



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

Mother's Day/Father's Day

I was in charge of making the Mother's Day plans last year. My parents were out of town, so I took over with the coordinating of when and where the rest of us would have lunch. It was a smaller-than-usual number of us that year with just 17, so how hard could it be? I am organized and like to be in control, so telling everyone where to go and when to be there would be a breeze.

I proudly thought of a wonderful restaurant in the Galleria that we had never patronized before on a Sunday afternoon. Two of my sisters and my sister-in-law agreed it would be a perfect and different place to spend the day. I made the reservation on the phone and gave the young hostess all my contact information days in advance. When we arrived at the luxurious restaurant after church that special Sunday in May, I quickly realized I would not be getting kind expressions of appreciation from my older siblings for arranging the perfect celebratory lunch. The line to get seated was out the door, and everyone was told there would be a two-hour wait! And to make it worse, they told me whoever took my reservation didn't know what she was talking about because they did not accept reservations on Mother's Day. A little defeated, I walked with my family down the mall to a Mexican restaurant by the loud ice arena. We still had a wonderful afternoon and a nice lunch, but it just wasn't what we had all prepared for and thought it would be.

Actually, Mother's Day and Father's Day hasn't been what I prepared for or thought it would be since I lost my baby Jonathan nearly 13 years ago. Yes, Byron and I still honor our parents on these days and our son honors us, but it is just not completely the same. There is always a void. We are reminded of the absence of our two children in heaven, and I am constantly thinking of and praying for the hurting, newly grieving parents I know from M.E.N.D. who are having a hard time.

Yet, I have learned over the years to focus on what I do have, rather than dwell too long on what I have lost. Yes, Byron and I have experienced the death of two babies, but we have one living child who is the joy of our life. And no, not all our kids can celebrate us as parents that day, but we still have both of our parents whom we can honor and love those days.

This Mother's Day and Father's Day may not be as you had once imagined. Instead of preparing for an exciting day of new parenthood and showing off your growing tummy or newborn baby, you're not sure if you will even be able to get out of bed. In fact, you may wish you could just sleep from Saturday until Monday. I know it's hard and truly, I feel your pain. You will never forget what these days should fully mean to you, no matter how many years pass. But I promise these two Sundays will not always be so difficult. I pray that someday soon, even though your plans were unexpectedly and disappointingly changed, you will be able to walk on to a new plan and celebrate the blessings you do have. ♥ *Rebekah Mitchell*

Thank You...

Words cannot express the deep gratitude I have for the years of love Sharlene Libby dedicated to M.E.N.D. through her service as our newsletter editor. She carefully created each issue, making sure every article, poem, birthday tribute, and donation entry was correct. Her goal was to always ensure our babies were remembered and honored with love and respect. Oftentimes she reminded us when it was time to submit our birthday tributes and, admittedly, wrote them for us if we forgot.

We will continue to reap from Sharlene's compassion and expertise as she is not completely leaving our newsletter staff. She will remain as a proofreader and will continue to offer her opinions and suggestions for our publication.

I am happy to introduce to you her replacement, Heather Fann. I met Heather and Jon nearly five years ago, shortly after the death of their son Caleb. The Fanns lived in Dallas while Jon was a student at Dallas Theological Seminary. During that time they were faithful support group attendees and volunteers. We walked with them as they grieved the loss of Caleb, then subsequently Baby August. We rejoiced with them as they became pregnant a third time then gave birth to little Madison last summer.

Welcome aboard Heather! Thank you for volunteering to take on this huge job as our editor. We look forward to working with you as you enable us all to recognize and remember our precious babies. ♥ *Rebekah Mitchell*

In This Issue: *Still Difficult* (pg. 2), Book Reviews (pg. 3), *A Mother's Crown* (pg. 7), Father's Day Thoughts (pg. 8), *He Didn't Give Me Answers* (pg. 11)

Regular Features: Birthday Tributes (ps. 4-6), Subsequent Birth (pg. 6), In Loving Memory (pg. 9), Chapter Corner (pg. 10), Meeting Information (pg. 11)

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

For inquiries, subscription requests, deletions, and submissions to the newsletter, contact us at

M.E.N.D.

P.O. Box 1007

Coppell, TX 75019

Phone and Fax: (972) 506-9000

(Please call before faxing)

E-Mail: Rebekah@mend.org

Heather@mend.org

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Still Difficult...

