



Heavenly Birthday Traditions

The days and weeks leading up to Jonathan's first heavenly birthday were absolutely agonizing. Having never endured such a day before, I had no idea what to expect. I was so consumed and anxious about how I was going to get through that dreaded Monday that it never occurred to me what we were actually going to "do" that day. As June 24 neared, a handful of people began to mention it to me, but they all admitted they could not remember his actual day—they just remembered that his stillbirth happened around Father's Day the previous year.

At the time, we lived in a neighborhood where many of us were around the same age and were in the process of growing our families. The summer Byron and I lost Jonathan, one of our neighbors who had experienced a neonatal death the year before, gave birth to a preemie who was not expected to live, but miraculously did. When June of 1996 rolled around, our neighborhood friends were torn as to whether they could celebrate the first birthday of this special little girl, yet at the same time be sensitive to our remembering Jonathan's first heavenly birthday. The problem was, no one could remember the exact day Jonathan died—was it the same day as the miracle baby's birthday?

Hearing through the grapevine that they wanted to know, but were too uncomfortable to ask, I came up with an idea. I asked my sister, Rachael, to see if she could have a sign made for me to place in our front yard on Jonathan's birthday. Happy to have a mission to accomplish for Jonathan, she got right on it and was able to have a metal sign created, much like a "house for sale" sign, that read:

*"In Loving Memory of our baby
Jonathan Daniel Mitchell
June 24, 1995
...Until We Meet Again"*

Admittedly, I was very timid about Byron placing the sign in our front yard the night before Jonathan's first birthday. What if everyone thought we were crazy, weird or worse—what if someone asked us to remove it? All day

long I found myself peeking out the window to see if anyone was slowing down to read it, or maybe even stopped in front of it while on a walk. Later in the day we left the house to go to the cemetery, and when we came home that night, we found a handful of cards that some of our neighbors had left in our mailbox. In addition to their kind words of comfort, every one of them thanked us for the sign because it gave them the opportunity to let us know they were thinking of us and remembering our sweet baby boy.

We have kept the tradition of putting out our sign on his birthday for the past 16 years, even when we moved into a new neighborhood. We place the sign in front of the Magnolia tree that is also in his memory. Our first Magnolia tree was gifted to us by some close friends shortly after Jonathan's stillbirth. Nine years later we moved. I could not bear the thought of leaving his tree behind, so I had it professionally transplanted into our new yard. I was warned the tree may not make it, and unfortunately it did not. So, we had to replace it with another Magnolia. Sadly, that one did not survive either, so we purchased yet another one that today remains healthy and always produces its first blooms around Mother's Day.

Every year in addition to putting out our sign on Jonathan's birthday, Byron, Byron, Jr. and I go to the cemetery and put a "Happy Birthday" balloon and flowers on his grave. Extended family members joined us the first year, but now it is usually just the three of us. And, traditionally, my sister Rachael brings over a homemade dessert and a thoughtful gift with a theme attached. This past year it was seashells. Seashells represent a legacy that basically means, "I was here."



Continued on page 3...

Nota Español: El artículo de Rebekah Mitchell aparece en cada emisión de nuestro boletín para la audiencia latina.
Para ver el artículo de este mes en español, por favor vea la pagina numero 12.

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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Birthday Comforts

Dear Readers,

The topic of this newsletter is “Heavenly Birthday Traditions.” Developing a way to honor our babies can be one of the hardest decisions to face since we want our heavenly birthdays to be special and meaningful. Even I have faced this battle and have yet to develop a way to celebrate my little Serenity.

As I asked for people to share their stories of how they honor their babies, I was overwhelmed to see all that were sent, and blessed to read all of the traditions or thoughts for traditions for the future. To hear their joy, their tears, their passion, their suffering and their journeys was such a blessing to me, as I hope it will be to you. We hope you find some comfort and possibly some ideas to cherish and honor your babies.

♥ Jennifer Harrison, *M.E.N.D. Newsletter Editor*
Mommy to Serenity
 M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

Book Review

Asleep in Heaven's Nursery

By Tommy Mann

www.tommymannministries.com

Asleep in Heaven's Nursery is a small book written by the father of three babies in heaven. Tommy and his wife, Alicia, discovered they were expecting their first baby just weeks before Tommy graduated from seminary. Shortly after graduation, they miscarried. In the midst of moving back to their home state of Florida, Alicia experienced some complications and had to find a new team of doctors to help with the completion of the loss. She was then diagnosed with a septated uterus, as well as a kidney disease. The Manns quickly became pregnant two more times, only to lose those little babies as well. Their fourth pregnancy ultimately led to the birth of their daughter, Reagan.

In addition to sharing his side as a father of losing three babies, as a minister, he also addresses spiritual questions couples commonly ask following a loss such as: “am I being punished for a sin I committed?”, “is my baby in heaven?”, and “when does life become a life?” The book concludes with four of the Manns friends sharing their stories of loss.

♥ Review by Rebekah Mitchell, *M.E.N.D. President/Founder*

M.E.N.D. has a complete list of books, websites, 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

Jennifer Harrison at jennifer@mend.org.

*"Heavenly Birthday Traditions"**Continued from page 1...*

Not every June 24 is exactly the same for the Mitchells, but we do try to continue the traditions and customs we began on Jonathan's first birthday 15 years ago. My husband does not take off from work as many do on their baby's heavenly birthday, and we do not always spend the entire day together as a family as many families do. However, like a lot of families, I tend to not answer the phone on that day, but I usually will respond to email and texts.

I have learned through hearing the traditions of fellow M.E.N.D. families that everyone gets through the day in their own way. You just have to decide what works best for you, what you are the most comfortable doing—or *not doing*—and not be afraid of what others may think. For those of you approaching your baby's first heavenly birthday and feeling anxious over what to do, I hope this issue gives you some ideas and traditions you can begin and continue for many years.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell, M.E.N.D. President/Founder
Mommy to Jonathan Daniel and Baby Mitchell*



The Heart Behind the Leader

Many of us hear the stories behind our leaders of our chapters at our M.E.N.D. meetings and other activities, but we do not always hear the stories of leaders of other chapters. Each issue, a chapter leader will share a short biography so readers can learn about the passion that drives us on our M.E.N.D. journey.

My name is Monica Davis and I am the director of M.E.N.D.—Texarkana. My husband, Shawn, and I lost twin boys, Joshua and Caleb, on April 14, 2000. This was my first pregnancy, and we were both devastated and our world was turned upside down. Little did we know, I would never be able to get pregnant again. During this time, God constantly reminded me of Jeremiah 29:11 and His plans for me. God has blessed our family through adoption, and we now have two beautiful children, Landon and Kylie.

For years after I lost my twins, I felt a constant tugging at my heart that I needed to share my story with others of how God was faithful during this time of infertility and loss, and through our amazing adventure of adoption. I was first introduced to M.E.N.D. by Kari Westbrook who started our local chapter, and I knew I had to be a part of this special ministry. However, I did not know that God's plan would be for me to eventually lead M.E.N.D.—Texarkana. I pray that God would continue to help us to encourage and reach other families in the Texarkana area. If you would like more information, please contact us through Facebook our group is M.E.N.D.—Texarkana, email monica@mend.org, or 903-490-1210.

♥ *Monica Davis, M.E.N.D.—Texarkana Director
Mommy to Joshua and Caleb*

November/December Topic

Holidays

Deadline: September 30, 2011

January/February Topic

Creating a Legacy for Your Child—

Don't Waste Your Grief

Deadline: November 30, 2011

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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Birthday Tributes

Happy 2nd Birthday, Kaiya!

We miss you so much baby girl, but I know that you are your sister's personal guardian angel.

Love you, Kaiya
"Gone but never forgotten"

Kaiya Dawn Johnson
October 23, 2009
Premature Birth
Mommy: LaRhesa Johnson
Sister: Kaidyn Jamiel



Happy 1st Birthday, Greyson!

Mommy and daddy love and miss you so much. Happy birthday, baby! Today was and is the best day of our lives. Loved you yesterday, love you still, always have, always will. We cannot wait to see the home you are building us in heaven.

Greyson Stephen Leib
October 6 – November 16, 2010
Unknown cause
Parents: Heather Hawpe and Wesley Leib



Happy 1st Birthday, Skylar!

We love both of our angels and cannot wait to see them again one day!

Skylar Regmi
September 1, 2010
Unknown cause
Also remembering: Samira SueAnn Regmi
March 13, 2011
Unknown cause—water broke early
Parents: Sara and Santosh Regmi



Happy 2nd Birthday, Baby Lambson!

Mommy and Daddy love you so much. My heart is broken without you. I remember being so excited that you were on your way. Within a week of knowing you were coming, I went clothes shopping for you. It broke my heart for months after seeing your little body on the ultrasound. It still hurts to this day. I love you so much and happy birthday.

Love you with all my heart,
Mommy and Daddy

Baby Lambson
Miscarried September 3, 2009
Also remembering:
Baby 2 Lambson
Miscarried
Parents: Jessica Lambson and Andrew Sullivan



Happy 11th Birthday, Ethan!

In memory of our grandson,
always and forever in our hearts.

Ethan Lloyd Gereke
October 23, 2000
Stillborn due to Group B Strep
Parents: Wendy and John Gereke
Siblings: Matthew, Will and Celeste
Grandparents: Lloyd and Sandy Hoffman



Happy 1st Birthday, William Charles!

