www.cfctoday.org.



In 1997, M.E.N.D. president Rebekah Mitchell prepares to film a documentary about infant loss. The video was broadcast through hospital cable systems throughout the United States.

Chapter Spotlight: Kansas

Director: Stephanie Metzger

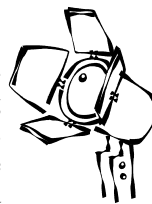
My kids and I sat down last night and looked over each one of our scrapbooks. I am sure it was a ploy to stay up later, but I never get tired of looking through them. Most of the scrapbooks are of our life with our son. For 7 years Colin was an only child. It wasn't planned that way. My plan was that he would have a sibling at 3 ½. God had other plans for our life. Infertility had caused us to go for two years before I became pregnant again.

On August 1, 2001, I went into labor. During labor the baby's heartbeat dropped. Addie Grace was delivered by emergency C-section stillborn. A beautiful angel with lots of dark hair was placed in my arms-still. I was in complete shock. Things like this were not supposed to happen. Although very hurt, I knew that day that God had a plan for me and my family and that he would use Addie somehow. I just couldn't understand how.

Over the next year I would cycle through all of the stages of grief. The stage that hit me the hardest was anger. I was angry that Addie was taken from me and I was angry that no one understood and I was angry that I was supposed to be over it. I was just ANGRY!! What concerned me most was that I wasn't acting like the Christian I claimed to be and I didn't understand why God wouldn't take away the anger when I begged night and day for Him to do just that. My anger lasted about 4 months. I wondered if it would ever go away. Slowly the anger subsided, but the joy I had had never returned. The Word tells us the joy of the Lord is my strength and I had to trust in Him to bring healing to my aching soul.

By June I was feeling a bit more ready to move on to another pregnancy, but it wasn't happening. I was feeling like we were back to square one again. I was wondering if we would ever have another child. I had taken yet another pregnancy test only to find it negative again. My hope was shattered. I went outside and began mowing the grass. You must know that mowing our yard is something I really do not like to do. We live on a hill and it is extremely hard to mow. I almost started crying when out of nowhere a peace came over me and I literally started laughing and feeling completely overcome with joy. How could this be? I was not pregnant; I was mowing this yard in the blazing heat. Nothing was as I wanted it to be and yet, I was joyful. I thanked my Heavenly Father that day for such a blessing. Interestingly, a week after that day I had a positive pregnancy test and Meg Grace was born February 14, 2003 as healthy as could be.

Throughout our grieving and subsequent pregnancy we did not have anyone to share our feelings with, that had walked our road. We felt very alone in our grief. I had a desire to start a support group for others, but nothing materialized from it until one December morning in 2004. During my quiet time I was reading II Tim. 1:14 in which we are..." to guard the treasure that has been entrusted to you "...I had to ask myself if I was indeed using what God had given me to benefit others. I prayed over this decision. I didn't want this to be something I wanted, but something God wanted for me. In the following weeks so many things fell together that just couldn't have happened without God intervening. God is good. He waits until just the right time so His glory, not ours, can be shown. Throughout all of the hard times and the blessed times He has been there for me. My Savior has never left me or forsaken me as He promised. I believe I had to go through the really rough times to better understand these wonderful families that are a part of M.E.N.D.—Kansas. ♥



My "Precious Gift of God" (what Jonathan's name means) was not a waste. His life, although not lived on this earth, has purpose and meaning. And most assuredly, a good. Yes, I have a beautiful testimony of how my ashes were turned into beauty, but so can you. Have you found your good? Have you sought the Comforter, the Peace Giver, and the Truth for your answers? If not, please do. Just as I did during my fresh days of grief, fall on your knees and cry out to Him. He knows your sorrow without your telling Him, but it's okay and therapeutic to hash it out with Him. Tell Him you're angry, hurt and confused. Then ask Him to heal you and show you the good.

As I reminisce the first ten years of this ministry, it is wonderful to reflect on what M.E.N.D. has become. But numbers, groups, accomplishments, speaking engagements, and recognition mean nothing if we have not offered Jesus to our hurting families. With all sincerity I pray a family never comes in contact with M.E.N.D. and leaves without seeing at least a glimpse of the Lord. If we never show them there's hope in the Lord, then our efforts are futile.

I am excited to see what additional good God has for M.E.N.D. in the next ten years. I thank all of you who tell me you regularly pray for M.E.N.D., and I ask that you please continue to do so as we continue to "...comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." 2 Corinthians 1:4. ♥

Rebekah Mitchell

M.E.N.D. Support Group Meetings

Join us for a time of sharing experiences.

M.E.N.D. main chapter meetings
are held the 2nd Thursday of every month
from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Daddies group

meets the 2nd Thursday of

March, June, Sept. and Dec., 7:30—9:00 p.m.
A 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.

Food and Fellowship

A time to relax and meet with other M.E.N.D. parents in a social setting
Contact Brittney Fish: brwniefish@aol.com

Subsequent pregnancy group
meets the 4th Tuesday from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Led by Melissa Stephens:
rob.melissa@verizon.net

For families who are considering becoming pregnant or are currently pregnant after a loss.

Playgroup

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

Contact Mary Steen or Brandee Dill for more info: Mary.Steen@hotmail.com
or dillsforchrist@yahoo.com
(Playgroups meet at various locations around the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.)

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

**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, call (972) 506-9000.

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 in Texas and Louisiana 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 in the Grapevine, Southlake, or metroplex area, Glenn will place, stock, and service the equipment and give M.E.N.D. 35 percent of the proceeds. 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. 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 in which you can participate. At the end of the survey, press the "Submit" button. M.E.N.D. will be automatically receive the money you earn.
- **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.
- M.E.N.D. member Michelle McHone is a consultant with **Arbonne International**, offering pure Swiss skin care, color, nutrition, and aromatherapy. E-mail her at michellemchone@msn.com to place any order and 35% of the sale will go back to M.E.N.D.
- **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*.
- **GoBaby Maternity** makes maternity tops that answer most questions regarding your baby. Owner Lori DeLaTorre will donate \$1 per shirt to M.E.N.D. Find out more at www.akaexpressions.com or call 972-259-5697.
- **Mary Kay** independent beauty consultant Michele Walton will donate twenty percent of all sales made online at www.marykay.com/MicheleTWalton to M.E.N.D. Simply mention M.E.N.D. in the correspondence section of the online order form. To find out more, call Michele at 804-752-4905 or e-mail her at micheletwalton@marykay.com.
- **GoodSearch.com** is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Powered by Yahoo!, it is used like any other search engine. To earn money for M.E.N.D. using Goodsearch.com, go to www.goodsearch.com and designate M.E.N.D. as your charity of choice.

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