This Mother's Day will be different, right? I'm no longer the mother of two babies in Heaven; I'm the mother of two babies in Heaven AND of a bubbly nine-month old little girl. So Mother's Day should be happy this year, right?

And yet...as I approach the holiday, I still feel the loss that nearly five years later is incredibly fresh. However, Mother's Day was never fabulous for me, even before our loss. We longed for a child so much that every year we weren't pregnant was devastating. Then at long last we were pregnant, but even before I could celebrate a Mother's Day, our son Caleb Scott was born at 32 weeks and returned home in six short hours. Then we miscarried Baby August and spent another two years *not* pregnant.

One thing I can always be sure of is the way that my husband will strive to "get me through the day." I'm sure this year he will find some adorable card to give me from Madison and her brothers in Heaven. I'll probably even be okay in public...finally! But in the past, he's had a challenge trying to take care of me.

The first year Jonathan took me to a stupidly expensive lunch. Our good friend Melissa Stephens said most pregnant women and those pushing strollers wouldn't be caught within five miles of Six Flags, so that's where we planned to go. However, rain changed those plans. Instead, he took me to a ridiculously expensive mall where I tried on a \$26,000 diamond solitaire at Tiffany's! Something so silly (and unattainable), but enough to distract me and cause me to smile.

Each year since, he always extends me the right to do anything I want or nothing at all. I'm a "planner" by nature, but on Mother's Day, I make no plans and "see what the morning brings." He's given me inexpensive gifts like gemstone jewelry with our kids' birthstones, figurines or angel pendants. Something small to let me know he understands how difficult the day is for me.

Now that we're home in Missouri, I'm able to visit our son's gravesite so that's a tradition I hope to maintain.

Over the years I have had difficulty trying to repay Jon's kindness at Father's Day. It's made especially trying because we lost his dad on Father's Day in 2005. So needless to say, both holidays are difficult in the Fann household.

Our Saving Grace? That God is sufficient to meet all our needs. That our babies and their Grandpa Raymond are playing in fields of green beside still waters with Jesus Christ...and someday we'll be too. ♥

Heather Fann

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 alright
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 he 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

Book Reviews

When God Lets You Down: Trusting Again After Pain and Loss

By Alex Gee
IVP Books
ISBN: 978-0830833979

Do you feel like God has let you down because of the loss of your baby? How do you trust Him again after such a tragedy? Minister Alex Gee, a father of three (two little girls in heaven lost to stillbirths and one on earth) will help you realize it can happen. You can have a renewed relationship with Christ like never before. This book reminds you that God has not forgotten about you and still loves you. Though our relationships have been challenged and our faith is forever shaken, the Lord offers true companionship - not easy answers, very in-your-face - as you search for the way to hope. This book is a must-read to save your most important relationship: yours with your Abba Father. ♥

Review by Liz Walker

A Place of Peace

By Jennifer Hander
iUniverse, Inc.
ISBN-13: 978-0595446704
www.aplaceofpeace.net



Jenny Hander and her husband were overjoyed when they discovered she was carrying identical twin girls, Alexa and Alysa. During what Jenny expected to be a routine visit to the doctor to check on the girls, she was shocked to find out she was in labor. After being hospitalized, tests were performed and revealed the twins had TTTS (twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome). Two days later the girls were delivered at 26 weeks gestation. After four weeks of fighting for her life, little Alysa died in her parents' arms.

A Place of Peace chronicles the Handers' journey of a premature delivery, the countless decisions parents of babies in the NICU are faced with, and the grief parents endure following a loss. Of the many infant loss books I've read, *A Place of Peace* is one I found captivating and difficult to put down. Jennifer is a very gifted writer who candidly shares her sorrow, joy, and how she ultimately came to a place of peace. ♥

Review by Rebekah Mitchell

*Jennifer Hander will be the inspirational speaker at our
2008 Walk to Remember
on October 4 in Irving, Texas.*

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

If you would like to submit a review of books, music, websites or other resources dealing with infant loss, please email them to our newsletter editor Heather Fann at heather@mend.org.

July/August Topic

Ways to Keep Your
Baby's Memory Alive
Deadline: June 15, 2008

September/October Topic

Neonatal Death
(when your baby dies after birth)
Deadline: July 30, 2008

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHRISTIAN!