"A moment in our arms...
a lifetime in our hearts"
Love you forever,
Mommy, Daddy and Krystal

William Charles Dillard
October 19, 2010
RH—Complications
Parents: Amanda Neer and Chris Dillard
Sister: Krystal Dillard



Happy 1st Birthday, Ayden!

Mommy and Daddy love you, little man.

Ayden Michael Penley
October 7-31, 2010
Intestinal Pan Necrosis
Parents: Jamie Penley and Michael Lackey



Happy 5th Birthday, Madison!

We will always love you! You're our little angel!
Love always,
Your family!

Madison Rayne Atkins
August 14-15, 2006
Premature
Parents: Vanessa Atkins and Heath Stuart
Siblings: Ashlea, Kayleighanne, Harley,
Jamie and Alizabeth



Happy 2nd Birthday, Nathanyel!

We got to meet our angel from heaven! We all miss you! Look over us!

The Saturday I held his hands I did not think it would be the last time. My son, Nathanyel David, passed away when he was 6-months and 28-days-old. I can still remember his hands, how they felt.

His hands were so little when he was born they could fit in my hand five times. The long slender fingers wrapped around mine so tightly. When his brother and sisters came in, I saw their hands and they looked so big and chunky. I can still remember looking at my then 2-year-old daughter's hands and (like a blind person regaining his or her sight) rubbing, caressing and placing my children's hands side by side in comparison.

As Nathanyel grew so did his hands. They were not slender any longer and neither was he. He gained a lot of weight and his hands got plumper and stronger. Now when he would grab my finger for a long time without letting go the tip of my finger would turn purple. Nathanyel would grab onto the dog's ears and the dog would start wincing because he was unable to escape Nathanyel's grip. His hands would always be covered with smashed beans after he would eat. Nathanyel would also grab my ring that would hang on my necklace when I would hold him.

I do not quite recall the Saturday on which I held his hands last; but I do remember that his hands were warm and plump. I do recall the feel and strength of his hands before he vanished from my eyes. I remember holding his hand at the funeral home. His hands were soft and cold. They felt as if I was holding an egg I just got out of the refrigerator. I held his hands so gently, yet wanting to squeeze his hands so tightly. I was waiting to feel the power of his grip once again. I got to place his cross around his hands before he was lowered into his eternal bed. His nails were so small and so pink; his little knuckles were wrinkled and fat.

I cannot express how much I want to feel his little, strong, fat fingers grab tight to my own again. The only trace of Nathanyel's hands is the black ink on a sheet of paper in my drawer along with his foot imprint. This is the hand print that I will cherish for the rest of my life!

Nathanyel David Sanchez

February 23 – September 20, 2009

Suffocation due to compression of nose and mouth in bed

Parents: Juan and Soibon Sanchez

Siblings: Marilou, Abigail, Juan Jr., and Tatiana



Happy 1st Birthday, Jason!

To our son Jason,

We may not have gotten the chance to meet you, but we do love you. You are and always will be our firstborn son. Your big sister misses you and loves you very much. She prays and talks to you all the time. She hopes you are looking down on us from heaven and taking care of her and us. We miss you and love you baby boy!

Love always,

Your mommy, daddy and big sister

Jason Samuel Luna

October 8, 2010

Cord accident

Parents: Domingo and Angela Luna

Sister: Arianna



Happy 1st Birthday, Cameron!

Not a day goes by that I don't wish to hold you in my arms and to see the little girl you would have become. I miss you terribly!

Cameron Nicole Walker

October 12, 2010

Chorio (PROM)

Mommy: Kristin Walker

Grandmother: Kelli Walker



Happy 9th Birthday, Savannah and Damian!

I love you my sweet little angels. Mommy misses you. Not a day goes by without you being on my mind. One day, Mommy will hold you both in her arms and never let you go. But until then, sleep well in Jesus' arms.

Love Always,

Mommy

Savannah Rose Oxley-Campbell

Damian James Oxley-Campbell

Miscarried October 28, 2002

Parents: Jamie Oxley and Kevin Campbell



Happy 1st Birthday, Trinity!

Happy first birthday our sweet, sweet angel. It has been a year and we still miss you just like the day you were born into heaven. Trinity, you are our in hearts and we hope you have a great first birthday in heaven...like the song says, "I hope you dance." Our sweet angel, girl of our dreams, what a joyful day that will be when we meet again. Happy first birthday!

Trinity MarLynn King

Stillborn August 10, 2010

Unknown

Parents: Marlin and LaVonda King



Happy 3rd Birthday, Daniel!

Three years ago our hearts were shattered when we heard the words, "he didn't make it." We held you in our arms and covered your beautiful face with kisses. You are forever in our hearts and always on our minds. Until we hold you in our arms again, we send tons of hugs and kisses to heaven. We love and miss you so much each and every day.

Daniel Nicholas Woodard
August 31, 2008
Premature birth

Parent: Joe and Danette Woodard
Sister: Kristina, David, Nicole and Douglas

**Happy 1st Birthday, Carley!**

We loved you from the first moment we knew about you. That never changed even though we knew we wouldn't get to keep you. We are blessed that we got to carry you and love you for 32 weeks. It was worth every minute. Now God has made you perfect, and you are so happy. Your death will not be in vain.

You have an amazing purpose. I pray that it will be fulfilled. We love you every minute of every day.

Carley Grace Carnahan
October 16, 2010
Amniotic Band Syndrome
Parents: Craig and Lori Carnahan

**Happy 6th Birthday, Aidan!**

Aidan was a precious gift
 To love, to hold, to treasure,
 A very special miracle
 Who gave me so much pleasure.
 But when that gift was taken back
 And my heart became cold and torn,
 Amid this grief and sorrow
 I was so glad he was born.
 Aidan left a precious legacy
 Even though we are apart,
 The love he left behind
 Will stay forever in my heart.

Love,
 Mommy

Aidan Shaw Vander Cruyssen
October 2 – December 3, 2005
PKD
Parent: Shane Meyer
Sibling: Cameron Shaw

**Happy 1st Birthday, Zeke!**

Sweet Baby Z. We miss you more than ever. We know you are having a huge party with Nana and Grandpa, but we so wish we could have brought you home. We can't wait until we get to hold you in our arms and kiss your sweet face. Daddy, Rizzo and I love you so much! Happy heavenly birthday!

Zeke Wittman
Miscarried September 1, 2010
Parents: T.W. and Kristen Wittman

**Happy 1st Birthday, Cambri!**

We can't believe it's been a year. You are missed as much today as you were the day you left us. Happy birthday baby girl, Cambri Jade! We love you. Kisses and hugs to you in heaven! Enjoy your heavenly birthday party! Love ya whole bunches!

Cambri Jade Jenkins
September 8, 2010
Placenta abruption
Parents: Jeff and April Jenkins
Sister: Clara Paige

**Happy 1st Birthday, Emily!**

Our sweet angel, there isn't a day that goes by where we don't see your sweet face, remember your sweet smell and hear your sweet cry, but we know you will be looking down on us forever. We love and miss you dearly.

Mommy and Daddy

Emily Rose Ford
September 28 – October 10, 2010
Myocarditis/Infection
Parents: Barry and Lindsay Ford
Sister: Hailey Ford

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Chloe!**

We love you both, and will always think about and cherish your memories! Not a day goes by...and never will! I can't wait for the day when we get to hold you both in our arms once again!

Chloe Ann Graham
September 26, 2008
Incompetent cervix
Also remembering:
Devon Christopher Graham
Blood clot
June 29, 2001
Parents: Ty and Kelly Graham



Happy 11th Birthday, Jaysen!

To my precious baby boy who was taken from me too soon and so violently!

Mommy loves you, Jaysen!

Jaysen Frederic DenHartog
Miscarried October 15, 2000
Mommy: Jennifer DenHartog

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Rylan Elizabeth!**

We wish we could celebrate your birthday with you and give you a big birthday hug and kiss! We hope you have a wonderful celebration with Jesus. The day you came into this world changed our lives and hearts forever. We are grateful for your life and all that you have taught us during the past three years. Happy birthday, sweet girl! We miss you and love you always!

Rylan Elizabeth Slate
October 17 – 20, 2008
Unknown cause
Parents: Daniel and Kristah Slate
Siblings: Camden, Everett, Anna Claire and Owen

**Happy 1st Birthday, Michael and Jake!**

Happy heavenly 1st birthday, my sweet little boys. We would have loved to have seen your faces when your big sister sang “Happy Birthday” and helped you blow out your candles this year! But we know that you are having a very special time in heaven, and we are thankful that one day we will see your faces. Your short lives have impacted so many people, and we pray that even while you live in heaven, your lives will continue to impact more!

Allie loves to kiss “her brothers” goodnight and she knows that she will see you in heaven one day!

We are also glad that you are united with your triplet again, and we love each one of you and long for the day we get to see you.

“The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.” Job 1:21

We love you so much,

Mommy, Daddy, and Big Sister Allie Keegan

Michael David Klubnik
Jake Thomas Klubnik
September 7, 2010
Infection and Preterm Labor
Also remembering:
Baby Klubnik (one of the triplets)
Miscarriage June 2010
Parents: Tiffany and Jon Klubnik
Sibling: Allie Keegan

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Jude!**

To my little angel, I just want to tell you how happy I am that you are in a wonderful place and now your brother Luke is united with you in heaven.

