



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

Mother's Day/Father's Day

I have to admit, Mother's Day has become a day of people-watching for me. Certainly I celebrate my motherhood and my own mom, but in all honesty, mainly I grieve on this day. I don't necessarily grieve for the part of motherhood that has been stripped from me, but for the thousands, possibly millions, of hurting women all over the world.

Mother's Day as we know it was established in the early 1900s. It began when a woman named Anna Jarvis wanted to commemorate the anniversary of her mother's death. What started as a sweet and loving notion has grown into a national holiday. Women who have had fruitful wombs are showered with gifts, a lovely lunch, respect, and honor. They are sometimes gifted with white roses at restaurants, given corsages by their children, and are asked to stand in recognition at church. These are beautiful sentiments for the most part, but has it ever occurred to those in charge of making the day so meaningful that it might just be one of the worst days of the year for countless grieving ladies? What about women who are grieving the loss of a child, or those who have lost their moms, or those who are traveling the path of infertility?

This is what has caused me to become a people-watcher, or more accurately, a woman-watcher. For the past several years on this second Sunday of May, I have found myself on the prowl for grief-stricken expressions, slumped shoulders, and watery eyes. I look for those whom I might have the opportunity to encourage, and throughout the day I silently pray for the moms in M.E.N.D. who I know are having a rough time.

Last year on Mother's Day as I stood in the upper tier of our sanctuary at church, those around me were smiling, singing, and praising the Lord. I should have joined my fellow-congregants in worship, but instead I caught myself searching for the few young couples I knew were trying to have a baby. Were they grinning or crying? And I surely had to find the ones who had recently lost a parent. Did they seem okay? Oh, and what about the women like me who had lost a child many years ago. How were they holding up while secretly remembering their deceased children?

As I stood there examining the hundreds of females, I caught a glimpse of my teenage son sitting in the youth section with one of his cousins on either side of him. The soloist on the platform had just invited the congregation to join her in singing, "Revelation Song." I watched my son, Byron, Jr., with both of his cousins, all uninhibitedly and boldly raising their hands in worship as they sang:

*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was, and is, and is to come!
With all creation I sing, praise to the King of Kings
You are my everything, and I will adore you!"*

As I watched my son and two nephews, I was filled with indescribable emotion. The song is based on what John wrote about in Revelation 4. He saw the worshippers in heaven sing this chorus day and night; they never stopped! It then occurred to me, two of my children are in heaven. So in all likelihood, at that very moment, they were worshipping with their big brother who was standing in church, singing, "holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come!" The realization that all of my children were together harmonizing to the King of Kings was an epiphany that I will never forget.

My people-watching quickly stopped, and I became consumed with my own feelings. I decided I was not going to be sad anymore that day or grieve for the broken-hearted. Instead I was going to rejoice that even though two of my three children could not be with me to celebrate this special day, I had just been given the best Mother's Day gift of all. What deeper emotion could I have witnessed than the sight of my son freely worshipping? What else could I have wanted to see? ♥

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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M.E.N.D. is a member of
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Heavenly Blessings

by Cara Niska

Some come for but a day or two;
We don't even know they've come and gone.

Some come for a few weeks, a month or two—
Just long enough to make their presence known.

Some come for four to eight months, or nine.
They swim and roll, punch and kick, turn and jump.
They listen to Mom's heartbeat and for Dad's voice.
They sleep when Mom rocks them all day,
And when at night she rests, they want to play
To make sure Mom still knows they're here.

Some come long enough to be born.
They come out to see Mom's face, touch her hands,
Taste her milk, and hear the sounds around her,
To see Dad, feel his touch, look into his eyes, smell his clothes,
Meet everyone else they heard from inside,
And feel their arms around them.

Some are born and stay awhile longer.
They eat and sleep and eat and sleep
And wake up and look around.
They gaze at Mom and look at Dad
And watch their siblings play.
They eat and sleep and eat and sleep,
They smile, they frown, they laugh, they cry
And worm their way deep into everyone's hearts.

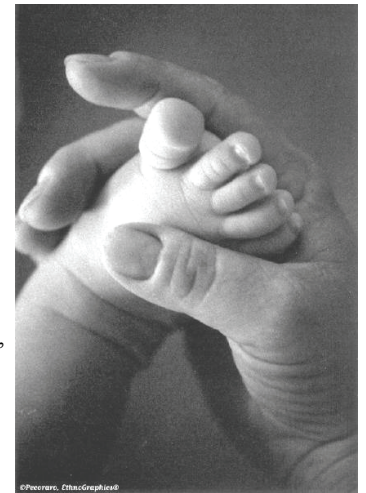
But these little angels are all sent to stay
But a short little while.
God sent them to us to nurture and love;
He sent them down from heaven above.