We love you, we miss you, and we can't wait to see you in Heaven.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Lenny, Will and Ariel

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



Our Blessed Love, Jordan Alexander Booker

Here it is Mother's Day and Father's Day and we have been so tremendously blessed with one of God's greatest gifts: You, Jordan, my LOVE!

Our precious, precious LOVE! Thank you, Jordan, honey, for so graciously choosing us to share the privilege and honor of being your parents! Though temporary, it is extremely difficult being separated from you! I know Heaven is unimaginably wonderful and that you are perfectly fine with Jesus, but we miss you and love you so very, very MUCH!

You are in all my dreams, my thoughts, my heart, my soul, the very fiber of my being! You are the very air I breathe!

We love you and thank God for you, Jordan, Honey!
Until we join you in Heaven...

We LOVE you, Jordan,
Mommy & Daddy



Jordan Alexander Booker
Stillborn January 11, 2007
True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker

Chrissie,

Eight years ago you came into our lives. It seems like nothing has changed, yet, nothing will ever be the same. I still cry for you. I know you would have beautiful blonde hair just like your little brothers. I wish I could watch all four of you playing outside on the "house" that NaNa and E-Daddy got for y'all. I know you are taking care of our friends John and Jenn's little baby that joined you recently.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy,
John Morgan, William and Michael

Chrissie Steen
Miscarried May 3, 2003
Ectopic Pregnancy
Parents: Lynn and Mary Steen
Siblings: John Morgan, William Gregory and
Michael Andrew



OUR BABY BOYS ARE TURNING 5!

It is hard to believe you are not babies anymore. I miss seeing you learn to write your name. I miss watching your first soccer game. I miss holding you tight and kissing your sweet face. When we meet again, you can catch me up on all the details. Do you talk as much as Paxton? Oh, the stories you will tell! Happy Heavenly Birthday, Sweet Cooper!

Love you forever and ever,
Daddy, Mommy,
Avery, Tate & Paxton



Cooper Graham Dill
Stillborn May 26, 2003
Parents: Jim and Brandee Dill
Siblings: Avery, Tate & Paxton (Cooper's Identical Twin)
Also remembering: Baby Dill
Miscarried May 2002

Happy 7th Birthday, Ashley! Happy 8th Birthday, Sydney! Happy Birthday BIG GIRLS!



We know you both are together playing on Heaven's streets of gold and running through fields greener than we can imagine.

We love and miss you very much.
Mommy, Daddy, and Samuel



Sydney Lynne Brown *Ashley Mackenzie Brown*
Stillborn May 18, 2000 *Born/died May 18, 2001*
Unknown Causes *Premature due to APA*

Parents: Brian & Marilyn Brown
Brother: Samuel

Happy 6th Birthday, Sibley Twins!

We think of you often and wonder what our lives would be like with both of you here with us. We know that you are safe in the arms of Jesus and look forward to the day of meeting you both again. You've changed our hearts forever...we love you.

Love,
Dage, Meme, Aryana, Adelaide, and Joey

Sibley Twins
Miscarried June 2002
Monozygotic Twins
Also remembering HazelAnne Noelle
Stillborn August 16, 2006
Baby Sibley
Miscarried February 2, 2008
Parents: Joe and Emily Sibley
Siblings: Aryana, Adelaide and Joey



In Memory of Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Jonathan,

I can't believe we would be celebrating your 13th birthday this year! A teenager! I cannot imagine you as growing into a young man in the throes of adolescence and probably interested in girls. You would be settled in middle school, and I'm sure begging your big brother to chauffeur you all around in his new car.

I still think of you as my tiny, perfect 2 lb., 12 oz. baby boy whom I miss every day. I will forever wonder what our lives would be like had you lived. How different things would be. But the Lord has excellently used your life, through your death, and for that I am very grateful.

Until we meet again...
Mommy, Daddy, and B

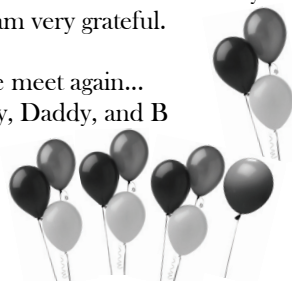
Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995

Cord Accident

Parents: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell

Big Brother: Byron, Jr.



Adrian, Happy 1st Birthday!