Daddy and I can't wait to reunite with both of you. We love you and miss you so much.

Jude Hope Johnson
Miscarried October 30, 2009
Also remembering:
Luke Noe Johnson
July 26, 2010
Preterm labor
Parents: James and Merle Johnson

**Happy 1st Birthday, Ryan!**

We love and miss you, Little Buddy.

Ryan Cole Fulks
September 3, 2010
Cord accident
Parents: Erich and Elaina Fulks
Siblings: Kylie and Taylor Fulks

**Happy 9th Birthday, Laiken!**

Our sweet little Laiken,

It is hard to believe how quickly nine years have gone by. It seems like only yesterday we were eagerly awaiting your arrival, assuming you would complete our little family. We were so thrilled! Little did we know that God had bigger plans for you. We had to say hello and goodbye to you all in one breath. You have taught our family so much—to love beyond measure and to never take a single second for granted. Someday, our little family will be complete—when we are all reunited in heaven. Until then, watch over us and know we are loving you always. Happy ninth heavenly birthday, Baby Girl! You are always in our hearts.

Love,

Mommy, Daddy, Arianna, Jarod, Gavin and Alyvia

Laiken Riley Madison Kale
September 15, 2002
HELLP Syndrome, Antiphospholipid syndrome,
severe prematurity
Parents: Rick and Alysha Kale
Siblings: Arianna, Jarod, Gavin and Alyvia



Happy 5th Birthday, Samuel!

We can hardly believe it has been five years since we held you in our arms. Five years since we kissed your precious face. We miss you so much! It always feels like something is missing without you here. Your baby sister turned 1 this year and your brother turned 3. Landon talks about you and really wants to get you a “James” train for your birthday. I wonder if you would have liked trains as much as your brother does! Can’t wait to see you again one day when we join you in the beautiful home that the Lord has prepared for us all. Love you sweet boy!

Samuel James Nienhuis
Stillborn October 14, 2006
Factor V-Leiden and MTHFR
Parents: Seth and Marcie Nienhuis
Siblings: Landon and Olivia

**Happy 4th Birthday, Jayden B!**

My Angel, time has really flown by. This would be your first year of pre-school and I can only imagine what a joy that would have been to watch you on your first day. I have a surprise for you just in time for Christmas. I love you and miss you so much. Rest in peace, my Princess.

Jayden B Jenkins
September 25, 2007
Toxemia
Mommy: Shanae Jenkins

**Happy 1st Birthday, Isaiah!**

We love you and miss you! Even though you lived only about 36 hours, we still miss you.

Jesus took a tiny rosebud and planted him in the garden above.

We love you!
 Mommy, Daddy, and big brother Danny

Isaiah Niekoley
October 28 – 29, 2010
Triploidy
Parents: George and Esther Niekoley
Brother: Danny

**Happy 1st Birthday, Ainslee!**

Happy first birthday my sweet Ainslee girl. You are missed and loved more and more every day.

Ainslee Ryan Soppe
October 29 – February 8, 2011
SIDS
Parents: Travis and Channan Soppe
Sibling: Adrian

**Happy 13th Birthday, Jackson!**

It is so difficult to imagine that you would be 13 years old and a teenager this year. We remember and love you always. We cling to the promise that we will all be reunited in heaven some day.

Love,
 Mommy and Daddy, Hannah and Andy

Jackson David Crowe
August 22 – September 9, 1998
Congenital heart defect
Parents: David and Marie Crowe
Siblings: Hannah and Andy

**Happy 1st Birthday, Wyatt!**

We think about you every day and cannot believe that a year has passed already. We look forward to seeing you again one day, and know that you are watching down on us until then.

Love,
 Mommy, Daddy, Jacob and baby sister

Wyatt Paul Schroeder
October 14, 2010
Placental abruption
Parents: Justin and Ashlea Schroeder
Siblings: Jacob and baby sister due October 20, 2011

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Joey!**

Joey, you are already a little 2-year-old toddler! We missed out on watching you grow, but I know Jesus must have taught you to walk and talk. I hope there is a yummy birthday cake in heaven for you, and you will also have one here too. Take care of your little brother or sister. Mommy and Daddy miss you so much and talk about you often—what you would say, what you would do to make us laugh, and how you would play with doggie Angel. Love you, Princess!

Josephine Ann Lee
Stillborn October 9, 2009
PROM
Also remembering:
Baby Juno Lee
Miscarried November 2010
Parents: John and Patty Lee



Happy 2nd Birthday, Lamon!

You never said I'm leaving.
 You never said good-bye.
 You were gone before I knew it,
 And only God knew why
 A million times I needed you.
 A million times I cried.
 If love alone could have saved you,
 You never would have died.
 In life I loved you dearly.
 In death I love you still.
 In my heart you hold a place,
 That no one could ever fill
 It broke my heart to lose you,
 But you didn't go alone.
 For a part of me went with you,
 The day God took you home.

William "Lamon" Thompson
October 7, 2008-January 23, 2009
SIDS
Parents: Vidal and Andrea Thompson
Sister: Kristina Davis

**Happy 4th Birthday, Ethan!**

You are missed and loved by all of us. You are a part of our daily thoughts and always in our prayers.

Ethan Kane Spurrier
September 5, 2007
Cord accident
Parents: Bruce and Sandra Spurrier
Siblings: Thomas and Jakob

**Happy 7th Birthday, Mattie Bell!**

To our little Ladybug,
 It's hard to believe you would be 7 years old. We think and talk about you every day. Your little brother, Eli, loves to tell everyone about his big sister that lives in heaven. Your daddy and I look forward to the day we get to be with you and not have to say goodbye. Until then tell Pap we love him and spread your wings and fly, baby girl!

We Love You Forever,
 Mommy, Daddy and little brother Eli

Mattie Bell Horton
Stillborn October 30, 2004
Pentalogy of Cantrell
Parents: D'Ray and Mandy Horton
Brother: Eli

**Happy 1st Birthday, Drayven!**

My sweet baby boy,

There is a hole in my life that will never heal. I never wanted an angel. I wanted you here in my arms...in my life. I was not given that choice.

Holding your tiny body was a miracle enveloped in sorrow. You were perfectly formed. I was in awe! I will never forget your intricate details!

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since you opened your eyes in the arms of Jesus! Oh, how I wish you were here!

I will never understand why! I have learned more in this year than I ever wanted to know! I miss you...We all do! We talk about you all the time! We love you and look forward to seeing you again! I love you! You are always in my heart and on my mind!

Happy Angelversary!

Drayven McGuire Hall
September 25, 2010
Miscarried at 17.5 weeks
Parents: Les and Mandy Hall
Siblings: Moraviah, Anikan, Savannah, Tolkien, Josiah and baby Thatcher (due September 2011)

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Blaise!**

Three years have passed since we said goodbye to Blaise. We will always remember how this little baby impacted our lives in such a positive way. While it has been difficult to let him go he is loved and remembered as part of our family.

Blaise Edgar Isbell
August 22, 2008
PROM
Parents: Brian and Michele Isbell
Siblings: Kayla, Zelan and Indie Re'

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Sereana!**

Dear Sereana,

Happy birthday! Your little sister would just love to be at your birthday. She's here with us now, but looks up to you in so many ways. We all do. Mommy is celebrating you in her heart. I love you so much, my firstborn baby daughter. I'm still so proud that you are the bright, beautiful one that made me a mother. Have another very, very happy birthday and year, Sereana Joy. We love you so much.

BOYH,
 Daddy, Mommy and Noela

Sereana Joy Ratulele
September 9, 2009
Full-term stillbirth—unknown cause
Parents: Semi and Laura Ratulele
Sister: Noela Esiteri



Happy 5th Birthday, Rachel!

We hope you are having a heavenly birthday
Filled with loved ones that are already there.
We hope you are smiling and happy and celebrating
Like you would be if you were here.

We really thought time might ease the pain
But it still hurts every day and we still shed a tear
When we realize the hole
that was left when you were taken
And to want you and miss you and need you near.

Sometimes the only thing that keeps us going is to know
That when this race we are running on earth is through
We'll be rushing to the heavens as fast as we can
To kiss, and to hold, and to be with you!

Love and miss you always and forever,
Daddy, Mommy and big brothers Jake and Shane

Rachel Stephanie Blaney
December 6, 2006
Blunt force trauma due to car accident
Parents: Sam and Lori Beth Blaney
Brothers: Jake and Shane

**Happy 6th Birthday, Rylee!**

Happy birthday, baby girl! I can't believe you are 6 years old. This school year was hard for me. I was buying school supplies for your brothers and passed by the backpacks. I should be buying you a backpack this year for kindergarten. I wonder if you would love pink and girly things or with two big brothers would you choose a superhero? I miss you every day!

Love you always and forever!

Rylee Lynn Crye
Stillborn October 31, 2005
Also remembering:
Baby Crye #1
Miscarried March 21, 1994
Baby Crye #2
Miscarried January 14, 1997
Parents: Gene and Randi Crye
Siblings: Jared and Hunter

**Happy 9th Birthday, Logan!**

Happy 9th birthday sweet boy! Your mom, dad, brothers and whole family miss you so very much! We will never forget you and we can't wait to see you again.

