



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

Living Life

Not Letting Grief Steal Your Blessings

There is a peculiar passage of scripture found in the book of Joel that says, "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten" (2:25). There are a couple of years of my life that I do feel I allowed locusts (Satan) to eat. The first couple of years following the stillbirth of my baby, Jonathan, were filled with immense sorrow - so much sorrow that I had a hard time focusing on the good things that I did have, such as my preschool-aged son, Byron, Jr., and my wonderful loving family.

For example, Byron, Jr. was a talented soccer player at age 4, and he scored many goals for his little team. Yes, I cheered like crazy when he made a good play, but I was assaulted to silence as the reminder that I would never see Jonathan score a goal crossed my mind. I then found myself too choked up to focus in on the next several minutes of the game. I had to make myself block Jonathan out of my mind and concentrate on where I was and why I was there. Certainly, no one knew of my mental battles.

I am one of six children in my family, and the only one with only one living child. The rest of my siblings had all the kids they wanted. Not one of my four sisters was told she could not have any more children, and none of them had endured losses. When our kids were young and regularly played together, it used to grip my heart that mine was the only one without a sibling. I could not relate to dealing with sibling rivalry in the home or balancing schedules to get all the kids where they needed to be. It sounds trivial to me now, and I know I should have just been grateful for the one I did have, but as a young grieving mom, it hurt and sometimes I felt left out of their motherhood sagas. Again, none of my siblings knew my inner turmoil.

Two years ago, Byron, Jr. graduated from high school and went away to college. Though my husband, Byron, and I were very happy and excited for our son's new phase of life, it was very difficult for me to be empty nesting when technically, we shouldn't have been - we still should have had kids at home. When Byron, Jr. first left, I had to remind myself to be grateful we had a son who was enjoying his

new venture in life, instead of feeling sorry for myself that I was now home alone a lot more during the day, and our house seemed so empty.

Let me clarify that my life has been richly blessed and full since Jonathan died 17 years ago, but there are events and seasons that cause me to struggle at times. I had to make a decision in 1995 that I was either going to be miserable the rest of my life, or I was going to seek the Lord and ask Him what I could do with my experience of losing Jonathan. Could my sorrow be used by Him for something good? And yes, I have most assuredly seen the good, but often I had to work hard to see it. I spent plenty of hours in bed wallowing in my sorrow the first several months after Jonathan's stillbirth, but eventually I had to decide this was not how I was going to spend the rest of my life. I did not want to be sad forever. I did not want to feel sorry for myself forever, and I definitely did not want to miss out on the life of my living son. I had to learn to balance being a mom to a living child and a dead child. I discovered I could sweetly remember Jonathan without dwelling on the circumstances of his death. In other words, I learned to separate my feelings of loving him from the hard circumstantial memories of losing him.

We as bereaved parents have all experienced a very tragic and traumatic event in our lives - some of us more than once. However, it is up to us to decide how we are going to spend the rest of our lives. As the old clichés go: are we going to become bitter or better? Are we going to go through grief or grow through grief? I earnestly pray you will choose to become better and to grow. Do not allow the enemy to steal good years of your life by continuing to drown in misery. After a season of intense grieving has passed, will yourself to rise up, take on the day, and thank God for what you do have.

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

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 página número 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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M.E.N.D. is a member of

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The Heart of the Leader

Becky Anderson

My name is Becky Anderson, and I am the director of the M.E.N.D.—Amarillo chapter. On January 31, 2008, my husband and I were headed in for a routine ultrasound to find out if our then 3 ½-year-old daughter and 1 ½-year-old son were going to have another brother or sister. After we were called back to the exam room, the sweet sonographer prepped me for the sonogram. As soon as she put the wand on my tummy, we could see our precious child. In my mind, though, I quickly realized I did not see a heartbeat. She continued to scan and take measurements, then stopped and gently told us that our baby had passed away. Immediately we were sent to see my doctor and began the journey we never thought we would travel. I was induced three days later, and we buried our baby that following Wednesday. There is no way to explain the feeling of losing a child, but I will say I could feel God's amazing arms wrapped around me. He carried me each day!

About a year after the loss of our third child, my heart desired to find a support system for infant loss. A dear friend came to me with the information on M.E.N.D. and encouraged me to check into it. I researched and prayed for God's guidance on what to do. We applied to open a chapter in Amarillo and were approved. From such a tragic event, we have had so many blessings. We hope the Lord uses us to help other families heal during such a tragic time.

♥ *Becky Anderson,*
Mommy to Malen Huck
M.E.N.D.—Amarillo

Book Reviews

Baby, Baby, Where Did You Go

By Julie Ann Smith

Inspired by the loss of her grandbaby, author and publisher Julie Ann Smith created a beautifully written and illustrated book of a mother "looking" for her baby. The baby replies to his mother that he is safe in heaven, where he will someday see her again. This small book is for adults as well as children who have been affected by the loss of a baby. There is a surprise remembrance gift attached to the inside back cover for the reader that you won't want to miss!

Baby, Baby, Where Did You Go can be ordered by emailing
babybabywheredidyougo@yahoo.com.

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

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, Web sites or other resources dealing with infant loss, please email them to our newsletter editor, Jennifer Harrison, at jennifer@mend.org.

Choosing Friendship

I had pretty well finished grieving for my daughter Katie Beth, or so I thought. It has been five years since being pregnant with our twins, Ellie and Katie Beth (our 6th and 7th children). We delivered them at 29 weeks and then lost Katie only 27 hours later. It was a hard transition, going from thinking you are having twins to not even being sure if one would make it. Ellie spent three months in the NICU, but then, praise the Lord, made a full recovery.

We were also very thankful to be blessed with another daughter, Sarah, only 18 months after losing Katie. It was almost as if in a small way God was filling the void of our not getting to truly experience twins. Now Sarah and Ellie are two peas in a pod who share a room, clothes and many laughs! Having Sarah truly did help bring healing, and we felt very blessed.

I had a real fascination with twins, though. It was still painful to see twins and wonder what it would be like to have our Katie looking exactly like Ellie (they were identical). If I saw twins, it always brought me to that quiet, sad place of reflection, but it was under control. Then the rug was pulled out from under me. My good friend was quite surprised to find out at the of age 43 that she was pregnant with twins! Now, this was up close and personal - not just a lady at the grocery store pushing twins in her cart, but a dear friend whom I interact with on a weekly basis. Oh, how much more it hurt! Yes, I was happy for her, but why was she going to get twins and I didn't?