Dedicated to my three siblings in heaven, including my twin sister, Ann Rebecca, my brother Roger Allen, and Baby Niska. Also dedicated to my niece, Lillian Marie Niska, who was born May 29, 2002, and died February 22, 2003, due to vaccination complications. This poem is a gift God gave me to share with anyone who has lost an infant.

Cara Niska

© Cara Niska, 2003



We're excited, we're stressed,
We're joyful, we're scared, we're blessed.
We'll buy a new house, a bigger car, a crib,
And cute blue and pink clothes,
Another dresser, a stroller, and—
Then comes a cramp—
Then a pain.
The test is negative now;
You're having a miscarriage.
Baby's not moving—
No heartbeat
He's blue
Not breathing
No heartbeat.
Oh God! Please no! Please let my baby live!

“Yes, your baby lives,
But his home in heaven must be,
For this little angel needs to live
Here in heaven with Me.”

We must trust Him, though we don't understand.
These dear little angels touch our lives
In a way no one else can.
They are here today and gone tomorrow,
But God knows our sorrow.
Only He knows the purpose,
Only He knows the plan.
God knows.
God cares.
Perhaps that's why he sent them.



Infertility Group Begins

M.E.N.D. recently began a new support group for couples who have lost a baby and have fertility challenges. This new group will meet the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m., at the regular meeting place in Irving, though the location may eventually change. We hope to soon add a message board for this group at the M.E.N.D. Web site. Keep checking www.mend.org, under "Resources/Events" to see if the board is up and running. The infertility group will be led by Melissa Stephens. For more information or to be added to her group contact list, please email her at Melissa@mend.org.

For Bereaved Dads on Father's Day

It must be very difficult
To be a man in grief,
Since "men don't cry" and "men are strong"
No tears can bring relief.

It must be very difficult
To stand up to the test
And field the calls and visitors
So she can get some rest.

They always ask if she's all right
And what she's going through.
But seldom take his hand and ask,
"My friend, but how are you?"

He hears her crying in the night
And thinks his heart will break.
He dries her tears and comforts her,
But "stays strong" for her sake.

It must be very difficult
To start each day anew
And try to be so very brave--
He lost his baby too.

Author Unknown

M.E.N.D. would like to thank federal employees of north central Texas for their generous contributions to the United Way Combined Federal Campaign. Through CFC, M.E.N.D. received \$1,947. To find out if you can contribute to M.E.N.D. through CFC, visit www.cfcnctx.org. M.E.N.D.'s CFC code is 8050.

July/August Topic

Keeping Your Marriage Strong
after a Loss

Deadline: May 31, 2007

September/October Topic

Infertility and Pregnancy Loss

Deadline: July 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 Web site 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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Visit our Web site at:
www.mend.org



Birthday Tributes

Colten Benjamin Ballmer

You are in the warmth of every spring day
 The hope in the morning's light
 The calm whispers of a gentle wind.
 You are always in our hearts
 We adore and miss you so much...
HAPPY 7th BIRTHDAY COLTEN

Hugs & Kisses, Daddy & Mommy
 And Logan says "I love you Colten.
 I hope you loved OUR froggy!"



Colten Benjamin Ballmer

Stillborn May 28, 2000

Umbilical Cord Stenosis - Congenital

Parents: Jamieson and Regan Ballmer

Little brother: Logan

Happy Birthday, Hunter Hernandez

You are missed deeply, and we as a family think about you every day. We always talk to God about you and know you are watching over us. Happy birthday, our dear boy.

Love,
 Mom, Dad, Paul, Zoe, Chance, and Elijah



Hunter Hernandez

Stillborn April 4, 2000

Cord Accident

Parents: John and Jennipher Hernandez

Siblings: Paul, Zoe, Chance, Elijah

Amarie Nevaeh,

My precious baby girl! You are turning a year old. A whole year has passed, and still here I am feeling as though your birth just happened last week. Each day I think of you, how you'd look for your first birthday, what pretty dress you would be wearing. I had hoped we would share the same birthday; maybe if we did you would be here. Well, it'll still be a birthday to remember, as it was the day I went into labor with you and the day of your passing. The next day was your arrival, just a day after my birthday. You were so perfect. I hope you smile looking down at me and your big brother from heaven. Your big brother, Andres, always talks about your being his baby sister in heaven. We love and miss you very much, Amarie!