We can't believe a whole year has gone by already. It seems like just yesterday that I got to see you for the first time! We never knew we could love someone so much. You are in our thoughts everyday. Your dad and I talk about the things we would be doing if you were still here. We have given ourselves to God to help us understand why He wanted you before us. I can't wait to join you in Heaven to hold you again.

As your dad and I watch your little cousins grow, we see what things you would be doing, and sometimes I cry, but I cherish your little cousins as if they were my own. But God knows and you should know, you are my perfect little angel. Your daddy and I will never forget those amazing three weeks God let us spend with you here on earth. In so little time, you touched so many hearts.

So as your grandpa would say, we will never say "goodbye" because we know we will see you again, for now we will just say "see you later." We miss you so much baby and love you with all our hearts!!!

Mommy & Daddy

Adrian James Hernandez

June 23, 2007 – July 14, 2007

Necrotizing Enterocolitis



Happy 2nd Birthday, Ryker Lee!

Our precious monkey, you are two years old this month. We cannot believe that it has been two years since we held you in our arms. Not a day goes by that we don't think about you and Grandma Jan and wonder what you are doing. Your brother, Derrick, talks about you all the time. He misses you so much! Your other brother, Kellen, is going to be one in July. He looks so much like you. Your father is always saying that he can't believe how much Kellen looks like "our Ryker Lee"! We all miss you so much and wish we could see you laughing and playing with Grandma Jan up in Heaven.

Until we meet again our precious monkey, We love you tons!!!!

Mommy, Daddy, Mariah, Derrick, and Kellen

Ryker Lee Serrano

May 18th, 2006

Lost to CMV

Parents: Carrie and Eduardo Serrano

Siblings: Mariah, Derrick, and Kellen



Dear Joseph,

What a tremendous blessing you have been to us! We can't imagine life without you as part of our family. Even though you're not here with us, you've helped shape us into who we are, and for that we are thankful. God truly did a marvelous thing when He created you. We've all learned to trust Him more and share His comfort with others since you left. Life is richer now that you're in our hearts, dear one. Nine years seems like such a long time without you, but we know that when we're all together again time won't matter. We love you and look forward to seeing you when it's time for all of us to be home with you in Heaven.

Happy ninth birthday.

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



HAPPY 5TH BIRTHDAY!!

Matthew,

Can it really be five years since that day when we held you for the first and last time, when we cried so many tears? It seems so long ago, and yet feels like yesterday. It's been so hard for us to go on without you here in our lives, but God is good and every day is a step forward in His grace. We have come a long way since those days, but still we miss you every day. We often wonder what you would be like. Are you mischievous or shy, playful or thoughtful, athletic, musical or dramatic? These are all questions to be answered only when we are reunited again in Heaven. You are in the arms of our precious Savior and there's no better place to be!

So on your birthday, we celebrate you, our precious "widdle" baby. We miss you! We love you always! We look forward to seeing you and holding you again.

With our love forever,

Mommy and Daddy

Thomas and Michelle

Matthew Joel Mifflin

June 6, 2003

True knot in cord

Parents: Dennis and Janet Mifflin

Siblings: Thomas and Michelle

Also remembering

Little One, miscarried February 6, 2006

Lil' Rosebud, miscarried March 10, 2007



Happy Birthday, Sarah Ann King!

We love you,

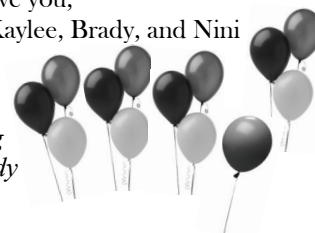
Mom, Dad, Brooks, Kaylee, Brady, and Nini

Sarah Ann King

Stillborn June 22, 1995

Parents: David and Lori King

Siblings: Brooks, John "Brady" and Kaylee



Birthday Tributes ... continued

The Beach

Where will we meet?
We will meet on the Beach



What will we share?
We will share some treats

What will we say?
We will say something sweet

To whom will we say this?
To a boy who makes
our lives complete



Griffin Caleb McIntosh
Stillborn June 6, 2001
Parents: Matthew & Naomi McIntosh
Little Sister: Mya Quinn
Little Brother: Aidan Pierce

Dearest Colten,

A monarch landed in the flowers and stayed an extra long time today. I know he was leaving a message of love, hope and of course butterfly kisses!"