Finding out about her being pregnant with twins was hard. Watching her respond to other people's comments was hard. Watching her belly grow was hard. Being a hostess for her twin girls' baby shower was hard. Watching her open cute matching outfits was hard. Seeing two babies in her hospital room was hard. The most difficult was seeing two babies come home with her. That meant they were here to stay, a constant reminder that she had twins, and I didn't. Why, Lord, did this have to happen right when I was doing okay with the grief thing? It snuck up on me and took me for a loop. I had some good cries throughout all of this and really tried to get over it, the whole time not wanting her to know I was struggling and not wanting to take any of her joy away. Finally, the second time I came to see her at home, as I was holding one of the girls, I told her how hard it had been on me throughout her pregnancy and the girls' birth. I think she had known all along.

I am sad to say that almost three months have gone by, and I haven't been able to go back. We've talked a couple of times, and I saw her once at church for the twins' big debut on Easter Sunday. I'm scared of how I will react when I am at her house; the tears still flow so easily. Watching someone so close to me get to experience the joy of twins has been more painful than I ever dreamed, but I know I must find a way to go on, and I have to say that I miss my friend. I don't want to lose her friendship just because I couldn't handle her having twins. I will pray to God for the strength to continue my friendship with her as well as for these painful feelings to subside. I have been blessed with so much and will choose to focus on that. God is good, and He is faithful to help me get through this, yet again. I don't want to let my grief steal the blessing of a precious friendship that I so desperately need and desire.

♥ *Meredith Skrabanek,
Mommy to Katie Beth*

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
Philippians 4:13*

September/October Topic

Roller Coasters of Grief

Deadline: July 31, 2012

November/December Topic

Holidays

Deadline: September 31, 2012

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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Letters to the Editor should be sent to jennifer@mend.org. All letters submitted to the editor are subject to be published in future issues, both in the print version and online, unless a letter's author expressly requests that it not be published.

Birthday Tributes: M.E.N.D.

publishes heavenly birthday tributes in the corresponding newsletter. Tributes must be submitted via the online form at www.mend.org.

<u>Heavenly Birthday</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
January/February	November 31
March/April	January 31
May/June	March 31
July/August	May 31
September/October	July 31
November/December	September 31



Birthday Tributes

Happy 2nd Birthday, Lydia!

Sweet Lydia, every day we miss you, precious daughter. We find comfort that you are in the arms of God, and we will see you again one day. We have been telling your little brother all about his very special sister in heaven.

Happy 2nd birthday, Lydia! We will be honoring you here on earth as you celebrate with our Father in heaven.

With all the love in our hearts,
Momma, Daddy and Little Brother Isaiah

Lydia Grace Curtis

August 1, 2010

Unknown cause

Parents: Drew and Rachel Curtis

Little Brother: Isaiah Drew



Happy 5th Birthday, Marchant and Carlea!

After all this time, we still mourn you daily, not just on special days or anniversaries. You are truly and deeply missed! Take care of one another until we one day meet again!

All our love!
Daddy, Mommy and your little sister

Marchant Pienaar

July 8 - 9, 2007

Carlea Pienaar

July 8 - 10, 2007

Premature

Parents: Willie and Annerie Pienaar

Little Sister: Dianca



Happy 2nd Birthday, Trinity!

A rose was planted and it grew and grew, and then, one day the rose stopped growing. We were very sad because we knew we would never see the rose bloom. Trinity MarLynn, you are our rose that never bloomed here on earth, but in our hearts, Trinity, we know you bloomed in heaven, so on August 10, 2012, have a very Happy second birthday, our little Mona Lisa. We love you today, tomorrow, next month, next year and next lifetime.

Trinity MarLynn King

Stillborn August 10, 2010

Unknown cause

Parents: Marlin and Lavonda King

Little Brother: Marlin II



Happy 6th Birthday, Micah!

We think of you every day and wish you were here to celebrate your special day. We love you!

Hugs and kisses,
Momma, Daddy and your sisters

Micah Joel Fibiger

August 29 - 30, 2006

Trisomy 18

Parents: Brian and Mary Fibiger

Sisters: Ainsley and Aubrey



Happy 1st Birthday, Camdyn!

To our little angel that we will meet another time...

Camdyn Joy Kircher

July 18, 2011

Unknown cause

Parents: Brent and Laura Kircher

Siblings: Matthew and Aidyn



Happy 1st Birthday, Braden!

Our Baby Boy Braden, I cannot believe that you are turning 1 year old already! To think that this time last year we were bringing you home for the first time and getting to experience the greatest joy in our life. It's not fair, and we will never know why you were taken from us only six short weeks later, but those six weeks were the happiest times in our life. We miss your smiling face, your adorable cry and even the diaper changes, but we know that you are in the best place possible right now watching over us. We feel so lucky knowing our baby angel is always keeping an eye out for us, and whenever we think we can't take one more step, you are the extra push that always helps us through. We love you, Braden, more than you will ever know. You have changed us in so many ways and showed us how precious life really is. It hurts knowing we won't get to spend your birthday with you, but we know you will have the best first birthday you could ever have in heaven. We miss you more than words can explain, and you will always be with us, wherever we go.

With all of our love,
Mommy and Daddy

Braden Alexander Martinez

June 26 - August 8, 2011

Infection

Parent: Kyle Martinez and Missy Babyar



Happy 5th Birthday, Twynki!

Our dearest Twynki, we cannot believe you are 5! Has it been that long since we've seen you? Not a day goes by that we do not think about the ways you have blessed us, even though we feel like failures because you are not here. How our hearts ache because we want you here. How we want to be a mommy and daddy, but you are not here. Thanks to you, though, we are complete. Thanks to you, we are a family and proud parents to an angel. You made it possible, even though you are not here.

Love you always,
Your mommy and daddy

PS: Your pets wish you a gnarly birthday with the surprise of six soon-to-be-bird eggs!

*Emily Urbina
August 3, 2007*

Incompetent cervix

Parents: Alberto Urbina and Lydia Rodriguez

Your Pets: The Teenage Mutant Ninja Clan and your parakeets Rito and Agodon

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Elliana!**

Can't wait to meet you in heaven! I love you so much!