Love, Ma-Mas and Andy



Amarie Nevaeh Yahola

Stillborn June 28, 2006

Cord Accident

Mother: Blaire Yahola

Big brother: Andres Cruz III

Our "little monkey" Ryker Lee,

You would be one year old today. What a big boy!!!! Daddy and I know Grandma Jan is taking very good care of you. Not a day goes by that we don't think of you and her playing together all day long. We miss you so much but find comfort in knowing that you are with Jesus and Grandma Jan. Until we hold you in our arms again, we love you with all our hearts! Happy Birthday, "our little monkey!"

Love always,

Mommy, Daddy, Mariah, and Derrick



Ryker Lee Serrano

May 18, 2006

Lost to CMV

Parents: Carrie and Eduardo Serrano

Siblings: Mariah and Derrick

Happy 1st Birthday, Clark and Jake Rocka

We miss you and love you very much.
 Love Mommy, Daddy,
 and big sisters Courtney and Megan

Clark Daniel and Jake Matthew Rocka

May 28, 2006

Cause: Twin to Twin Transfusion

Parents: Mark and Amy Rocka

Sisters: Courtney and Megan



Happy 12th Birthday, Sarah!

With love,
 Dad, Mom, Brooks, Kaylee & Brady

Sarah Ann King

Stillborn June 22, 1995

Unknown Cause

Parents: David and Lori King

Siblings: Brooks, Kaylee, and Brady



Happy 9th Birthday, Tristen!

Love,
 Mom and Valerie

Tristen Wayne Livermore

Stillborn May 5, 1998

Cord Accident

Mom: Cindy Livermore

Sister: Valerie



Happy 4th Birthday Sweet Cooper!

Even though it has been four long years since we held you in our arms, every moment of each day we hold you in our hearts. Have a happy, heavenly birthday. How exciting it will be to have Papa and Grams at your celebration this year with you!

We love you and miss you,
Daddy, Mommy, Avery, Tate and twin brother Paxton

Cooper Graham Dill
Stillborn May 26, 2003
Cord Accident & Twin to Twin Transfusion
Also remembering Baby Dill, miscarried May 2002
Parents: Jim and Brandee Dill
Siblings: Avery, Tate and Paxton



Happy Birthday Sydney and Ashley

How time has passed. It feels like yesterday we held you in our arms. This year you will be six and seven, but you will always be our baby girls. Spring has come and Easter too, we see all the beautiful dresses and we wonder what beautiful ones you both are wearing in heaven. Happy sixth and seventh birthday! May your heavenly birthdays be together.

We love you always,
Mommy, Daddy, and Samuel



Sydney Lynne Brown
May 18, 2000
Unknown Cause
Ashley Mackenzie Brown
May 18, 2001
APS and Prematurity
Parents: Brian and Marilyn Brown
Little brother: Samuel

Happy Birthday Baby Jeremiah

We can't imagine that it has been a year since we have last held you in our arms. We can still remember your feel and smell. What a day it was: the happiest and the saddest day of our lives. Our world has never been the same any more. You have brought a love into our lives that runs so deep in our hearts that was never there before. We are so happy to have had you. You are our special gift from God. The perfect picture of joy to us. If only we had just one more moment with you. We love you so much and miss you so much.

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy

Jeremiah Manual Ndambakuwa
Stillborn June 13, 2006
Unknown Cause
Parents: Norman and Zeld Ndambakuwa



Happy 2nd Birthday Christian! (and remembering Savannah)

May God continue to use your brief lives as a testimony of His love, power, and presence to others in need of His healing!

With much love,
Mom, Dad, Lenny, Will, and Ariel

Christian Allen Scott
June 1, 2005
Bilateral Renal Agenesis
And remembering Savannah Scott
Miscarried January 7, 2003
Parents: Scotty and Mary Scott
Siblings: Lenny, Will, & Ariel



Dear Griffin,

A renewed sense of spirit...This is what your memory brings.

This year is so different from last. My thoughts of you have transitioned from baby to big brother as the arrival of your new baby brother came upon us. Your little sister is growing so much that this year I was pushed to the realization that you would be six years old this year!

Wow, how time has a way of getting away from us.