We love you!

Logan Wayne Fish
September 17, 2002
Thanataphoric Dwarfism
Parents: David and Brittney Fish
Brothers: Landry and Hudson

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Olivia!**

Dear Olivia,

Has it really been two years since you made your too brief appearance? We miss you now as much as ever as we think of all the milestones you would be reaching and how excited you would be to have a baby brother. I know you will have a fantastic birthday party in heaven with all of your friends. We love you and miss you so much. Happy birthday angel baby.

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

Olivia Caetlyn Brooks
September 28, 2009
Prematurity/HELLP/IUGR
Parents: Angie and Joe Brooks
Little Brother: Lucas

**Happy 1st Birthday, Ava!**

During the 47 days we spent together you taught our family more about love, faith, courage and hope than we ever knew before. You laced up your pink boxing gloves, fought and overcame so many obstacles. You captured the hearts of everyone and made us proud of your valiant CDH journey. God needed a beautiful angel, Ava, and His plan was for you to be our guardian in heaven. Happy first birthday, fly high and breathe easy.

As you danced in the light with joy, love lifted you.
As you brushed against this world so gently, you lifted us.

Forever in our hearts,
Mommy, Daddy and Team AVA.

Ava Elaine Dickerson
October 22 – December 7, 2010
Diaphragmatic Hernia
Parents: Todd and Jennifer Dickerson
Brother: Jason

**Happy 8th Birthday, Madelise!**

I often think about the things that you could be doing right now if you were here, would you love dance or do gymnastics? I know that you are fulfilling all of your dreams in heaven with Jesus. We love you and happy eighth birthday.

Love,
Daddy, Mommy, Gavin, and Garrett

Madelise Anne Mitchell
August 3, 2003
Group B Strep Infection with Birth Defects
Parents: Zachary and Rachel Mitchell
Brothers: Gavin and Garrett



Happy 2nd Birthday, Sweet Baby Rylie!

Little I knew that morning,
God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you.
You did not go alone,
For part of me went with you,
The day God called you home.

You left us beautiful memories
Your love is still our guide.
And though we cannot see you,
You are always by our side.

Our family chain is broken,
and nothing seems the same.
But as God calls us one by one
The chain will link again.

We love and miss you dearly each and every day.
There is not a day that passes where you are not in our
thoughts and prayers.

I look forward to the day where we meet at the gate and
run through the field of wildflowers together.

Love you so much!
Mommy, Daddy,
Big Sister Lauren and Little Sister Faith.

Rylie Ranae Rowan
October 23, 2009
Factor V-Leiden and MTHFR
Parents: Troy and Nichole Rowan
Sisters: Lauren Ashlie and Faith Michelle

**Happy 1st Birthday, Jedidiah!**

Missing our sweet little man!

Jedidiah Adam Moffett
September 16-21, 2010
Blood Loss
Parents: Jon and Amy Moffett
Sisters: Brittany, Jonathan, Victoria, Annie, Allie and Amanda

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Emma!**

Happy Birthday to our sweet little girl! Only three short
years ago we were holding you in our arms begging for
more time. Now we hold you in our hearts forever and ever.
Not a moment goes by that we aren't thinking of you. Hold
tight to your big sister and watch over your little brother
Wyatt as we tell him all about you and Gracie.

We love you with all our hearts, more than you know,
forever and ever.

Daddy, Momma and Wyatt

Emma Grace Dorr
October 16, 2008
Prematurity due to incompetent cervix
Also remembering:
Gracie Renee Dorr
March 15, 2007
Prematurity due to incompetent cervix
Parents: Dustin and Janine Dorr
Sisters: Wyatt Dorr

**Happy 8th Birthday, David!**

Precious David,

As your birthday approaches, we've had your cousins
here visiting us. Colin is so close to your age and seeing
him with your little brother makes me think about how
much we are missing out on. But I know you are lacking
absolutely nothing. You've never known anything but
comfort and complete joy. And how can I not be so
thankful for that? I rest in my knowledge of the character of
God, my sweet boy. I know He is good. And I anxiously
await eternity in His presence with you and your little
siblings. Give them hugs and kisses, and know we love you
all and miss you so very much. Happy eighth birthday, my
beautiful firstborn miracle. We love you with all our hearts!

Mommy, Daddy, and C.J.

David Atkins Stephens
October 23, 2003
MTHFR Gene Mutation and Omphalocele
Also Remembering:
Baby Stephens I
June 30, 2008
Ectopic pregnancy
Baby Stephens II
January 2009
MTHFR Gene Mutation
Baby Stephens III
February 15, 2010
Ectopic pregnancy
Parents: Rob and Melissa Stephens
Brother: C.J.



Tradiciones de Cumpleaños Celestiales

Los días y semanas antes del primer cumpleaños de Jonathan fueron absolutamente agonizantes. Nunca antes había vivido un día como ese, no tenía idea que esperar. Estaba consumida y ansiosa de como iba a poder superar ese Lunes que nunca le puse atención a que era exactamente lo que íbamos “hacer”. Mientras el 24 de Junio se acercaba, un grupo pequeño de personas mencionaron pero nunca realmente me admitieron que no podían recordar el día exacto- solo se acordaban que nació con vida alrededor del día del padre del año anterior.

En ese tiempo vivíamos en un vecindario donde muchos de nosotros teníamos la misma edad o nos llevábamos por poco, y muchos de nosotros estábamos en el proceso de empezar nuestras familias. El verano que Byron y yo perdimos a Jonathan una de nuestras vecinas que había experimentado muerte neonatal el año anterior, dio a luz a un bebé prematuro y no le daban muchas esperanzas de vida, sin embargo con un milagro la pequeña sobrevivió. Cuando Junio del de 1996 llego nuestros vecinos no sabían como celebrar el primer cumpleaños de esta niña y al mismo tiempo permanecer sensibles al recuerdo de el primer cumpleaños celestial de nuestro Jonathan. El problema es que nadie realmente se acordaba del día exacto en que murió Joathan.

¿Acaso era el mismo día en que este pequeño milagrito estaba de cumpleaños?

Escuche por ahí que gente quería saber, pero no se sentían cómodos preguntando. Se me ocurrió una idea de como traerle recuerdo a mi bebé, le pedí a mi hermana Rachael si podía hacer un cartel para poner delante de mi casa el día del cumpleaños de Jonathan. Feliz ella de ayudarme hizo un cartel parecido a los que uno pone cuando la casa esta en venta, y el cartel decía:

“ Recordando con amor a nuestro bebé
Jonathan Daniel Mitchel” 24 de Junio, 1995
Hasta que nos reencontremos.

Admito sentía timidez la noche anterior cuando Byron puso ese cartel al frente de nuestra casa. ¿Que pasa si la gente piensa que estamos locos, que somos extraños, o aun peor, nos pida que lo saquemos? Todo ese día me encontré mirando por la ventana para ver si gente se detenía a mirar el cartel. Luego ese día salimos de la casa para ir al cementerio y cuando volvimos esa noche encontramos muchas

tarjetas que nuestros vecinos nos dejaron en el correo. No solo entramos palabras de consuelo, sino que cada uno de ellos nos agradeció el cartel, este le dio la oportunidad de decirnos que lo sentían y de recordar a nuestro dulce bebé.

Hemos mantenido la tradición de poner el cartel delante de nuestra casa frente del árbol de magnolia que plantamos en memoria de Jonathan. Aunque ya no vivimos en esa misma casa aun mantenemos la tradición de poner el cartel. Nuestro primer árbol de magnolia fue un regalo de un vecino poco después del fallecimiento de Jonathan 9 años después nos cambiamos de casa, yo no podía soportar el hecho de dejar este árbol atrás de modo que lo hice sacar y lo lleve hasta nuestra nueva casa. Me advirtieron que era posible que el árbol no sobreviviría y desafortunadamente no sobrevivió. Lo reemplazamos con otro que tampoco sobrevivió, así que compramos otro que sigue sano y siempre florece cerca del día de la madre.

Cada año para el cumpleaños celestial de Jonathan aparte de poner el cartel mi esposo Byron, nuestro hijo Byron Jr, y yo vamos al cementerio y llevamos globos y flores. El primer año miembros de nuestra familia nos acompañaron pero ahora vamos solo los tres. Rachael mi hermana nos trae un postre y un regalo, el año pasado no trajo conchas de mar. Conchas de mar representan un legado que significa yo estuve aquí.

No todos los Junios son iguales para los Mitchells, pero si tratamos de continuar con la tradición y costumbres que empezamos hace 15 años para el cumpleaños de Jonathan. Mi marido no pide ese día libre como muchos lo hacen, y no siempre pasamos todo el día juntos como otras familias lo hacen. Sin embargo si como otros lo hacen no contesto el teléfono, generalmente si respondo a e-mails o textos.

He aprendido tras escuchar las tradiciones de otras familias que todos sobrepasas ese día en su propia manera. Tu tienes que decidir que funciona mejor para ti. Tu tienes que decidir que te es mas cómodo hacer o no hacer, y no tengas temor de lo que piensen o digan otros. Y para los de ustedes que se le acerca el primer cumpleaños celestial de su bebé y se sienten ansioso sobre que hacer, espero que esto les haya ayudado, o dado ideas y tradiciones que puedan empezar y continuar pro años.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell, Presidente y Fundadora
Mamá de Jonathan Daniel y Mitchell bebé Mitchell*

Celebrating with...