Elliana Grace Kundomal

Miscarried July 2010

Mommy: Kali Kundomal

**Happy 7th Birthday, Ryland!**

You are never forgotten.

Until we see you again,

Daddy, Mommy, Sissy and Conor

Ryland Michael Dixon

Stillborn August 12, 2005

Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon

Siblings: Leighanne and Conor

**Happy 1st Birthday, Aubree Faith!**

Happy 1st birthday to our beautiful Aubree Faith. Not a day goes by that we don't wish you were here. You are always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts. We can't wait for the day that the Lord calls us home so we can spend eternity with you. On this day we celebrate your precious spirit and all the joy you brought to our lives. We love you to heaven and back!

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

Aubree Faith Carmichall

August 18, 2011

Uterine rupture

Parents: Jeremy and Kelly Carmichall

Siblings: Ryan and Breean

**Happy 12th Birthday, Colten!**

We love you and miss you so much. You are always in our hearts, little one.

Love,
Daddy, Mommy and Logan,
plus all the rest of your loving family!

Colten Benjamin Ballmer

Stillborn May 28, 2000

Umbilical Cord Stenosis-Congenital

Parents: Jamieson and Regan Ballmer

Little brother: Logan

**Happy 1st Birthday, Caitlyn!**

We miss you more than words can say!

Caitlyn Behne Alcuri

May 7, 2011

Cord accident

Parents: Joe and Michelle Alcuri

Brother: Andrew

**Happy 5th Birthday, Gabby!**

What a big girl you are now! We love you very much and think about you all the time. We set up your garden at our new house and it looks amazing - all for you! Daddy wrote a special poem just for you:

Time has passed and never the day goes by,
That you're not in my dreams and heart.
I shall always remember the way it feels,
Not being able to hold you in my arms.
But the day will come when dreams are gone,
And the wind I feel as your face is seen.
My pain and sorrows gone away forever,
As I touch your precious skin for the first time.

We love you Gabby!
Daddy, Mama, Kylie, Adayna and Aj

Gabriella Grace Garcia

Miscarried July 3, 2007

Also remembering:

Abby Garcia

Miscarried June 17, 2011

Parents: Adam and Alex Garcia

Siblings: Kylie, Adayna and Aj

**Happy 4th Birthday, Caleb!**

We miss you each and every day!

Caleb Yancey

July 18, 2008

Incompetent cervix

Parents: Michael and Melynda Yancey

Siblings: David, Katie and Micah



Happy 4th Birthday, CJ!
Happy 3rd Birthday, Marina!

You came into our lives for such a short time, but your impact on our lives is everlasting. We still think of you every day and miss you so much. Your big sister wishes you were here to play with. We love you both and are glad you have each other in heaven.

CJ Gold
Miscarried August 13, 2008
Marina Gold
Miscarried July 14, 2009
Parents: Greg and Kathryn Gold
Sister: Emily



Happy 8th Birthday, August!

Sweet Baby August, I can't believe it's been eight years since we saw your little heart beat, and then quickly learned it wouldn't beat for long. We miss you and your big brother, Caleb, very much. We love you both and know our family won't be complete until we meet in heaven some day.

Happy 8th heavenly birthday!
 Love,
 Mommy, Daddy and Maddie

Baby August Fann
Miscarried August 13, 2004
Also remembering
Caleb Scott Fann
December 1, 2003
PROM
Parents: Jonathan and Heather Fann
Sister: Madison Grace



Happy 8th Birthday, Noah!

My dearest Noah, it's hard to believe that it has been eight years since I held you in my arms. I miss you so much. Not a day goes by that I don't think of you! I know that you are having the most glorious eighth birthday in heaven!

Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday, my dearest Noah,
Happy birthday to you!

You will never be forgotten,
 for you have been imprinted in our hearts forever!

Noah Adam Barron
July 5 - 19, 2004
Hypo-Plastic Lung Syndrome
Parents: Clem and Lupe Barron
Siblings: AJ, Damien, Naomi and Nicholas



Happy 1st Birthday, Jordan!

We dream of heaven because it is where you are.
 What must it be like in a place
 So perfect and peaceful, so full of love and grace?
 We know heaven is where you are.
 Heaven is always close when we believe,
 but heaven can feel so very far when we grieve.
 We know in our hearts Heaven is where you are.

You are our most precious gift, our beautiful baby girl. We love and miss you every minute, every day, and we know you are watching over us. We know you get to spend time with Jesus because in heaven, is where you are.

Jordan Anne Haney
May 23, 2011
Incompetent cervix
Parents: Joe and Julie Haney



Happy 1st Birthday, Jordan!

Not a day goes by we don't think about you, sweet angel. You are loved and missed dearly. I know you are having a wonderful angel birthday in heaven. We love you, Jordan, and we will see you soon.

Love,
 Mommy and Daddy

I know I'll see the sun shine bright
 upon my baby's face....
 When I finally get to heaven,
 all my pain will be erased.

We'll soar the skies together,
 as angels two by two.
 We'll have a sweet reunion,
 this mother's dream come true!
 ~Unknown

Jordan Taylor Fugitt
Miscarried July 2011
Also remembering
Riley Peyton Fugitt
Miscarried November 2011
Parents: Justin and Barbie Fugitt



Happy 12th Birthday, Andrew!

In loving memory of my precious son, Andrew, you are gone, but never forgotten. Happy 12th birthday in heaven. We love you!

Andrew Solorio
Stillborn May 20, 2000
Unknown cause
Mommy: Jennifer Solorio
Siblings: Eric, Sarah and Timothy



Happy 1st Birthday, Natalia!

Our pride and joy!
Our sweet baby girl!
Hugs and kisses sent your way.

Natalia Canales

May 14, 2011

Ruptured membranes

Parents: Jose and Perla Canales

**Happy 6th Birthday, Livi!**

Livi, we can't believe this is your sixth heavenly birthday! Around the different holidays when there are such pretty little dresses at the store we think, what would you wear? Oh, how Mommy wishes to dress you up, and Daddy wishes to hold you on his knee. God chose a different route for us, and we are waiting for the day when we will be able to be together in His kingdom, and you can show us around.