We love you and miss you so much...

Happy 8th birthday our little love bug!
Hugs and kisses!!!
Daddy, Mommy & little brother Logan

Colten Benjamin Ballmer
Stillborn May 28, 2000
Umbilical Cord Stenosis-Congenital
Parents: Jamieson and Regan Ballmer
Little brother: Logan



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Shop online and help M.E.N.D. Please consider going through the website: www.goodsearch.com when shopping online. When you go through this particular website, and choose M.E.N.D. as your chosen charity, we will receive anywhere between 2 and 5% of your purchase.

Here are a few to choose from, but there are more stores listed online:



1-800-Flowers
7% donation

Amazon
1.5% donation

Home Depot
1%-1.5% donation

Hotels.com
2.5% donation



Apple Store
1% donation

Barnes & Noble
2.5% donation

HP
2% donation

HSN
2%-4% donation



Best Buy
.5%-1.5% donation

Bloomingdales
2% donation

iTunes
2.5% donation

J.Crew
2.5% donation



Buy.com
1.5-5% donation

Circuit City
.5% -1.5% donation

Kodak EasyShare Gallery
5%-9% donation

Kohls
2% donation



Subsequent Birth

Katie and Phil Goodson,
of Tulsa, Oklahoma,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Samuel Bennett,
born April 22, 2008,
measuring 7 lb., 8 oz.,
and 20¼ inches long.
The Goodsons lovingly remember
Daniel Joseph,
miscarried July 4, 2005,
unknown cause.



Lands' End
3% donation

Macy's
3% donation



Nike
4% donation

NORDSTROM
2.5% donation



PetSmart
4%-7.5% donation

Sephora
2.5%-3.5% donation

Mother's Day Ideas for Bereaved Moms

- ♥ Get out special keepsakes that remind you of your baby and keep them displayed during the day.
- ♥ Tie a ribbon on your mailbox in place of the card you would have received from your child.
- ♥ Wear a pink or blue carnation to church.
- ♥ Avoid restaurants if you think it may be too painful to see other mothers being honored by their children. Instead, go on a picnic with your spouse and talk about your child.
- ♥ Write about your feelings in a journal.
- ♥ Do something special for yourself, like a shopping trip or allowing yourself to settle in with a good book.

Father's Day Ideas for Bereaved Dads

- ♥ Take a long walk or go fishing. Allow yourself a little time alone to cry if you need to.
- ♥ Talk with your wife about your feelings. Make sure you focus some conversation on you and not just on how you can help her.
- ♥ Build a picture frame or memory box for your baby's picture or memorabilia.
- ♥ Build a garden in memory of your child.
- ♥ Write a poem or story about your baby.
- ♥ Think of at least one commitment or responsibility you can give up. Vow to spend the extra time doing something nice for yourself or someone else as a tribute to your child.

A Mother's Crown

Heaven lit up with His mighty presence,
As all the angels looked down,
Today the Lord was placing the jewels
In all the mothers' crowns.

As He held up a golden crown
As all the mothers looked on,
He said in His gentle voice,
"I just want to explain each stone."

He held the first gem in His hand,
But the radiance couldn't match His own.
For He was the light of Heaven
Reflecting off each of the stones.

"The first gem," He said, "is an emerald,
And it's for endurance alone,
For all the nights you waited up
For your children to come home.

"For all the nights by their bedside
You stayed till the fever went down,
For nursing every little wound,
I add this emerald to your crown."

"A ruby, I'll place by the emerald,
For leading your child in the right way,
For if you hadn't taught them about Me,
They wouldn't be here with you today.

"For always being right there
Thru all life's important events,
I give you a sapphire stone
For the time and love you spent."

"For untying the strings that held them
When they grew up and left home,
I give you this one for courage."
Then the Lord added an amethyst stone.

"I'll place a stone of garnet," He said,
"For all the times you spent on your knees,
When you asked Me to take care of your children,
And them for having faith in Me."

"I have a pearl for every little sacrifice
That you made without them knowing,
For all the times you went without
To keep them happy, healthy, and growing."

"And last of all I have a diamond,
The greatest of all gems,
For those mothers who lost their children
When they came home to heaven before them."

"This is the most precious sacrifice,
So I give the most precious stone,
For I know just how you felt,
I too lost a child of My own."