So Daddy, little sister Mya, your new brother Aidan and Mommy say:

Hugs and Kisses and lots of love here below. Enjoy your heavenly birthday as I know God has something marvelous planned for you.

Therefore we do not lose heart.
Though outwardly we are wasting away,
yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.
For our light and momentary troubles
are achieving for us an eternal glory
that far outweighs them all.
So we fix our eyes not on what is seen,
but on what is unseen.
For what is seen is temporary,
but what is unseen is eternal.
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Griffin Caleb McIntosh
Stillborn June 6, 2001
Unknown Causes
Parents: Matthew and Naomi McIntosh
Siblings: Mya and Aiden



Clara Shea Huey

Happy Fourth Birthday to our precious baby Clara! We think about you every day, and you're forever in our hearts.

Clara Shea Huey
Stillborn June 16, 2003
Unknown Cause
Parents: Ashley and Sara Huey
Little sister: Olivia



M.E.N.D.'s *Second Annual Leadership Conference*

March 31—April 1, 2007

Irving, Texas

In late March, M.E.N.D. leaders and volunteers gathered at the home of Byron and Rebekah Mitchell to discuss M.E.N.D.'s current ministry and future plans. Representatives from different M.E.N.D. chapters and committees attended the annual event.



M.E.N.D.'s board of directors, clockwise from bottom left: Rae Scrivner, Pam Morren, Byron Mitchell, Rebekah Mitchell, and DaLana Barsanti. Not pictured are Christine Oxendine and Brittny Fish.



Center photographs: Members attended committee presentations and workshops throughout the weekend.



Below: Lori DeLaTorre (Nacagdoches), Sharlene Libby (newsletter), president Rebekah Mitchell, Stephanie Metzger (Kansas), April Moreton (NW Arkansas), Monica Davis (Texarkana), and Jaimie Crump (Houston)



Birthday Tributes ... continued

Sweet Jonathan,

It's been twelve years since you went to Heaven, and unbelievably, you would be going into the sixth grade. I often imagine what our lives would be like with you as part of our household. I wonder if you would have loved baseball, golf, and the drums like your big brother, or if you would have had completely different interests. I look at the kids your age at school and try to decide who your buddies would have been. And at family functions I think about which cousins you would have connected with the most.

I'll never know the answers to these questions that continuously run through my mind. But one thing I do know for certain, and that is that you are in Heaven and someday Daddy, Little B, and I will be with you and your little baby brother or sister again.

We love you Jon-Jon, our Precious Gift From God. Until we meet again...

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, and Little B

*Jonathan Daniel Mitchell
Stillborn June 24, 1995
Cord Accident
and remembering Baby Mitchell
Miscarried December 2001
Parents: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
Big brother: Byron Jr.*

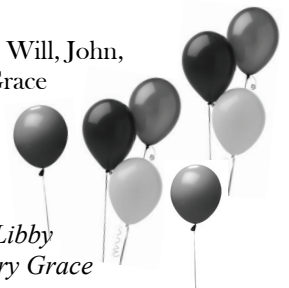


Happy Birthday, Joseph

We can still see the hole where you would be, wrestling with your big brothers or riding bikes with your little sister. I even know the teachers you would have this year in second grade and can imagine seeing you walking into school with your siblings. It doesn't hurt like it used to, but we will miss you all of our lives, until we see you again. I can't wait to see the person you've become, the perfect, whole person you were always meant to be. Though I would love to have you here, I can't help but rejoice that you got to go straight to the good stuff and missed all the scraped knees and hurt feelings. I know you in my heart and look forward to one day knowing you in person. We all love you, sweet boy.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Will, John,
and Mary Grace

*Joseph Charles Libby
Stillborn May 26, 1999
Cord Accident
Parents: Wim and Sharlene Libby
Siblings: Will, John, and Mary Grace*



Mother's Day ... When Roses Don't Come

By Gail Rodgers

It was Sunday morning, Mother's Day, and I was greeting women at the back of the church. First one took my hand and blinked back a tear as she told me how hard this day is for her. She never could have a baby of her own.

Another hugged me and thanked me for praying for those who hurt on this day. Her grown kids never call, and her heart aches. Another missed her mom who had died. Another longed for her child who is gone.

One was not there at all. She had told me she wouldn't be. She believes she has failed as a mother and the feelings are too hard to face, so she ignores the day.

Still another gave me a long silent hug...no words. We had walked together for a piece on the road of post abortion.