We love you, baby girl!
Mommy, Daddy, Jaylynn and Jaxson

Alivia Elizabeth-Grace Walker

July 24, 2006

Incompetent cervix

Parents: Robert and Liz Walker

Siblings: Jaxson and Jaylynn

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Londyn!**

Londyn, Mommy and Daddy want to wish you a happy second birthday! We miss you so much and talk about you every day to your sister. We were so happy we got to spend a short couple of hours with you. You are always with us, and we can't wait to hold you again. A lifetime is only a small period when are get to spend an eternity together as a family. We love you and miss you. You will always be our angel.

We love you always,
Mommy, Daddy and Ashtyn

Londyn Isabelle Schmitter

August 24, 2010

Unknown cause

Parents: Aric and Amber Schmitter

Baby Sister: Ashtyn Isabelle



*Even though a flower may not bloom,
In our hearts we still know
The wonder of it's blossom.
So it is with this tiny someone.*

Happy 1st Birthday, Jocelyn!

My sweet little girl, I can't believe that it's been a year already since I saw your sweet, perfect little face and held your tiny little body in my hand. It's been a long journey without you here, but I know you are watching over us. You blessed us with your little brother, who just so happens to be due on your first birthday. To me, that was no coincidence, especially when you came to me in my dream before we found out I was expecting. You will always be my little girl, my special little angel watching over me day by day. You will forever live in my heart. Happy first birthday, Jocelyn! I love you and miss you so much!

Jocelyn Rose Lahr

July 29, 2011

Fetal demise at 18 weeks, 5 days

Also remembering

Baby Bartsch I

Miscarried February 2009 at 6 weeks,

Baby Bartsch II

Miscarried January 2010 at 6 weeks

Parents: Eric and Lisa Lahr

Siblings: Presley Farber and Levi Lahr (due July 29, 2012)

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Casey Dean!**

Casey Dean, another year has gone by! We cannot believe it! You would be 2 years old now and running all over the house. We want you to know we miss you and think of you every day! We hope you have a wonderful birthday in heaven with your sister Rachel and all the other angels in the Lord's gardens. Until we see each other again, we love you today and always.

Mommy, Daddy, Jacob and Riley

Casey Dean Boche

August 7, 2010

Incompetent cervix

Also remembering

Rachel Ann Boche

October 29, 2009

Incompetent cervix

Parents: Shirley Starr and Gary Boche

Siblings: Jacob and Riley Boche

**Happy 8th Birthday, Jordyn!**

We love you and miss you so much. We thank God for the time we were able to spend with you.

You are forever in our hearts,
Mommy, Daddy, Jada and Bruce Jr.

Jordyn Lynae Johnson

Cord problems

July 13 - 16, 2004

Parents: Bruce and Debra Johnson

Siblings: Jada and Bruce Jr.



Happy 4th Birthday, Daniel!

It has been four years since our hearts were forever shattered with the words "He didn't make it." You are forever in our hearts and on our minds. While each day brings healing, we know that we will never again be complete. We love and miss you so much, baby boy. Happy fourth birthday, Daniel. Until we see you again, we are sending tons of love, hugs and kisses to heaven.

xoxoxoxoxoxoxo

Daniel Nicholas Woodard

August 31, 2008

Complications due to premature birth

Parents: Joe and Danette Woodard

Siblings: Kristina Vice and

David, Douglas and Nicole Woodard



Happy 2nd Birthday, Henry and Sam!

Our sweet Henry and sweet Sam, happy second birthday! We can't believe it has been two years since the day you were born. We miss you so much and think of you all the time. We see both of you through your baby brother's smiles, and we know he has two very special guardian angels in heaven. How wonderful it would be to give you the biggest hugs! We know that one day we will give you those hugs and celebrate all of the special days we weren't together. We love you so much!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and Jack

Henry Franklin Forrest

July 24 - 25, 2010

Samuel Michael Forrest

July 24 - August 8, 2010

Preterm labor - unknown cause

Parents: Peter and Julie Forrest

Brother: Jack



Happy 2nd Birthday, Christian!

Sweet baby boy, we miss you more than words can say. Your brief earthly life had eternal significance, and many blessings have revealed themselves over the past two years. We wish you were here for your "terrific two's" but God had other plans. We are grateful to Jesus for dying on the cross so we can spend eternity with you! We miss you and look forward to holding you again!

Love always,
Mommy, Daddy and big brother Michael

Christian Graham Wells

July 11, 2010

Blood clot

Parents: Glen and Mitzi Wells

Big Brother: Michael



Happy 1st Birthday, Nolan!

Empty hearts
Broken souls
Saddened eyes
Spirits cold

Precious hands
Tiny feet
the sweetest boy
to ever meet

There's a place
In all our hearts
For you my love
From the start

Here you lay
Safe in a dream
Though you're at peace
My soul screams

Looking up
Sadness ruling
You send the signs
Not too fooling

Rainbows sketched
Across the sky
Reminding us all
It's not goodbye.
~Aunt T
(Tisha Crewse)

Nolan, you are always in our minds and in our hearts. There isn't a day or minute that goes by that we don't think of you! It is so hard to believe that you are already turning 1. We would have never thought that we wouldn't get to spend your 1st birthday with you, but know we will be looking up and celebrating it with you! We often sit and talk about how you would be if you were with us here today. We cannot wait until that day comes where we can be with you forever and be able to hold you in our arms again! Words cannot describe how badly we miss you, but we couldn't have asked for a better guardian angel! Mommy and Daddy love you, little man! XOXO

Love and miss you always,
Mommy, Daddy and family

Nolan Rylee Dame

August 9, 2011

Unknown cause

Parents: Matt Dame and Britney Crewse



Happy 1st Birthday, Baby Chesnut A!

Our little angel, we love and miss you so much. Though we never saw your sweet face, you will always be in our hearts.

Baby Chesnut A

Miscarried June 13, 2011

Heart stopped beating

Also remembering

Micheal Dean Chesnut

January 7, 2010

Placental abruption,

Mayson James and Mark Anthony Chesnut

August 18, 2010

Infection,

Baby Chesnut B

Miscarried December 8, 2012

Early miscarriage due to clotting

Parents: James and Brittany Chesnut



Happy 1st Birthday, Murdock!