After the Lord placed the last jewel in,
He said, "Heaven is now complete,
For every mother has her crown of jewels,
And all her children are at her feet."

~ Author Unknown

Thoughts for Father's Day

To the editor:

My husband woke me this past Mother's Day with breakfast in bed and a card that glowed with warm thoughts about my motherhood. It probably meant more to me in some ways than it would have to other mothers, because the only child I had was dead at birth.

You might think it strange to acknowledge such a mother. One million families a year experience the death of an infant, and often the well-intentioned advice offered them is to "have another one," a suggestion implying that a baby is something like an hors d'oeuvre.

Perhaps some recognize this loss as a legitimate one and would even offer a bereaved mother some quiet affirmation of her motherhood. But what of fathers of babies or children who are dead? How often are fathers asked, "How is your wife doing?" after a child has died? How many fathers of deceased infants, fathers who may or may not have surviving children, will receive a card on Father's Day that acknowledges the child who died?

Our society insists that men embody the "Mr. Mom" qualities of sensitivity, vulnerability, and the ability to nurture, but fathers are sometimes expected to shy away from these qualities when faced with the awkwardness of grief. A father is expected to provide his wife with understanding and support when a child or an infant dies; but how many business associates, neighbors, or family members avert their eyes when a drop of moisture threatens to spill onto the cheek of a bereaved father?

And how many fathers this Father's Day will grieve their dead children privately and silently? Do what you can to change this in your corner of the world. If you know the father of a miscarried baby, an infant or older child who died, muster the courage to acknowledge his fatherhood to him.

There are many ways to do this, including just sending a card. A regular Father's Day card with a note inside would work. Whatever you choose to try to offer these fathers, offer the positive acknowledgement that fatherhood does not end with the death of a child.

Ronda J. Wintheiser

Reprinted from the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* Editorials

June 14, 1989

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I won't say "Happy Father's Day,"
But I do hope you can see
Our son would wish you *peace* today
If happy you can't be.

A father with no child to hold -
Yet a father, still, you are.
Our boy lives in his heavenly home
And here, within our hearts.

One day, when our rest is won
We'll see him face to face.
I picture him there, our dearest son,
Waiting for us at the gate.

If he could speak to you this day
His words you'd hold so dear.
I know precisely what he'd say.
To me, it's vastly clear.

He'd say how much he loves you.
Your son, he's proud to be.
And he knows that you love him, too,
And miss him terribly.

He'd thank you for watching over me
And loving me like you do.
Great fathers, first, must great husbands be
And both, he'd say, are you.

And finally, he'd tell you
He's so happy you're his dad.
He couldn't pick a better man.
You're the best a boy could have.

-Melissa Stephens, for Rob Stephens
on Father's Day, 2004
Remembering David Atkins Stephens
October 23, 2003
Omphalocle

In Loving Memory



Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007

True Knot in Cord

Parents: Norma Jordan & Mark Booker

Given by mommy Norma Jordan

Sydney Lynne Brown

May 18, 2000

Cord Problem

Ashley MacKenzie Brown

May 18, 2001

Antiphospholipid Antibodies Syndrome

Given by parents

Marilyn and Brian Brown

and little brother Samuel

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003

Trisomy 18

Parents Gerald and Jaimie Crump

and little sisters Cami and Karli

Given by great-grandparents

Gerald & Ellie Crump

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003

Trisomy 18

Given by parents Gerald and Jaimie

Crump

and little sisters Cami and Karli

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003

Trisomy 18

Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump

Little sisters: Cami and Karli

Given by Great Aunt & Uncle Wendy

and Ricky Crump

Riley and Parker Davis

November 14, 2006

Prematurity

Given by parents Robert and Cheryl Davis

and little sister Annalise

Baby Dill

Miscarried May 2002

Cooper Dill

May 26, 2003

Twin to Twin Transfusion / Cord Accident

Given by parents Jim and Brandee Dill

and siblings Avery, Tate, and Paxton

(Cooper's Twin)

Kyler Paul English

Stillborn January 20, 2006

Cord Accident

Given by parents Laurie and Bob English

and brothers Justin, Kinser, Kelson,

and Kayden

Michael Garabedian, Jr.