Mother's Day is heralded far and wide, and it is a wonderful celebration. Sunday brunches, roses by the dozen, spa day specials and breakfast in bed all help set aside the day to honor mothers.

Yet for so many it is a day of unspoken pain.

But there is a place for you when the roses don't come and there is no seat at the brunch. There is a special invitation just for you... listen...it comes from the heart of your Father God, spoken by His Son Jesus.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest...rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-29

The invitation is for those who have pain within their souls; those who are burdened down and weary; those for whom Mother's Day hurts.

How do you claim this rest when your soul is in pain?

You reply to His invitation.

Father God, my heart hurts with unspoken pain. I need Your help to just get through today. I need Your comfort, Your strength and even Your forgiveness for the times I have blamed You for my hurt. Today I give You the empty spaces in my soul. I give You my pain and I ask You to bring Your healing to my damaged emotions and to my life. Thank You for the promise of rest for my weary soul. I lean on You today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

If your heart hurts this Mother's Day, there are some things you can do as you look to God to bring rest to your soul.

- **Symbolic gestures** can be helpful in bringing healing. As you have asked God to bring you comfort, consider some tangible action as you focus on Him, your Helper and your Healer.
- **Consider planting a rose bush** if you have lost a child by miscarriage, death or abortion, in memory of that special little life.
- **Take a potted plant to a nursing home** if you are missing your own mom who is gone, or filled with regret for what you did not have with her when she was alive. Brighten some elderly mother's lonely day and let her know she is cared about.
- **Reach out to a child** who is starved for the love you have to give and ask God to begin to heal your heart. This takes time. Be gentle with yourself and run often to the Father for His continued healing.
- **Send a simple "I'm thinking of you" card** to someone. If relationships are strained or cut off, ask God to show you how to begin rebuilding. Go slow and ask for His direction.
- **Invite a friend** to a picnic in the park or to sit on your deck and drink iced tea on Mother's Day.

Our Father God desires for your heart to be whole and healed and to give you rest for your soul. He always pulls us upward and onward. It will take time, but with your hand in His, He will enable you to move forward.

If you are stuck on inward and downward, talk to a trusted friend, pray together, get counsel if necessary.

God waits with open arms to comfort you. His desire for you is to heal your broken heart. Let this Mother's Day be different. Accept His invitation and begin the journey from pain to promise and find rest for your soul. ♥

~ *Gail Rodgers* has a passion for discovering and sharing how the Scriptures apply in very practical ways where we live and walk each day. She is a wife, mother of three, businesswoman and a pastor to women. She resides in Alberta, Canada with her family. Visit Gail's website at www.gailrogers.ca.

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M.E.N.D. members who regularly sell items on Ebay can now participate in Ebay's Giving Works program, run by Mission Fish. Simply visit www.missionfish.org to find out how you can designate a percentage of your Ebay earnings to go to M.E.N.D.

In Loving Memory



Colten Benjamin Ballmer

Stillborn May 28, 2000
Umbilical Cord Stenosis -
Congenital
Parents: Jamieson and Regan Ballmer
Little brother: Logan
Given by all his loving family

Logan James Brewer

December 18 - 22, 2006
Prematurity
Given by parents
Heather and David Brewer

Gift of Support:

**Combined Federal Campaign
(United Way)**

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Given by parents
Jaimie and Gerald Crump
and little sisters Cami and Karli

Faith Elizabeth Durham

Stillborn September 25, 1999
Triploidy
Given by parents
Leighton and Lisa Durham
and little siblings Leighton, Olivia,
and Suzanna

Kyler Paul English

Stillborn January 20, 2006
Cord Accident
Given by parents
Bob and Laurie English
and siblings Justin, Kinser,
Kelson, and Kayden

Elizabeth Gentry

Stillborn August 24, 1996
Cystic Hygroma and 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

Janelle Marie Gibson

Stillborn November 17, 2006
Possible Placental Blood Clot
Parents: Scott and Jodie Gibson
Big brothers: Will and Andrew
Given by friends Travis and Nicole Scott

Lauren Paige Grimes

Stillborn March 6, 1999
Unknown Cause

Angel Baby Grimes (Raleigh's twin)

Miscarried January 25, 2001
Given by parents Paula and John Grimes
and sister Raleigh

Riley Hatton

Miscarried February 17, 2006
Parents: Heather and Jason Hatton
Given by Jason and Kathryn Mitschelen

Gift of Support: IBM Charities

Joseph Charles Libby

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

Gift of Support:

Metropolitan Baptist Church of Houston

Madeline Jane Meyer

November 28, 2006 - January 28, 2007
Trisomy 18
Parents: Natalie and Dave Meyer
Given by Aunt Dawn, Uncle Kevin and
cousins Julianna, Jared, and Janelle

Matthew Joel Mifflin

June 6, 2003
True Knot in Umbilical Cord

Little One

Miscarried February 6, 2006
Given by parents Dennis and Janet Mifflin
and siblings Thomas and Michelle

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 Uncle Mark and Aunt Rachael
and cousins Mark, Jr., and Mia McClelland

Lillian Marie Niska

May 29, 2002 - February 22, 2003
Vaccination Complications
Parents: Jonathan and Katie Niska
Given by Aunt Cara Niska

Carter Patrick Outen

Stillborn November 6, 2000
Unknown Cause

Baby Outen

Miscarried April 3, 2001

Baby Outen II

Miscarried October 5, 2001
Given by parents Chris and Shannon Outen
and little sister Erin

Carter Patrick Outen

Stillborn November 6, 2000
Unknown Cause

Baby Outen I

Miscarried April 3, 2001

Baby Outen II

Miscarried October 5, 2001
Parents: Chris and Shannon Outen
Little sister: Erin
Given by grandmother Patricia Boedeker

Alexis and Nicole Rudeen

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

Baby Salva

Mom: Sofia Salva
Given by Lynn Kinsey

Christian Allen Scott

June 1, 2005
Bilateral Renal Agenesis

Savannah 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 Transfusion Syndrome
and Polyhydramnios
Given by parents Scott and Karla Smith
and little siblings Travis and Julia

Amarie Nevaeh Yahola

Stillborn June 28, 2006
Cord Accident
Given by mother Blaire Yahola and brother Adres

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!

Subsequent Births

Nate and Melissa Beaty,
along with siblings **Austin and Jordan,**
of Byron, Georgia,
joyfully announce the birth of their daughter,
Davlyn Irisa,
born February 28, 2007.
She weighed 6 lb., 10.5 oz.,
and measured 20 inches long.
The Beatys lovingly remember
Kayin,
miscarried January 15, 2005,
and Ethan Merrick,
stillborn January 31, 2006,
unknown cause.

Naomi and Matthew McIntosh,
along with big sister **Mya,**
of Dallas, Texas,
announce the arrival of
Aidan Pierce,
March 9, 2007,
weighing 9 lb., 14 oz.,
and measuring 20 inches long.
The McIntosh family lovingly remembers
Griffin Caleb,
stillborn June 6, 2001,
unknown cause.

Cheryl and Eric Fritsch,
along with older siblings **Jerod, Joley,**
and **Jadyn,**
of Denton, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Jaxon James,
born January 23, 2007.
He weighed 9lb., 13oz.,
and measured 22 inches long.
The Fritsch family lovingly remembers
Jacob Andrew,
stillborn March 21, 2002,
due to a cord accident.

Crystal and Tim Proffitt
of Kingwood, Texas,
are the parents of a new baby girl:
Charley Gene
was born March 20, 2007.
She weighed 7 lb., 7 oz.,
and measured 18 inches long.
The Proffitts lovingly remember
Clara Grace,
stillborn February 25, 2004,
and two precious babies who were miscarried.

Nikki and Richard Wynne,
along with brother **Hunter,**
of Arlington, Texas,
announce the early arrival of
Jordan Alyssa,
born March 9, 2007.
She weighed 3 lb., 2 oz.,
and measured 14 inches long.
The Wynnes lovingly remember
Baby Wynne I,
miscarried September 1994,
Baby Wynne II,
miscarried May 1998,
Baby Wynne III,
miscarried January 1999,
and Baby Wynne IV,
miscarried June 2002.

Shundria and Chris Riddick,
along with siblings **Joshua and Elyana,**
of Grand Prairie, Texas,
announce their newest blessing:
Noah Elijah Perry,
born January 24, 2007.
He weighed 5 lb., 12 oz.,
and measured 18 inches long.
The Riddick family lovingly remembers
Grace,
May 22, 1998,
incompetent cervix,
Caleb,
December 22, 1998,
incompetent cervix,
and Baby Riddick,
miscarried November 22, 2005.