In Memory of Murdock McCoy Schmier

I never got to hold your hand,
Or see your little feet play in the sand.
I never got to see you smile,
Or hold you close just for a little while.
I never got to see you giggle,
Lay on the floor and watch you wiggle.
I never will understand why,
You were taken so young, so I sit here and cry.
I never will forget you dear,
You're in my heart, so have no fear.
I never will let you go,
I love you more than you'll ever know .



written by John Miller

Murdock McCoy Schmier

Stillborn May 31, 2011

Unknown cause

Parents: Jaime Schmier and April Miller

Siblings: Jozelynn and Jozeph Miller

Happy 2nd Birthday, Jason!

You're 2 years old today! We're always thinking of you and miss you so much. Happy birthday! We love you.

Love,

Mommy, Daddy and your little brother Trevor

Jason Michael Murphy

July 29, 2010

Unknown cause

Parents: Michael and Diana Murphy

Little brother: Trevor



Happy 1st Birthday, Averie!

To our sweet baby Averie, we can't believe it has been a whole year since you were born. You were taken away to heaven nine days later. At least we got nine days with you here on earth. We will never forget them and will always cherish them. There is not a day that passes that we don't think of you, miss you, or wish you were here with us. We think of all the milestones and steps you would be taking. You would be walking now and chasing your big sister around. We know that Jesus is taking good care of you, along with your grandparents, aunts, uncles and other family. Nothing gives us more joy than knowing that we will be with you again one day. We love you very much, baby girl! There is no one who could ever take your place in our hearts.

An angel in the Book of Life
wrote down baby Averie's
birth. Then whispered as
she closed the book,
"too beautiful for earth."
~Anonymous



Happy birthday, baby Averie!
We love you and miss you very much.
With all the love in our hearts,
Mommy, Daddy and Kynlee

Averie Jane Fant

July 20, 2011

Complications from Arteriovenous

Malformation of Vein of Galen

Parents: Kevin and Nicole Fant

Sibling: Kynlee

Happy 2nd Birthday, Emmie!

You would be running and talking now. I can only imagine all the trouble you would be getting into with your sisters. I often wonder if your hair would be the same honey color and if you would have blue eyes like McKinley or brown like Maddie. Mommy and Daddy miss you every day. Please keep your heavenly siblings close to you and watch over your new baby brother—he is almost here!

Emmaline Ila Legg

July 29, 2010

Full term placental abruption

Also remembering

Baby Legg

Miscarried 1999,

Baby Legg

Miscarried 2009,

Baby Boy Legg

Miscarried 2011

Parents: Jimmy and Ami Legg

Siblings: McKinley, Madeline

and Maxton (due August 2012)



Happy 2nd Birthday, Luke!

My beautiful Luke, my heart aches daily because you are not here with us. Every day I think of you and miss you a lot, but I understand that you are doing great things next to our Creator. I still do not fully understand God's plan. I wonder why He chose you to fulfill your purpose here on earth in just 23 weeks and two days, but I know God is perfect and in control.

I struggle to imagine what you would be doing and the things you would be saying at the age of two. If I had one wish, it would be to see your precious face one more time.

Luke, I want you to know that you have completely changed my life, and as a result, I am a stronger person. I cherish all the memories I have of you, and I can't wait to meet you in heaven one day, along with Hope and Faith.

Happy second heavenly birthday, my little man!!

Love always,
Mommy

Luke Noe Johnson

July 26, 2010

Pre-term labor

Also remembering

Hope Johnson

Miscarried October 30, 2009,

Faith Johnson

Miscarried September 2, 2011

Parents: James and Merle Johnson

Siblings: Emma Grace



Happy 1st Birthday, Brand and Colt!

Dear Brand and Colt, happy first heavenly birthday to my Little Butterball and my Little Sweet Pea! There is not a day that goes by I don't think of you both, my precious twin angels. I am so thankful I have you two boys in my life and in my heart. I praise God for my sons who made me a mother and who have changed my life forever. Although one year has passed since I held you both in my hands, I don't view it as a year of loss (because you are always with me) but as one year closer to the day I will be with you both again in heaven!

Mommy and Daddy love you, Brand and Colt, with our whole hearts and miss you more than words can say.

Always in our hearts,
Mommy and Daddy

"I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." - Psalm 27:13-14

Brand and Colt Whigham

August 4, 2011

Umbilical cords knotted together

Parents: Chris and Beverlyann Whigham



Happy 2nd Birthday, Caelan!

Our sweet, sweet Caelan, we wish you a happy second heavenly birthday. You are dearly missed, and we remember you every day. We will honor you by speaking of the hope we have of a future in heaven together every time we share of the love we have for you.

We love you with all our hearts,
Mom and Dad

Time

Depends which side you're on
You told me time has two sides,
and I'm looking at the wrong one
How long until we meet again?

I said it's so long.

You said, "Mom, we'll be together again very soon
Hold me in your heart until then.

You can't even imagine how long eternity is.
Time on earth is short compared."

By Dana Wallace

Caelan Matthew Wallace

July 30 - August 3, 2010

Early birth

Parents: Andy and Dana Wallace



Happy 1st Birthday, Wyatt!

Mommy and Daddy miss you so very much! We are so proud of you and think of you every day, wishing that you were here with us. We find comfort knowing that the Lord is holding you and that we will hold you once again. I bet you're a beautiful angel. We are planning a special day here on your birthday to celebrate you. Please know, little one, that you are deeply loved, greatly missed and will never be forgotten.

Love forever,
Mommy and Daddy

Wyatt Lane Vowell

July 25 - 31, 2011

Infection in the NICU

Parents: Lancer and Lavane Vowell



Happy 15th Birthday, Erika!

You are so loved, missed and remembered daily.
Your Family

Erika B. Grau

July 9 - August 3, 1997

Anoxic brain injury due to ruptured uterus

Parents: Ray and Yvette Grau

Siblings: Nik and Nataly



Happy 6th Birthday, Theo!

As the seasons change and the years march on, our love for you remains and does not diminish. On this, your sixth heavenly birthday, you are still on our minds and always in our hearts.

Bisous,

Mommy, Daddy, little sister Ysabel and the Family

Theo Fleurima Shannon

August 10, 2006

Neonatal stroke

Parents: Ted and Geraldie Shannon

Little Sister: Ysabel

**Happy 9th Birthday, Abby!**

We love you and miss you.