The first year after AJ died, all I could focus on was surviving the “firsts” that we were missing. The first bath, the first month’s pictures, the first solid food, the first crawl and the curiosity of when his first steps would have been. Oh yeah—and his first birthday! I often wondered if I would even make it to his first birthday through all the sadness and tears. Somehow—only by the grace of God and the love of friends and family—we did make it through the first year and were even able to find a little bit of joy along the way.

For AJ’s first birthday, we took a short family trip to Sea World. We created our first tradition by wearing our M.E.N.D. T-shirts around the park. Oh how I longed for people to ask me about our shirts so I could share with them our sweet baby boy’s story. Upon our return home, on his actual birthday, family and close friends came over for dinner and we had a Baby Blue balloon release in our front yard as we sang “Happy Birthday.” This year we celebrated with fear, sadness and pain.

The second year, wearing our M.E.N.D. T-shirts, we spent the day as a family at the zoo followed by a family dinner, balloon release and tear-filled rendition of “Happy Birthday” in our front yard. This year had a much different focus as we were expecting AJ’s little brother just weeks after his birthday. This year we celebrated with hope.

The third year, my focus was much different still. We wore our M.E.N.D. T-shirts, of course, and played at the park and enjoyed a low key day; however, my heart ached with helplessness. Before our annual family celebration and balloon release, I decided that I needed to do something for others and stop focusing so much on me. I decided to donate blood in AJ’s memory so that maybe someone else in the world would not have to endure the pain of losing their child. This year we celebrated with selflessness.

This past year for his fourth birthday, we did the family and friends celebration, wore our M.E.N.D. T-shirts, and released our balloons. I donated blood again, this time taking Eli so he could learn the importance of giving to others. This was the year that reality finally sunk in that “this” is our life, and while not our plan, we are the proud parents of three boys! This year we celebrated our blessings!

Besides our traditions of wearing our M.E.N.D. T-shirts, family/friend dinners and balloon releases, our tradition includes looking outside of who we are and focusing on what God is asking of us through the life and death of our son. God granted us the privilege of seeing his perfection in the stillness of the world the night AJ was born. It is our tradition to stop each year, be thankful and celebrate with broken hearts.

♥ *Amber and Al Zuckerman,
Parents to Adrian Joseph “AJ”
M.E.N.D.—Dallas*

New Traditions

This is our first year to establish new traditions. I want to do so many things. We have created a checking account that we contribute to anytime we want to remember Caelan on special days. We plan to use this money in the future for a “scholarship” for our children to attend college. We also plan to have some cupcakes, release balloons, write birthday cards to Caelan and write a message that each of us will read at the cemetery.

♥ *Andy and Dana Wallace
Parents to Caelan Matthew
M.E.N.D.—Tulsa*



A Time To Celebrate and Remember

This October will be Aidan's sixth birthday and I have done the same thing every year for his special day. I am fortunate in the fact that the cemetery where he is buried is 15 minutes from my house. I go to the bakery and pick up two cupcakes, grab a candle, balloons (this year I will have six), a Bible, my journal, his scrapbook and a small present to leave for him and then I drive to his grave. One of the cupcakes is for me and the other for Aidan. I light Aidan's candle, sing "Happy Birthday" to him and release the balloons. The remainder of my time is spent remembering my sweet baby boy by looking through his scrapbook, writing in my journal and shedding a few tears. I choose to make this visit alone since this is my time with him and I do not want to feel rushed. I have spent 30 minutes up to 3 hours by his grave depending on how I am feeling that day. On his second birthday, I sent a card out to my family and friends reminding them of Aidan's birthday and included five positive ways he impacted my life. It was a reminder to my loved ones that while I may not speak of Aidan daily, he is always present in my heart. What I have learned about that day is:

- 1) the anticipation is normally worse than the actual event,
- 2) tell people close to you what you want that day (do you want to talk, be left alone, how you want to remember your baby, etc.),
- 3) if you have a tradition then you do not have to stress each year over how you want to spend that day and
- 4) take time for yourself and to remember your precious baby.

This day has gotten easier for me over the years. The first three of Aidan's birthdays were very sad, but since then his day has become more of a celebration of his short but beautiful life. I can now see God's plan and know that His plan is perfect!

♥ *Shane Meyer*
Mommy to Aidan
 M.E.N.D.—Houston

Angel Garden

I am Sara Regmi and my husband, Santosh, and I lost our first child September 1, 2010, at 10 weeks and our second child on March 13, 2011, at 18 weeks. This will be the first birthday. I am not sure how I will react. I have a few things planned in my head. I plan to have a balloon release. We delivered at HEB Hospital, and they have an Angel Garden where we have stones with both our children's name and birth and death dates, so I plan to go there for the balloon release. I have 99 percent of my family in Michigan and would love to have them involved by having balloons released by them as well. I have also made bracelets with blue and pink beads and our children's name that I wear often and have the opportunity to talk to people about them when they ask or comment on the bracelets. I am so thankful for M.E.N.D. and the people that are involved.



♥ *Sara and Santosh Regmi*
Parents to Skylar and Samira SueAnn
 M.E.N.D.—Dallas

Mourning Into Dancing

December 14, 2007, at my 20-week check-up, Dharma Lucille was diagnosed with anencephaly. Anencephaly is a 100% fatal birth defect.

After that, we had 16 weeks to prepare to say goodbye to our precious daughter. Being from the south, I love comfort foods! And knowing Dharma would not have the luxury of eating our wonderful Texas food for herself, I ate it all for her. Every day I drove to SONIC for a chocolate shake, extra long chili cheese coney, a breaded chicken strip wrap with cheese and chili cheese tater tots. Are you having heartburn yet? It was our daily "snack run." I would sit in the car and eat while listening to classic rock and telling her to remember the George Harrison songs because she may get to meet him soon. Dharma was born via scheduled C-section on March 31, 2008, at 36 weeks. She lived for 21 hours and 22 minutes.

Every year for her birthday, my husband and I, our subsequent children, mom, and sometimes close friends, have a little tailgate party for her at the cemetery. The only rule to come is that you have to bring something from SONIC. I also take birthday balloons, princess plates, napkins and birthday cupcakes to my OB/GYN's office and to the St. Luke's Woodland's Labor and Delivery along with cards that remind them how thankful I am for their kindness, understanding and continued support through our special journey. I always sign it "Love, Dharma's Mommy." Throughout the day, I listen to a mixed CD I made for Dharma's Prayer Shower. It has songs on it that I like to call "Dharma's Songs." Examples: Ray Charles "You are My Sunshine," Newsboys "Belly of a Whale," Eric Clapton "Tears in Heaven"... just to name a few.

Doing these things takes me back to our special alone time, sitting in the car, listening to the best of 1968 and watching my belly move to the music.

"Miss you baby girl!" Psalm 30:11-12 "You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever."

♥ *Jennie Drude*

Mommy to Dharma Lucille

M.E.N.D.—*Bryan/College Station Director*

Birthday Balloons for All

It was about a month before my son's birthday when I was trying to come up with an idea on how to celebrate and honor his birthday. One day I was driving by the cemetery and I noticed a bunch of blue balloons around where my son is buried. I quickly turned the car around and went inside the cemetery. Another family had celebrated their baby's first birthday as well. They put one balloon and one party hat for each baby and several balloons on the birthday boy. I broke down crying; I realized this was my son's first birthday

party he was attending. The next month I followed the same idea. My family and I sang him "Happy Birthday" and we went home and gave him a birthday dinner. Each year so far I have taken him and the other babies balloons. How beautiful it looks when I am done.

♥ *Rachel Prado-Wall*

Mommy to Julian

M.E.N.D.—*Dallas*

A Positive Impact

As the one-year anniversary of losing our son Carson approached, my husband and I were being asked from family and friends how they could play a part in remembering him on March 23. Many things were suggested...donations to charities, scholarships, etc. After much thought and prayer, a heavenly answer popped into my head. We asked all of our family and friends to take the money they would have spent and use it to perform an anonymous random act of kindness in his memory! It turned a very emotionally hard time into a time of excitement

hearing all the different stories of the random acts. This tradition has continued each year. It makes our hearts so happy to know that his short life continues to make a positive impact on other families.