Doug, Angelique,
and big brother **Sebastian Sohn,**
of North Richland Hills, Texas,
are thrilled to announce the birth of
Benjamin Michael,
born March 28, 2007.
He weighed 6 lbs., 2 oz.,
and measured 19 inches long.
The Sohn family lovingly remembers
Aiden Xavier,
stillborn October 13, 2002,
HELLP Syndrome,
Hope,
miscarried May 2003,
and Whisper,
miscarried October 2003.

Lloyd and Tricia Henry,
along with big brother **Joseph,**
of McPherson, Kansas,
joyfully announce the birth of
Jacob Neil,
January 29, 2007.
He weighed 6 lb., 7oz.,
and measured 18 inches long.
The Henrys lovingly remember
Gracie,
October 23, 2003,
prematurity.

Misty Ann and Todd Hanes,
along with big sister **Morgan**
and big brother **Blake,**
of Spring, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival
of their twins
on March 27, 2007:
Grace Ann,
weighing 5 lb., 11 oz., 18 inches long
and Chloe Marie,
weighing 5 lb., 15 oz., 19 inches long.
The Hanes family lovingly remembers
Baby Hanes 1,
miscarried March 9, 2006,
and Baby Hanes 2,
miscarried July 18, 2006.

Andie Boston and Skip Reid
of The Colony, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Allyson Kate,
born March 27, 2007,
weighing 6 lb., 5 oz.,
and measuring 18 1/2 inches long.
Andie and Skip lovingly remember
Celeste Kimberly,
December 7 - 8, 2004,
Neonatal Hemochromatosis,
and Connor Boston,
April 27, 2006,
Trisomy 13.



M.E.N.D.—Kansas members at the Lawson T. Dody memorial walk: Stephanie Metzger, Carrie Serrano, Kristin Flott, and Suzanne West.



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 206,
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 107
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

Subsequent pregnancy group meets in the same place the 1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., led by Sarah Winebrenner (swinebrenner2004@yahoo.com).

M.E.N.D. - Georgia

Offers peer support through phone and e-mail contact.
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: Monica Davis
Monica@mend.org, (903) 490-1210

M.E.N.D. - Nacogdoches

Meets the 2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
The Badders Law Firm
4002 North St., Nacogdoches, TX 75961
Direction: Lori DeLaTorre
Lori@mend.org, (936) 569-1739

To find other organizations that offer support groups in your area, visit www.mend.org or call Rebekah at (972) 506-9000.

M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates

NW Arkansas

M.E.N.D.—NW Arkansas had four representatives at the M.E.N.D. leadership conference last month. Two of our attendees, Chrissy Peplinski and Aly Kirkpatrick, will be taking on leadership roles in our chapter within PR and fundraising for the year. We're thankful for their dedication and their willingness to help in M.E.N.D.'s ministry. Looking ahead, we've scheduled two big events in the coming months: a Texas Hold'em tournament is set for September 8, and we have tentatively set our second annual Christmas candlelight ceremony for December 11. It is a blessing to continue to see God at work through M.E.N.D.—NW Arkansas.

April Moreton

Kansas

M.E.N.D. – Kansas participated in the second annual Lawson T. Dody memorial walk on April 12. We released fifteen balloons: one for each M.E.N.D. baby who died since we started our chapter in Kansas two years ago. It was a beautiful day for a beautiful ceremony and a special way to honor our babies' memories.

Our group continues to grow in many ways, including subsequent pregnancies. Our second subsequent birth is due any day now, with a third due in July. I am constantly amazed at God's goodness as we move forward with our ministry in Kansas.

Stephanie Metzger

Houston

On March 18, M.E.N.D. – Houston participated in "A Life to Remember" Ceremony at Miller Outdoor Theater. It was a collaboration with Methodist Hospital of Houston, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Woman's Hospital of Texas, Texas Children's Hospital and H.A.N.D.. The beautiful ceremony included a dove release and a gospel choir. Several hundred people were in attendance, and it touched many lives of bereaved families in Houston. Thank you to all the hospitals in Houston who are succeeding in becoming more compassionate to their patients who lose babies.

We are looking forward to our second annual Texas Hold'em Fundraiser Tournament on May 12. If you are in the Houston area and would like to help support M.E.N.D., this fundraiser is a great place to start. Please contact Jaimie for more details.

Jaimie Crump

Georgia

Our chapter continues to minister through phone calls and books in the mail. We've recently added a new book to our collection: *Tender Fingerprints*, by Brad Stetson (see resource review on page 11). This book has ministered greatly to many families who can identify with such a loss. As we continue to minister as a peer contact group in Georgia, we thank God for the healing He works in the lives of bereaved parents in our area.