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003

Trisomy 18

Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump

Siblings: Cami and Karli

**Happy 1st Birthday, Desi!**

To my sweet Desi - I cannot believe it has already been one year since we had to say goodbye. I miss you every single day and cannot wait until I can hold you again. You will always be my sweet baby girl and will always have a special place in my heart. I love and miss you so very much!

Love,

Mommy, Daddy and Davin

Desi Elise Rodgers

August 2, 2011

Umbilical cord accident

Parents: Derrick and Meagan Rodgers

Siblings: Davin

**Happy 1st Birthday, Eli and MeiLi!**

Both of you continue to cross our minds daily as we imagine what you would be doing with your big brother, Maximus. We will forever tell him about you guys. Daddy and Mommy miss and love you dearly. We look forward to the day we meet again.

Eli Payton

July 25, 2011

MeiLi Payton

July 28, 2011

Unknown cause

Parents: Ryan and Ashley Payton

Sibling: Maximus

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Alethia Joy!**

It's hard to believe it's been three years since we held you in our arms and said goodbye. We miss you so much and wonder every day what our lives would be like with our beautiful 3-year-old daughter running around the house. I know you and your little sister, Hannah Beth, would have so much fun together, and we wish so much that the two of you could grow up together. When we ask her where her big sister, Alethia, is, she points up to heaven. We thank the Lord Jesus for the hope that we will see you again one day and the peace and comfort in knowing that He is holding you in His arms.

With all of our love,

Daddy, Mommy, Hannah Beth and Anthony Jr.

Alethia Joy Myers

Stillborn February 3, 2009 at 39 weeks

Unknown cause

Parents: Tony and Charity Myers

Siblings: Hannah Beth and Anthony, Jr.

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Mayson and Mark!**

I love you so much. The day we will meet will be beautiful. I miss all my babies very much.

- Mommy

Mayson James and Mark Anthony Chesnut

August 18, 2010

Infection

Also remembering

Micheal Dean Chesnut

January 7, 2010

Placental abruption,

Baby Chesnut A

Miscarried June 13, 2011

Heart stopped beating,

Baby Chesnut B

Miscarried December 8, 2012

Early miscarriage due to clotting

Parents: James and Brittany Chesnut

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Madison!**

Happy second birthday in heaven, baby girl. We can't believe it's been that long ago! Not a day goes by that we don't think of you and miss you! You are such a blessing to us, and we are so thankful you blessed us with your baby sister. She reminds us so much of you, and we would have loved to have had this experience with you and watching you be a big sister. Instead, we will feel you in our hearts being a big sister to Merritt until we are all together. Love you forever and always!

Madison Rose Balliette

Stillborn July 14, 2010

Parents: Michael and Megan Balliette

Sister: Merritt Rae



Still a Reason to Celebrate

When our daughter Lily was born at 11 weeks, we spent a little extra money on her memorial celebration, believing it would be the only “party” we would have for her. But as her first birthday approached, I began to consider having a party anyway. My definition of “birth” had definitely changed in the last year, so why not my definition of “birthday party” as well? Planning a party gave me a project to work on and a reason to look forward to an otherwise sad day. If it was not Lily’s birthday and the day we celebrate her, then it was just the day she died and the day we mourn her.

Once I decided on a theme, I got busy making invitations, planning special food and party favors, and even a couple of games to play. Of course there were times when I wondered why I was doing all of this and worried what others would think, but I knew if I did not do something special I would regret it.

Instead of gifts, we thought guests could bring age-appropriate gifts to be donated to a charity. Though birthday parties in subsequent years might be different, I knew this year it would be emotionally difficult to receive diapers and sweet little clothes and toys, so we decided to ask for money to purchase books for our M.E.N.D. lending library. An avid reader, I greatly benefited from this resource and wanted to add to it.

Our 5-year-old son, Isaac, told me he was not sure what he wanted to get Lily for her birthday. He was considering a baby doll or a doll stroller. He knew Lily could not play with it, so we decided to donate her gift to the local crisis nursery for lots of little girls to enjoy. I called ahead, and they assured me they would be happy to accept our donation.

The day on the calendar finally read March 2. After a quiet morning, my son and I went to the crisis nursery to deliver the baby doll and stroller. We took a picture of us with Lily’s gift to keep as a memento. For lunch, we picked up food from the restaurant we associate with Lily. It was the one place that tasted great when I was pregnant with her.

With friends and family joining us to celebrate, the party was a great time. It was like any other first birthday party, except that when we sang “Happy Birthday” there was no birthday girl to blow out the candle. It was bittersweet, to say the least. With the money we received, we were able to purchase quite a few books for the lending library, which we donated in Lily’s honor. As our guests left, we gave each one a lily bulb and asked them to send us a picture when it bloomed.

Lily’s 1st birthday was a day marked with grief and joy. How deeply we wanted to be celebrating with her, but even still we had a reason to celebrate.



Kathleen Moore and son, Isaac, with his gift for Lily to be donated to Isabel’s House, a local crisis nursery.



Isaac Moore outside of Isabel’s House.

♥ written by Kathleen Moore,
Mommy to Lily Joy

M.E.N.D.—Southwest Missouri

Vive tu Vida! No dejes que el dolor te robe tu bendición

Hay un pasaje peculiar en las escrituras encontradas en el libro de Joel que dicen: “Yo les compensare a ustedes los años que perdieron a causa de la plaga de la langosta” (2:25). Hay un par de años de mi vida que siento que permití que las langostas (Satán) se los comieran. Los primeros años después de la muerte fetal de mi bebé, Jonathan, se llenaron de inmensa tristeza - tanta tristeza que tenía mucha dificultad en concentrarme en las cosas buenas que sí tenía, como mi hijo pre-escolar, Byron Jr. y mi maravillosa amada familia.

Por ejemplo, Byron Jr. fue un talentoso futbolista a la edad de 4 años y logro muchos goles para su equipo. Sí, ovacione como loca cuando hacía una buena jugada, pero luego me invadía el silencio en el momento que atravesaba por mi mente que yo nunca vería a Jonathan meter un gol. Me encontraba demasiada ahogada para poder concentrarme en los próximos minutos del juego. Tuve que bloquearme, para sacar a Jonathan de mi mente y concentrarme en donde estaba y el porqué estaba allí. Ciertamente, nadie sabía de mis batallas mentales.