Stillborn February 2, 1998

Cord Accident / Velamentous Cord

Insertion

Adam Michael Garabedian

Stillborn July 25, 2001

Cord Accident

Parents: Mike and Cindy Garabedian

Sisters: Victoria, Elizabeth, and Catherine

Given by Garabedian Properties

Drew Charles Glosson

December 27, 2007

Parents: Edwin and Sharon Glosson

Given by Ty and Rachel Lovell

Adrian James Hernandez

July 14, 2007

Failed Intestines

Given by parents

Jackie and Fito Hernandez

Adrian James Hernandez

July 14, 2007

Failed Intestines

Parents: Jackie and Fito Hernandez

Given by aunt and uncle

Minerva and Rodrigo Guevara

Joseph Charles Libby

Stillborn May 26, 1999

Cord Accident

Given by parents Wim and Sharlene Libby

and siblings Will, John, and Mary Grace

Baby M

Miscarried October 15, 1999

Baby Boy Moreton

Miscarried March 17, 2000

Angel #3

Miscarried August 1, 2000

Given by parents Sam & April Moreton

and little siblings: Asher, Ava, & Brock

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995

Cord Accident

Baby Mitchell

Miscarried December 2001

Given by parents

Byron and Rebekah Mitchell

and big brother Byron, Jr.

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

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

Christian Allen Scott

June 1, 2005

Bilateral Renal Agenesis

Savannah Scott

Miscarried January 7, 2003

Parents: Scotty and Mary Scott

Siblings: Lenny, Will, and Ariel

Given by Wim and Sharlene Libby

Aidan Shaw VanderCruyssen

October 2 - December 3, 2005

Polycystic Kidney Disease

Given by mommy Shane VanderCruyssen

and little sister Cameron

Gift of Support

West Conroe Baptist Church

of Conroe, Texas

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!

Thanks to the following sponsors who made the opening of the M.E.N.D.—Hill Country Chapter possible: Because of your generous donations we are able to provide our services free of charge to the hurting families in the Fredericksburg, Texas area.

- Hill Country Community Needs Council
- Larry Burson
- Women & Children First / Drs. Rick and Jennifer Dulaney
- Jeryl and Ruthann Hoover



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 via 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
Director: Lori De La Torre
Lori@mend.org, (936) 569-1739

M.E.N.D. - Hill Country

Meets the 1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Banquet of Books
603 FM 2093 (Tivydale Rd)
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Director: Larissa Hallford
Larissa@mend.org, (830) 456-4178

M.E.N.D. - Tulsa

Meets the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Canyon Crossing
1651 E Old North Rd.
Sand Springs, Oklahoma 74063
Michele Wilson
michele@mend.org, (918) 694-4325 (HEAL)

M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates

NW Arkansas

M.E.N.D.—NW Arkansas continues to grow with several new families joining our chapter after the first of the year. As always, I'm thankful to be a part of M.E.N.D.'s ministry in the lives of NW Arkansas families.

April Moreton

Kansas

We just finished the third annual Lawson Dody Memorial Walk. Rebekah Mitchell and her sister Rachael were able to be with us this year. We met three new moms who we hope will use M.E.N.D. to help them through their walk in this grief process.

Stephanie Metzger

Houston

June will mark the 3rd anniversary of our chapter. We have grown so much—more than my expectations of just a “little support group” three years ago. We are blessed to be a part of almost every major hospital in the Medical Center and surrounding Houston area. We started out just a small group and have now added a subsequent pregnancy group, a daddy's group and ladies night out for our members. I pray that one day someone will accept God's calling and open a M.E.N.D. chapter on the south side of Houston to better serve the grieving families in the 4th largest city in the country. Thank you to everyone who has prayed for us during these last three years, and to those who have volunteered their valuable time to this ministry in any capacity. Without you, it would still be just a “little support group.”

Jaimie Crump

Georgia

The Atlanta chapter continues to minister to hurting families through email and by phone. Though our support group meetings have been postponed for the last year, it is our prayer and desire that God will in the future once again open the door to resume our support group meetings. Please pray about ministry opportunities available through M.E.N.D.-Georgia. If you feel led to apply as a chapter leader or assistant, please email Rebekah@mend.org or Marie@mend.org for more information or call Rebekah Mitchell at 972-506-9000.

Marie Stockdale

Texarkana

M.E.N.D. Texarkana continues to grow and help hurting families heal.