♥ *J.J. and Amy Humphries,*

Parents to Carson

M.E.N.D.—*Hot Springs Director*

In Loving Memory



Ellie Barnes

Stillborn February 6, 2011
Unknown cause
Given by parents Gentry and Rebecca Barnes

Hope and Faith Barrientos

July 7, 2010
Premature
Given by parents David and Priscilla Barrientos and big sister Violet

Benjamin Kent Baack

January 10, 2007
Cord accident
Given by parents Kent and Karen Baack

Samuel Adan Contreras

Stillborn November 11, 2010
Cord accident
Given by parents Alfredo and Mercedes Contreras

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Gifts given by:
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump and little sisters Cami and Karli
Grandparents:
Russell and Rosemary Massey

Riley and Parker Davis

November 14, 2006
Prematurity
Given by parents Rob and Cheryl Davis and little sister Annalise

Brooke Sophia Daily

March 11, 2010
Vasa Previa
Given by:
Parents: Jeremy and Lisa Daily and big sister Sarah
Grandparents: John and Carol Eck
Great Grandmother: Jeanette Eck
Great Grandmother: Barbara Daily
Barbara Bonelli
Dale and Rose Jeske
Richard and KrisAtine Randall
Uncle Chris and Aunt Michelle Knobe
Matthew and Eileen Bonelli
Rick and Melissa Bergman
David and Mary Mansfield
Michael and Jennifer Stauth
Edmund and Sandra Rybicki
Zachary and Christine Ruschau
Beverly Muller
Edward and Ann Alyanak
Brian and Allison Bonelli
George and Marcia Brand
Martin and Regina Bowe
Frank and Kristen Ingarra
Brad and Cheri Ozee
Marilyn Ingarra
Scott Daily
Kevin and Jennifer Harris
Luke and Amanda Osborne
The O'Grady and Fletcher Family Foundation Inc.

Baby Dill

Miscarried May 2002

Cooper Dill

May 26, 2003
Twin to Twin transfusion syndrome/
Cord accident
Given by parents Brandee and Jim Dill and siblings Avery, Tate and Paxton (Cooper's twin)

Westin Dobbins

August 8, 2010
Incompetent cervix
Given by parents Randy and Cortney Dobbins
John and Dana Douglas

Caleb Scott Fann

December 1, 2003
PROM

Baby August Fann

Miscarried August 14, 2004
Parents: Jonathan and Heather Fann
Little sister: Madison Grace
Given by: Randall and Ellen Magers

Willis Farmer

June 3 – February 5, 2010
Heart failure
Given by parents Brad and Carrie Farmer and sister Madelyn

Cambren Edward Fisk

Stillborn June 28, 2010
Cord accident
Parents: Meredith and Darren Fisk
Given by: Jeremy, Jill and Kyle Varnell

Mackenzie Noelle Frederickson

June 17, 2009
Stillborn—Unknown
Baby "Skyler" Frederickson
January 2, 2010
Ectopic pregnancy
Given by parents Ashley and Mike Frederickson and sibling Paisley

Amanda Morgan Galleger

Stillborn January 7, 1997
Trisomy 18
Given by parents Diane and Steve Galleger and siblings Syndey and Jack

Jordan Ashley Heffley

July 5, 1999
Trisomy 13
Given by parents John and Jan Heffley

Jack Henvey

July 4, 2001
Tetralogy of fallot
Given by parents Chris and Renee Henvey

Clara Shea Huey

Stillborn June 16, 2003
Unknown cause
Given by parents Ashley and Sara Huey

Jude Hope Johnson

Miscarried October 30, 2009

Luke Noe Johnson

Stillborn July 26, 2010
Unknown cause
Given by parents Merle and James Johnson

Michael David Klubnik

Jake Thomas Klubnik

September 7, 2010

Infection

Baby Klubnik

Miscarried June 8, 2010

Gifts given by:

Parents: Jon and Tiffany Klubnik
Lincoln and Priscilla Goodwin
Grandparents Thomas and Joan Miller

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!

William Joseph Kowalski

Stillborn August 12, 1997
 Preterm labor due to fibroid tumors
 Given by parents
 Robert and Sheri Kowalski
 and little siblings Robert and Ashley

Kavya Marie Kurishinal

December 17, 2009
 Omphalocele
 Given by parents
 Tina Christensen and Pravin Kurishinal

Josephine Lee

October 9, 2009
 PROM
 Given by parents John and Patty Lee

Sophia Elise Lewis

March 25, 2009
 Trisomy 69
 Given by parents Eric and Janie Lewis
 and little brother Nicholas

Joseph Charles Libby

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

Baby Malone I

December 2003
 CMV

Baby Malone II

May 2004
 Rubella
 Given by parents
 Robbie and Heather Malone

Jack Malloy

Stillborn June 16, 2004
 Unknown cause
 Given by parents
 Terry and Stephanie Malloy
 and siblings Patrick and Molly

Zachary Neal Matthews

February 24, 2001
 Triploidy
 Given by parents
 Marsha and Nick Matthews

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995
 Cord accident

Baby Mitchell

Miscarried December 2001
 Gifts given by:

Parents: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
 and big brother Byron, Jr.
 Grandparents: Dennis and Sue Brewer
 Grandparents: Lyle and Marnie Mitchell

Baby M Moreton

October 15, 1995
 Miscarriage—APA Syndrome

Baby Boy Moreton

March 17, 2000
 Miscarriage—APA Syndrome
Angel #3

August 1, 2000
 Miscarriage—APA Syndrome
 Given by parents: Sam and April Moreton
 and siblings Asher, Ava, Brock and Scarlett

Baby Nelson

Miscarried August 16, 2010
 Given by parents: Bryan and Emily Nelson

Max Emmanuel Novik

May 9-10, 2011
 Anencephaly
 Parents: Mark and Melinda Novik
 Twin Sister: Sam
 Given by:
 Uncle Charles and Aunt Michelle Werner
 and cousins Josh, Jake and Jordan

Paeson O'Neal

Stillborn December 5, 2010
 Parents: Jeremy and Nicole O'Neal
 Siblings: Madison and Paxton
 Gifts given by:
 Victoria Maywald
 Johnny and Kathi O'Neal

Landon Blaine Schuchman

Stillborn February 12, 2009
 Cord accident
 Given by parents
 Paul and Missy Schuchman
 and sisters Kylee and Vivian

Brianna Denise Segovia

April 30-May 9, 2010
 Metabolic Acidosis
 Given by parents
 Alonso and Brenda Segovia

Carson Mitchell Shaw

Stillborn April 1, 1999
 Unknown cause
 Given by parents Randy and Aimee Shaw

Elliot Skaggs

April 28, 2008
 Multicystic kidney

Baby Skaggs

Miscarried December 11, 2006
 Given by parents Brandon and Sara Skaggs
 and siblings Sydney, Brady and Bennett

Alivia Elizabeth Grace Walker

Stillborn July 24, 2006
 Incompetent cervix
 Given by parents Robert and Liz Walker
 and little brother Jaxson

Andrew Luis Walton

March 4 - April 24, 2005
 Complications from heart surgery
 Parents: Mathew and Sandra Walton
 Given by
 Uncle Jason and Aunt Kristen Walton

Kyle Charles Walton

Stillborn November 19, 1998
 Group B Strep
 Given by parents: Jason and Kristen Walton

Christian Graham Wells

July 11, 2010
 Unknown cause
 Parents: Glen and Mitzi Wells
 Sibling: Big brother Michael
 Gifts given by:
 Grandparents: Honey and Papa
 Great-grandmother: Mimi
 Aunt Linda Brown
 Gayle Daugherty
 Aunt Amy Burnside
 Teresa Jaeckle
 Kimberly Jaeckle
 MB Stars Management
 Delores Stone
 Uncle Vic, Auntie Vickie
 and cousin Eric Rathmann
 Aunt Beth Burnside
 Tim and Patricia Eagle

Baby Wilson I

Miscarried January, 2007

Baby Wilson II

Miscarried June, 2007
 Gifts given by:
 Parents: Doug and Michele Wilson
 and little brother Gabe
 Uncle Bob and Aunt Angie Harmon
 Grandmother: Janice Rice
 Jill and Eric Marshall

Trenton Kohl Woody

December 3, 2009 - May 30, 2010
 Heart defect
 Parents: Jered Woody and Marissa Martin
 Given by grandmother Carole Henry

Continued on Page 18

A Gift of Honor

There are many days of the year that can be particularly difficult for those of us whose babies have died. Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas and Easter are traditional days to struggle with loss, but often those days contain bursts of joy as we gather with friends and family. But the anniversary of the birth and/or death of your child may not fall on any festive day. The likelihood of finding glimmers of joy from festive activities is slim, and the date itself rings our ears with pains of longing. So, how do we cope? How can you make it through a full 24 hours with constant reminders of the tender life taken too early?

The answer is to start a heavenly birthday tradition. A predetermined plan is paramount to a healthy and heavenly tradition. It provides a subject for dialog with a spouse and abates any feelings of guilt for not having some mechanism to honor the life of your child. Our tradition involves the giving of a birthday gift. We give the nurses who worked in the same birthing center where our baby, Brooke Sophia, was born an envelope and card to give to the family of the firstborn girl on March 11. The card contains a gift with an amount that brings honor to our daughter's life. The message in the card instructs the parents to love and honor their daughter and explains that the gift is in memory of our baby, Brooke.

On Brooke's first birthday, our curiosity was overwhelming. Our human instinct wanted to know the gift was well received. In other words, we wanted to get back something from our gift and we were ready to call the nurses. Then worry set in: what if a girl was not born in the hospital that day, or what if the family was ungrateful? After prayerful consideration, we gave up the quest for acknowledgement. The very next day, a friend who was to deliver in the same maternity ward informed us of how blessed the family was to receive Brooke's heavenly birthday tradition. As it turns out, God does bless those who bless others.