Yo soy una de seis hijos en mi familia y la única con un único hijo vivo. El resto de mis hermanos y hermanas tuvieron todos los hijos que deseaban. A ninguna de mis cuatro hermanas se les dijo que no podrían tener más hijos, y yo soy la única de ellos que ha sufrido pérdidas. Cuando nuestros hijos eran pequeños y jugaban juntos regularmente, solía desgarrarse mi corazón al ver que el

Continúa en la página 19

Please Know

by Andrea Gimlin
Written May 5, 2012
In Memory of Gabriel Gimlin

Mama, I remember the beating of your heart.
I feel your love around me, even though we are apart.
I remember when you sang to me in a voice so sweet,
I would fall asleep and dream of the day that we would meet.
I remember when you laughed when I would kick around,
And when my Daddy talked, I really loved the sound,
I remember when he'd give me kisses and whisper of his love,
And even now I hear it in the heavens far above.
I remember feeling safe and knowing you were mine,
Dreaming of your smile and how your love would shine.
I grew and grew inside of you, filling every space,
Happy and content to stay in this cozy place.
But then one night a voice did say, "Come with Me, my little one."
I told Him how you needed me, that our life had just begun.
His voice was soft and tender as He said it wasn't time,
I moved a little to let you know that you would always be mine,
He told me that you knew my love and in time we'd be together,
That this life is short and when we'd meet you could hold on to me
forever,
As my spirit lifted, I saw my Daddy sleeping,
I kissed him on the cheek and asked the voice for his safe keeping.
I cuddled close, for just a second, onto his warm chest,
The beating of his heart was perfect, the safest place for rest.
And then I turned and I saw you, my sweet mama's face,
I knew I couldn't leave you here in this lonely place.
I told the voice you needed me, again He softly spoke,
"You're always with her dearest one, and in her heart she'll know."
I kissed you on the cheeks and stroked your soft dark hair,
Placed my hand above your heart, whispering, "I am there."
And then the voice took me, shooting fast beyond the stars,
Promising that you and Daddy would be safe in each others arms.
I wish I didn't have to go, but know that I am safe,
Waiting for the day that we can be in the same place.
Till then don't cry because I'm gone, be happy I was there,
That you and Daddy made me, someone that you can share.



Gary and Andrea Gimlin with their son, Gabriel.

♥ *written by Andrea Gimlin
Mommy to Gabriel
M.E.N.D.—Southwest Missouri*

Blessings

By Laura Story

We pray for blessings
We pray for peace
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep
We pray for healing, for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand
To ease our suffering
All the while, You hear each spoken need
Yet love us way too much
To give us lesser things

We pray for wisdom
Your voice to hear
And we cry in anger when
We cannot feel You near
We doubt Your goodness, we doubt Your love
As if every promise from
Your Word is not enough
All the while, You hear each desperate plea
And long that we have faith to believe

'Cause what if Your blessings
Come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know You're near
And what if trials of this life are
Your mercies in disguise

When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know that pain reminds this heart
That this is not, this is not our home
It's not our home

'Cause what if Your blessings
Come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
And what if a thousand sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know You're near
**What if my greatest disappointments
Or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst
this world can't satisfy**
And what if trials of this life
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
Are Your mercies in disguise

Blessings 2011
laurastorymusic.com
Retrieved June 8, 2012

*Some miracles arrive so tiny that we cannot feel the weight of them,
and yet we are still changed, and we are blessed, none the less...
~Anonymous*

M.E.N.D.

*Chapter Corner*Chapter Meeting Information**M.E.N.D.—Houston**

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

Northwest Medical and Professional Building
17117 Cali Dr, Suite 112, Houston, TX 77090

Director: Jaimie Crump

jaimie@mend.org, (281) 374-8528

Subsequent pregnancy group meets
as needed on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,
led by Chiara Ott
(chiara@mend.org).

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.—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.—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.—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 Soncy

Amarillo, Texas

Director: Becky Anderson

becky@mend.org, (806) 570-4344

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

M.E.N.D.—Houston is anxiously awaiting our seventh annual Walk to Remember, which will take place on October 6 at a new venue, Bammel Road Church of Christ. We are excited to have our ceremony outdoors again and are blessed that Bammel has let us use their beautiful facility. If you are in the Houston area (or in another part of Texas drivable to Houston) and would like to receive an invitation to our Walk, please email your physical address to jaimie@mend.org.

Jaimie Crump

Texarkana

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana recently celebrated our sixth year this June. We continue to grow and minister to families throughout the Texarkana area through email, phone calls and monthly meetings. We have also had a growing number of families become more involved and offer encouragement via Facebook.

Monica Davis

Tulsa

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa continues to grow with new grieving families. Additionally, we are in the process of preparing for our fundraiser letter campaign. We hope God continues to bless this ministry with a successful campaign.

Lisa Daily

SW Missouri

M.E.N.D.—Southwest Missouri is learning some tough lessons about God's will. After the excitement of a potential memorial garden for our members, we have prayerfully and sadly come to the realization that THIS garden may not be right at this time. We are simply too small of a chapter for a project this big—one that is more than three times our annual operating budget. However, not all was in vain as we have formed a great relationship with local gardeners, and, when the funds are available, we will have the resources in place to pursue OUR garden. We were also introduced to a great place in our community to have our balloon release and will look to secure another spot at the Nathaniel-Close Memorial Gardens for our October event. Thank you for your prayers on all these matters as we continue to strive to serve our members well and be good stewards of our resources.

Heather Fann

NW Washington

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington continues to thrive. We enjoyed our second Ladies' Day Out when a group gathered at The Dancing Brush and made ceramic mementoes in honor of their angel babies. There is a family barbeque planned on August 4. We recently established a spin-off Facebook page entitled "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" for those who are subsequently pregnant or trying to conceive.

Susan Crow

Bryan/College Station

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station had a great time at our BUNCO bash! Thank you to VIP Bridal for hosting our event. We are also looking forward to our Christmas Ceremony in December.