Marie Stockdale

Texarkana

Toni, Jennifer, Tania, and I had a wonderful time at the M.E.N.D. leadership conference. I am so thankful that God has brought our lives together. We continue to spread the word about M.E.N.D.—Texarkana. Our group grows closer with each meeting as we seek God's healing and comfort.

Monica Davis

Nacogdoches

M.E.N.D.—Nacogdoches is off to a good start. We've already been able to hold meetings with bereaved families in the Nacogdoches area and had two members attend the M.E.N.D. leadership conference in Irving. We got a lot of good ideas and encouragement from M.E.N.D. leaders from different chapters around the country. I am excited about the plans God has for our group. It still amazes me to see so many good things that have come through the pain and sorrow we've all had to endure after losing our babies.

Lori DeLaTorre

Chapter Spotlight: Texarkana

Director: Monica Davis

Shawn and I had been married for about five years when we decided it was time to start our family. Little did we know our plan was not God's plan. After years of struggling with infertility, God blessed us with a pregnancy. We couldn't believe we were finally going to be parents. On December 23 that year, we found out we were going to be parents of twins. We were beyond excitement when we realized we were going to have two babies! Everyone around us was also very excited. I was pregnant along with my closest friends at our church. During this time of our life, nothing could have been better. I made it through the first trimester, so I thought everything would be smooth sailing from here on. On April 14, our world was rocked. I went into labor at five and a half months, and I lost my boys, Joshua Mark and Caleb Matthew, due to an incompetent cervix. Shawn and I were devastated. We struggled with anger, jealousy, depression, and loneliness. Even though we had wonderful friends and family who surrounded us, very few had experienced the loss of a baby, much less two of them at once. I found myself longing to connect with women who had endured the same struggles. I was so blessed to have found M.E.N.D., through which I received much healing.

A scripture that became very real to us during our loss is Jeremiah 29:11:

For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.

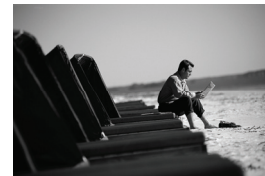
For me, I had to constantly focus on this hope that only comes from God.

It has been seven years since we lost our boys, and every anniversary is still very difficult, but I am so thankful for M.E.N.D.-Texarkana and I am incredibly blessed to be a part of this very special ministry. ♥

Resource Review

Tender Fingerprints

By Brad Stetson
Zondervan
ISBN: 0310243092



"God's deep love and compassionate mercy had empowered me to live abundantly even in the midst of this grief and terror. If I looked closely enough, I knew I would see His tender fingerprints all over the minutes of my days and months of my years. I had only to begin looking."

Excerpt from Tender Fingerprints

Tender Fingerprints is the true story of a young couple who were excitedly awaiting the arrival of a healthy baby boy. However, a few days before the baby was due to be born, his heart stopped beating. Brad Stetson, author and bereaved father, tells the story of the heartbreaking struggle he and his wife endured in great detail. Stetson's account of the intense sorrow and agony throughout the delivery of their son and in the days and months following his death is tragic. Yet in the midst of his struggle, this father's faith in God was unexpectedly renewed.

I believe that M.E.N.D. families will easily relate to this story of grief and growth. It is both heart-breaking and uplifting. This is truly a story you will never forget! ♥

Review by Marie Stockdale

M.E.N.D. has a complete list of books, Web sites, organizations, and music resources available online at www.mend.org.

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 dads to meet together and discuss topics relevant 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:
Melissa@mend.org

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. Meeting at various locations.
Contact Mary Steen or Brandee Dill for more info: Mary_Steen@hotmail.com
or dillsforchrist@yahoo.com

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.

Infertility group

Meets the 3rd Monday from 7:30—9:00 p.m.

Led by Melissa Stephens:

Melissa@mend.org

For families experiencing infertility after a loss.

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. Just go to the website at <http://www.ithinkinc.com> and choose "Sign up to become an i.think inc. panel member." Fill out the sign-up survey. Under the "Funds for Charity" section, select M.E.N.D. from the list of names.
- **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.
- **Ebay** has a charitable giving program that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you sell items on Ebay and would like to designate a percentage of your revenue to M.E.N.D., visit www.missionfish.org to find out how.

M.E.N.D. Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death
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 USA
 (972) 506-9000
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"... that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:4)