♥ *Lisa and Jeremy Daily*
Parents to Brooke Sophia
 M.E.N.D.—Tulsa Director

Remembering Our Babies

October 15th is *Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day*. It is a chance for us to reflect with friends, family or even by ourselves of our little ones in heaven. We might light a candle, have a balloon release, visit a grave/garden or have a special treat in remembrance of our babies. Since I am still trying to come up with traditions, for me, it might be just having a glass of chocolate milk (what I craved when I was pregnant with Serenity), and sitting in my rocking chair holding on to my memories, some I can touch, some tucked in the depths of my heart for me to treasure. Whatever you do, make it special to you. For more information, visit www.october15th.com.

♥ *Jennifer Harrison, M.E.N.D. Newsletter Editor*
Mommy to Serenity
 M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

"In Loving Memory"
Continued from page 17

Gifts of Support

West Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, TX
 Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
 Stephani and John Kranz
 William and Penny Plaster
 Kevin and Dell Coutant
 Mike and Donna White
 Metropolitan Baptist Church

Legacy Giving

Losing a child has changed each of our lives forever. We appreciate all financial support of the services our organization gives to bereaved parents—no matter the size of the contribution. However, some of you may have the capacity and desire to give a lifelong gift to M.E.N.D.

If you're interested in creating a legacy gift or endowment in honor of your baby, M.E.N.D. would be happy to assist you in gathering the necessary information to remember our organization in your will or trust. For more information about legacy giving, please contact Rebekah Mitchell at rebekah@mend.org.

What we have once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose... for all that we love deeply becomes a part of us.

—*Helen Keller*

Celebrating the Milestones

I never thought when I heard the words, “Congratulations, you’re pregnant” that my moments of planning (and yes I started from the very moment I knew) birthdays and holiday traditions would be changed in the blink of an eye. With my first daughter Chrizti, I tried to follow the meaningful advice and “put it behind me, do not dwell on it” so when the first birthday rolled around, I thought there was something wrong with me when all I wanted to do was cry.

In 2004, I found out exactly a month before her second birthday I was again pregnant and this time with twins. I focused on my plans for them thinking I would not feel the need to celebrate Chrizti’s birthday, but my husband suggested we at least light a candle for her and we did. July 2004, was full of the amazing plans for the next year as we would have twins and how wonderful life was going to be. We both thought I would be able to move on once they got here. Unfortunately, the end of July brought yet a new set of pain and loss as the twins were lost at 21 weeks. I went to a loss support group who encouraged me to feel the pain I felt and not to “pretend” everything was going to be ok.

I was devastated once again in May of 2005, as we miscarried a little one. We decided at that moment we would celebrate every milestone we felt like celebrating and each birthday would be acknowledged. We would not be afraid to tell others what those days meant to us and why we would act differently on those days than others. On Sabbath and Amethyst’s first birthday, I bought them a little swing to put on their grave and bought two similar dolls and made up pictures of them and their story. We bought and wrote messages on three sets of balloons to Sabbath and Amethyst and we bought a “Happy 1st Birthday” banner and had a cake made and got ice cream. We lit a candle at the time they were born and blew them out at the time they were lost. We popped confetti all over the graves and tied one set of balloons to their graves and let two sets go. We invited friends over who had been supportive and had cake and ice cream (none of our family lived near us).

On Taylor’s first birthday we wrote notes on balloons and set them off over the lake. On the birthdays after, we always light candles and release balloons, sometimes with letters and sometimes notes written on the balloons themselves and sometimes just voiced out loud. We have planted flowers in their memories and bought things to take to the hospital in their names to be given to other families who would otherwise leave the hospital alone.

In February of 2008, we experienced yet again another miscarriage. Now we always acknowledge each child’s special days by always buying or baking a cake for them. I am a big Facebook-user, and they are always acknowledged on there as well. I made a promise to keep their memories alive and I have all intentions of doing so...even on holidays we chose a certain candle for the girls and one for the boys. Each year it is different and we light them and have them be a part of the decorations (this way we know what they are but it is not shoved in others’ faces as some of my family chooses to not acknowledge the losses). At Christmas we make homemade decorations with their names. We place two trees in our home. One is for everyone to decorate; one is nothing but angels and Disney characters, and we buy a special ornament every year for them. Even for Mother’s and Father’s Day we buy each other a gift and card that comes from a child and we sign the children’s names to it.

Whatever dreams of celebration you can think up is okay. Each family is different and each person needs different things. Whatever makes you and your family feel comfortable and at ease is what you should plan. We were told at one point that even if we did not know what we had lost we could talk it over and name our angels anyway. So one day my husband and I had a BBQ at home and discussed our feelings and thoughts, and we named our miscarried angels. To celebrate we released balloons with their names and dates on them. It is never too late to name one if you feel the desire.

♥ *Kara Lee and David Jr. Thompson
Parents to Chrizti D Noelle Paige,
Sabbath Annastachia Sheyanne,
Amber Amethyst Laine,
Taylor Dunkian Race and
Falisha Raven Meeshelle
Arkansas*



M.E.N.D.

*Chapter Corner**Chapter Meeting Information***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 bi-monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m., led by Kristah Slate

(kristah_slate@yahoo.com).

Daddy's group meets quarterly on the 3rd

Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,

led by Tim Winebrenner

(swinebrenner2004@yahoo.com).

M.E.N.D.—TexarkanaMeets 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.—Tulsa

Meets the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Canyon Crossing

1651 E Old North Rd.

Sand Springs, Oklahoma 74063

Director: Lisa Daily

lisa@mend.org, (918) 694-4325 (HEAL)

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

Meets the 1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Project H.O.P.E.

1419 S. Enterprise

Springfield, Missouri 65804

Director: Heather Fann

heather@mend.org, (417) 818-0489

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station

Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Hawthorn Suites

1010 University Drive East

College Station, Texas 77840

Director: Jennie Drude

jennie@mend.org, (979) 220-7851

M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates*Houston*

We are looking forward to a wonderful Walk to Remember this year. We are so excited to have Rebecca Rainey Mutz, author of *Symphony in the Dark*, as our guest speaker and anxious to see what God has for her to say to us. Also, after five great years of growth at Metropolitan Baptist Church, we have moved the Walk to a larger venue to accommodate you, your friends and family for this special time to remember your babies. We will be holding the Walk at Champion Forest Baptist Church on 15555 Stuebner Airline Rd., Houston, TX 77069, on October 1, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. A map will be on the website as well as the invitation. Please RSVP on the website, www.mend.org or email jaimie@mend.org. Hope to see you there.

*Jaimie Crump**Texarkana*

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana continues to minister to families through email, phone and monthly meetings. We have had several subsequent births in the past few months. These joyous blessings are an encouragement to many of us that God answers prayers, yet also a reminder in many ways of our losses. We feel that God is leading us to begin a playgroup in Texarkana. If you are interested in the playgroup, please email Monica@mend.org or find us on Facebook at M.E.N.D.—Texarkana or contact Tania Greer 903-244-3837.

*Monica Davis**Tulsa*

It is with humble excitement that I introduce myself as the new director for M.E.N.D.—Tulsa. I live in Broken Arrow, OK, with my husband, Jeremy, and our 4 year old daughter, Sarah. We joined M.E.N.D. after the death of our daughter, Brooke Sophia, on March 11, 2010, as a result of a torn blood vessel in her umbilical cord, a condition called Vasa Previa, 27 hours before her scheduled C-section. The influence and support from M.E.N.D. members accelerated our coping, healing and life journey after such a profound loss. I recognized that God has called me to do His work by leading this chapter and continuing to champion the mission of M.E.N.D. He continues to mold me and use me for His will so we can support one another through God's grace. Additionally, I would like to thank Sara Hintz for agreeing to assist me.

*Lisa Daily**SW Missouri*

Many thanks to my chapter assistants Heather Bass, Kathryn Gold and Ruth Sonnenberg for all their help to reach hurting families in the SW Missouri area. It is such a blessing to know that tasks are completed without fail due to these ladies and their commitment. We are getting ready to start planning our Christmas Candlelight Ceremony, scheduled for Thursday, December 8, at Elfindale Chapel in Springfield. If you would like to assist in planning the event, please contact me at heather@mend.org.

*Heather Fann**Bryan/College Station*

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station is continuing to grow and reach families of Brazos County. I want to thank all the families who participated in our letter writing fundraiser! We are looking forward to joining M.E.N.D.—Houston for their Walk to Remember on October 1. Thank you, Jaimie, for allowing us to spend the day with you all remembering our babies.

Jennie Drude

Amarillo

Wow! What a great Bunco for Babies fundraiser M.E.N.D.—Amarillo had! On June 24 we held our first Bunco for Babies fundraiser, and it was a huge success! We are truly blessed by the community who came out and supported our event. This allows us to continue our monthly meetings and support our families that have suffered from loss. Hats off to all the friends and family that helped us!

Becky Anderson

NW Washington

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington is looking forward to our first Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on December 12, 2011. We are honored that Rebekah Mitchell will be our guest speaker. Also, our memory quilt squares fundraiser is going well. Our plan is to have it on display for the first time at the Christmas ceremony. I want to thank my assistants Michele, Carole and Tia for all their help and dedication.

Susan Crow

Hot Springs

M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs continues to have good attendance at its monthly support group meetings. We are in the beginning stages of planning our first fundraiser.