Monica Davis

Nacogdoches

It is humbling to know that God is using our own grief in such positive ways in Nacogdoches. Families are receiving comfort and encouragement in beautiful ways as members reach out to each other with the comfort they themselves have received from God.

Lori De La Torre

Hill Country

The Hill Country Chapter is going strong. We are ministering to many families on the phone and email. Our second support group was May 1. I am praying for assistants to help me run M.E.N.D.—Hill Country. The community of Fredericksburg continues to support our group with prayers, sponsorships, and helping to spread the word about our newest chapter. I feel so blessed to be a part of the M.E.N.D. family.

Larissa Hallford

Tulsa

The Tulsa Chapter is up and running, having had our inaugural meeting in April. We are so grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to minister to hurting couples in 2008. I owe many thanks for all the help I have received from Erika Huff, Cory Beyer, Lauren Roberts, Marlita Camacho, and Katie Goodson. I never knew that in establishing this ministry, I would also find good friends.

Michele Wilson

He Didn't Give Me Answers— He Gave Me Himself

by Dr. Earl W. (Sandy) Stradtman, M.D., P.C.

My first experience as a father was a study in the unexpected. Although our first ultrasound at just under six weeks showed only a sac of fluid in the womb, a repeat ultrasound two days later told us we could tell our families at Christmas that we are going to have a baby. Later, after our amniocentesis, my wife Celia wanted to know the gender of the baby, but I wanted it to be a surprise.

It wasn't meant to be. When I worked in the genetics lab during my fellowship, one of the technicians slipped and said, "So, you're Dr. Stradtman. When is your baby boy due?" Little did I know at the time how much I would later appreciate that slip.

I can still remember the phone call—I can still feel its impact. Celia called to say that her cervix was dilating—an incompetent cervix. Her doctor performed emergency surgery to try to save the baby by placing a stitch in the cervix. All we could do was wait and pray. I was no longer an objective physician, but an involved father and husband.

Late on the third evening after the surgery, the membranes ruptured, and early the next morning, on April 29, 1989, James McGilvray Stradtman was born. He lived for about an hour and fifteen minutes. We grieved while his life was slipping away in the intensive care nursery.

After he died, we held him for a long time, still in disbelief. Even though his life was short and I had not wanted to know his gender at first, we had an opportunity to enjoy him during his life in utero more than if we had not given him a name. I was grateful for that.

Since we lost James just before Mother's Day, Celia and I were unsure about how to handle that commemorative day. After all, I could find no memorial cards in the Mother's Day section, but she had been a mother briefly. I hurt at a "gut" level and tears came as I sought healing. I knew Celia hurt too—certainly even more than I did. Persistent questions occupied my thoughts.

Why did our son have to die? If God loves us, why does He let tragedies happen? Had I angered God? Upon reflection, I realized that I sinned against Him continually. On the other hand, I

knew God was good, and despite how I felt and hurt, I believed He would bring good out of this bad situation.

The answers to my questions came as I tried to make my own Mother's Day card for Celia and to work through my own grief. For a reason that was unclear to me at the time, I turned to the Bible for inspiration. At first, no passage seemed appropriate. Then I remembered a verse I had memorized years ago, but its impact was different this time. In the Gospel of John, Jesus Christ spoke to a bewildered Nicodemus about how a person must be born again of the Spirit to be saved. He explained the divine plan: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son ... that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16). As my attention was drawn to the first part of the verse, it was as if the Spirit of God had put His hand on my heart. "I know what it is like to lose a son."

God did not explain why our son had to die. He didn't give me answers; He gave me Himself. He alone is sufficient for our needs and our wounds. At a time when I was spiritually broken, He dealt with me graciously, according to His own principles described in the Bible.

As I prayed earnestly with a "mustard seed" of faith, broken in spirit, utterly dependent on Him, and confessing my sinfulness, God used His Word to counsel and comfort me, and to teach me about Himself. When I came to Him on His terms—not mine—His Word came alive.

I had lost my son involuntarily and would have preferred to have it otherwise. God gave His Son voluntarily for you and me, and He would not have had it any other way.

Reprinted with permission from Stepping Stones, a newsletter for infertile couples published by Bethany Christian Service. For more information go to www.ssministry.net.

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: Brittney@mend.org

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. Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death
 P.O. Box 1007, Coppell, TX 75019
 USA
 (972) 506-9000
Return Service Requested

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

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.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.
- **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*.
- **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.