Amy Humphries

M.E.N.D.—**Amarillo**
Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
First United Bank of the Colonies
(Lonestar Room)
One First United Bank Parkway
45th and Soney
Amarillo, Texas
Director: Becky Anderson
becky@mend.org, (806) 570-4344

M.E.N.D.—**NW Washington**
Meets the 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Harrison Medical Center
(Iris Room)
1800 Myhre Rd.
Silverdale, Washington
Director: Susan Crow
susan@mend.org, (360) 516-8617

M.E.N.D.—**Hot Springs, Arkansas**
Director: Amy Humphries
amy@mend.org, (501) 620-9930

Looking Ahead

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <i>October 1</i> | <i>December 3</i> | <i>December 6</i> | <i>December 8</i> | <i>December 12</i> |
| • Walk To Remember
in Irving, TX | • M.E.N.D.—
Houston, TX
Christmas Ceremony | • M.E.N.D.—
Irving, TX
Christmas Ceremony | • M.E.N.D.—
SW Missouri
Christmas Ceremony
in Springfield, MO | • M.E.N.D.—
NW Washington
Christmas Ceremony |
| • Walk To Remember
in Houston, TX | | | | |

M.E.N.D. Support Group Meetings in the Dallas Metroplex

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.,
from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

*A time for dads to meet together and
discuss topics relevant to them as fa-
thers. 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 Liz Walker:
liz@mend.org

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

Infertility group

meets the 3rd Monday
at 7:30 p.m. upon request only.

Led by Cheryl Davis:
cheryl.c.davis@gmail.com

*For families experiencing
infertility after a loss.*

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

All main chapter support group**meetings are held at:**

**Wells Fargo Bank
800 W. Airport Freeway
Irving, TX 75062**

(Located in the Crystals Pizza parking
lot, between MacArthur and O'Connor)
Meetings will be in the bank board room,
located on the first floor.
For more information,
call (972) 506-9000.



Subsequent Births

Magen and JD Kaye

of Irving, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Noah James,
born June 17, 2011,
measuring 5 lb., 7 oz.,
and 18 inches long.

The Kaye family lovingly remembers
Jayden Noah,
stillborn October 10, 2006,
unknown cause,
and Tucker Steven,
stillborn February 8, 2010,
genetic disorder.

Drew and Rachel Curtis

of Denton, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Isaiah Drew,
born June 9, 2011,
measuring 7 lb., 9 oz.,
and 20 3/4 inches long.

The Curtis family lovingly remembers
Lydia Grace,
stillborn August 1, 2010,
unknown cause.

Michael and Chiara Ott,

of Spring, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Kyle Owen,
born July 28, 2011,
measuring 7 lb., 4 oz.,
and 20 inches long.

The Ott family lovingly remembers
Daisy Jade and Ellie Marie,
February 22, 2010,
preterm labor.

William and Leslie Clark

of Amarillo, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Cadence Grace,
born June 1, 2011,
measuring 6 lb., 12 oz.,
and 19 inches long.

The Clark family lovingly remembers
Ethan Thomas,
miscarried June 4, 2009.

Quentin and Melissa Vaira

of Poulsbo, Washington,
along with big brothers
Owen and Jonah,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Anneliese Marie,
born June 17, 2011,
measuring 5 lb., 7oz.,
and 17 1/2 inches long.

The Vaira family lovingly remembers
Lucy Quinn,
stillborn on January 22, 2008,
cord accident.

David and Samantha Velazquez

of Spring, Texas,
along with big sister, Trinity,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Victoria Rose,
born January 5, 2011,
measuring 7 lb., 14 oz.,
and 20 1/2 inches long.

The Velazquez family lovingly
remembers
David Alejandro,
stillborn on February 5, 2010,
unknown cause.

Rachel and Geoff Tidman

of Fort Worth, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Caleb Scott,
born June 10, 2011,
measuring 7 lb., 9 oz.,
and 19 inches long.

The Tidman family lovingly remembers
Connor Eugene,
stillborn April 21, 2010,
unknown cause.

Marc and Clairissa Freeman

of Texarkana, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Khloe Elizabeth,
born July 14, 2011,
measuring 5 lb., 9 oz.,
and 18 1/2 inches long.

The Freeman family lovingly
remembers
Marissa Brienne,
August 20, 2008,
infection,
and Baby Freeman,
miscarried November 9, 2004.

LaVena and Willie McKeever

of Cedar Hill, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Eli Henderson,
born July 8, 2011,
measuring 2 lb., 13 oz.,
and 16 1/4 inches.

The McKeever family lovingly
remembers
Drew Addison,
stillborn March 6, 2010,
unknown cause.

Brian and Christy DePardo

of Plano, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Henry Hugh,
born July 22, 2011,
measuring 6 lb., 9 oz.,
and 19 1/4 inches.

The DePardo family lovingly
remembers
Esme Sage,
June 15, 2009,
cystic hygroma.

Sam and Stacey Parris

of Rogersville, Missouri,
along with big brother Lucas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Seth Richard,
born July 3, 2011,
measuring 7 lb., 6 oz.,
and 20 inches long.

The Parris family lovingly remembers
Michael Stephen,
stillborn April 9, 2009,
twin Baby Parris,
miscarried December 2009,
and Madison Nicole,
stillborn March 5, 2010.

Daniel and Kristah Slate,

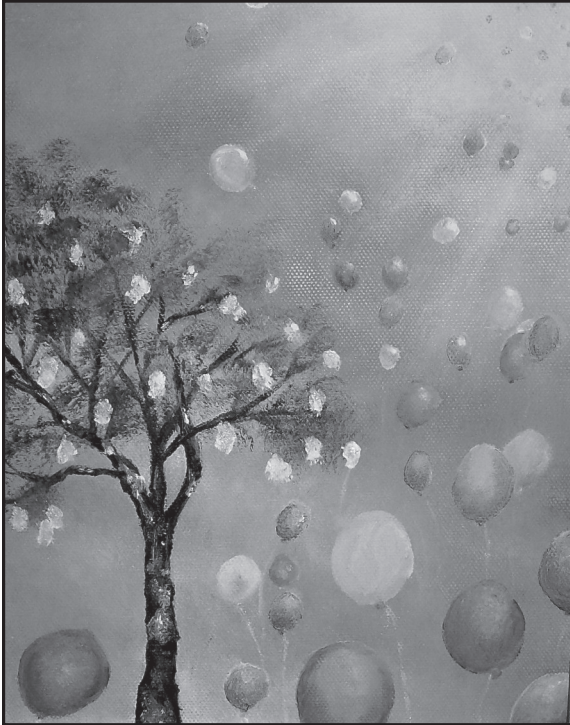
of Houston, Texas,
along with big siblings Camden, Everett
and Anna Claire
joyfully announce the arrival of
Owen Matthew,
born on July 12, 2011,
measuring 8 lb.,
and 19 1/2 inches long.

The Slate family lovingly remembers
Rylan Elizabeth,
October 17-20, 2008,
unknown causes.

Artist's Corner



Ascending Love
Oil on Canvas Board
By Rachael McClelland



*"...weeping may endure for the night,
but joy cometh in the morning."*

Psalm 30:5

*If you have artwork in memory of your baby and would like
it to be published in a M.E.N.D. newsletter, please send it
to jennifer@mend.org.*

*"How very softly you tiptoed
into our world, almost silently,
only a moment you stayed.
But what an imprint your
footprints have left
upon our hearts."*

—Dorothy Ferguson

Heaven

By Michael English

Love without measure
Space without time
Life with no crying
Will one day be mine
Hearts never breaking
Hands that don't fight
Days that don't end with
The darkness of night

The lamb and the lion
Will walk side by side
In a world where freedom, abides

Windows of glory, swing open wide
Shower down blessings
And shine down a light
On my soul
I do believe
Oh, can't you see
That's what, heaven will be like
That's what, heaven will be
Friends that don't leave you
Smiles that don't fade
Nobody's hurting, no one's afraid
No hungry children
Loved ones don't die
No sad farewells
There'll be no more goodbyes

Windows of glory, swing open wide
Shower down blessings
And shine down a light
On my soul
I do believe
Oh, can't you see
That's what, heaven will be like
That's what, heaven will be

All the burdens and longings
We bring to this place
Disappear in the moment
We look at the love on His face

♥ Submitted by Rebekah Mitchell, M.E.N.D. President/Founder

M.E.N.D. Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death
 P.O. Box 631566, Irving, TX 75063
 USA
 (972) 506-9000
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 DeSoto, TX 75115
 Permit No. 614

“... 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 in Texas and Louisiana who have their Kroger Plus Card linked to M.E.N.D. To link your card, contact Rebekah (rebekah@mend.org) to obtain the Kroger Customer Letter. You must only present this letter one time to link your card to M.E.N.D.
- **Tom Thumb** also has a program in Texas that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you have a Tom Thumb Reward Card, please contact Rebekah (rebekah@mend.org) to obtain the Customer Letter. You must only present this letter one time to link your card to M.E.N.D. Reward cards can also be used at Randalls and Simon David stores.
- **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 Web site 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 and Macaroni and 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 mbsbrown16@hotmail.com.
- **IBM** employees may now make charitable donations to M.E.N.D. through automatic payroll deductions. Choose Charity Code 0M562 from the *IBM Employee/Retiree Approved Charity List*.
- **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.
- **Igive.com** will donate a penny a search and a portion of each purchase made through their website to M.E.N.D. Sign up today! M.E.N.D.’s cause number is 52025.