Jennie Drude

Walk to Remember

Both the Dallas and Houston "Walk to Remember" ceremonies will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2012. Visit www.mend.org for more information, to order Walk t-shirts, memory signs (Dallas Walk only) and to register your family to attend.

Hot Springs

M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs has been so blessed with the support of our local hospital, National Park Medical Center, in our start-up year and would like to thank them for that support. We are continuing to reach out to our families and are looking forward to see what God will do in our second year as a chapter.

Amy Humphries

Wichita Falls

M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls held our second general meeting last month, and our Facebook page is up and running! We are continuing to spread the word about our new M.E.N.D. chapter and we are looking forward to the months ahead.

Sarah Fukasawa

Amarillo

M.E.N.D.—Amarillo is gearing up for our 2nd annual Bunco for Babies fundraiser in September. Join us on Facebook or contact Becky at becky@mend.org to get more details. We just celebrated our second anniversary as a M.E.N.D. chapter. God has truly blessed us here in the Texas panhandle.

Becky Anderson

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**
Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
National Park Medical Center/Maurice Room
1910 Malvern Avenue
Hot Springs, AR
Director: Amy Humphries
amy@mend.org, (501) 620-9930

M.E.N.D.—**Wichita Falls, Texas**
Meets the 2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Christ Home Place Ministries
1420 Twin Oaks Street
Wichita Falls, TX
Director: Sarah Fukasawa
sarahf@mend.org, (940) 642-3284

Looking Ahead

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Events

Christmas Candlelight Ceremonies

M.E.N.D.— Houston	M.E.N.D.— Dallas	M.E.N.D.— SW Missouri	M.E.N.D.— Hot Springs	M.E.N.D.— Houston	M.E.N.D.— Dallas	M.E.N.D.— Bryan/College Station	M.E.N.D.— SW Missouri
October 6	October 6	October 20	December 1	December 1	December 4	December 8	December 11

Please contact your chapter for more details on the events.

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
are held the 4th Thursday of
every month at 8:00 p.m.
at the Corner Bakery in
Southlake Town Center

*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.*

MENDING Mommies
Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Contact Marilyn Brown:
Marilyn@mend.org.
*MENDING Mommies is a group of
M.E.N.D. moms (and grandmothers)
who create and sew tiny gowns, caps,
and blankets that are donated to area
hospitals for new heavenly babies.*

Parenting After Loss Playgroup
Meets monthly at various locations in the
Dallas / Fort Worth metroplex.
Contact Magen Kaye: Magen@mend.org
or call (214) 435-3870

Infertility group
meets the 3rd Monday
at 7:30 p.m.
Contact Cheryl Davis for meeting
location and information at
Cheryl@mend.org
*For families experiencing
infertility after a loss.*

**Mommies AND daddies are both
welcome at all M.E.N.D. meetings.
Unless otherwise noted, all 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.

In Loving Memory**Caitlyn Behne Alcuri**

May 7, 2011
Cord accident
Given by Mommy Michelle Alcuri

Malen Anderson

February 4, 2008
Possible heart attack
Given by parents Wes and Becky Anderson

Emma Bailey

April 23, 2008
Incompetent cervix
Brooklyn, Jillian and Sydney Bailey
January 1 and January 2, 2010
Incompetent cervix
Given by parents Chad and Melissa Bailey

Jackson Dean Cochran

April 24 - May 19, 2004
Premature
Given by parents
Stacey and DeAnna Cochran
and sibling Christian

Abigail Grace Crump

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

Brooke Sophia Daily

Stillborn March 11, 2010
Vasa Previa
Gifts given by parents Jeremy and Lisa Daily
and big sister Sarah
and Patrick O'Reilly

Riley and Parker Davis

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

Lyle Donald Dagget

Stillborn September 18, 2002
Unknown cause
Given by parents Brad and Lisa Dagget

Cole Matthew Didier

Stillborn August 25, 1998
Renal Agenesis
Given by parents Matt and Nicole Didier
and siblings Madison and Lily

Royce Haskell Dugan

Stillborn October 9, 2011
Cord accident
Parents: Sean and Ashley Dugan
Given by William and Mary McAdams

Kyler Paul English

Stillborn January 20, 2006
Cord accident
Parents: Laurie McPike and Bob English
Given by Jon and Laurie McPike and
brothers Kinser, Kelson and Kayden

Mary Elizabeth Forrest

Stillborn August 7, 1997
Given by parents Jim and Barb Forrest

Jacob Yoshiaki Fukasawa

Stillborn February 8, 2010
Unknown cause
Given by parents Yoshi and Sarah Fukasawa
and siblings Ava and Noah

Amanda Morgan Galleger

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

Erika Brianne Grau

July 9 - August 3, 1997
Anoxic brain injury due to VBAC
Given by parents Yvette and Ray Grau
and siblings Nikryan and Nataly

Jordan Ashley Heffley

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

Samuel Mark Hintz

Stillborn October 29, 2008
Parents: Gregory and Sara Hintz
Siblings: Louis, Caleb, Anna, Elijah,
Hope and Levi
Given by grandparents
Gary and Beverly Hintz

Carson Lewis Humphries

March 23, 2009
Trisomy 9
Parents: Amy and J.J. Humphries
Big sister: Sarah Jessica
Gifts given by Kellie Glisson
Grandparents Joe and Donna Yancey
Uncle and Aunt Jeff and Kris Newcomb
Uncle and Aunt Brian and Jessica
McDonald
Uncle and Aunt Travis and Sara Biggs
and cousin Avery Jo McDonald

Olivia Grace Hunt

February 8 - 9, 2000
Possibly LQTS
Given by parents Richard and Stacy Hunt
and siblings Mason, Cameron and
Addison

Baby Ilgenfritz

Miscarried August 30, 2007

Henry Ian Ilgenfritz

May 5, 2008
Cord accident
Given by parents Jody and Rhonda Ilgenfritz
and siblings Kate and Benjamin

Ross Donoho Kennedy, III

Stillborn October 29, 2000
Cord accident
Given by parents Ross and Nicole Kennedy

Sarah Ann King

Stillborn June 22, 1995
Cord accident
Parents: David and Lori King
Siblings: Brooks, Kaylee and Brady
Given by David H King Insurance Agency

William Joseph Kowalski

August 12, 1997
Placental abruption/premature
Given by parents Robert and Sheri Kowalski

Caley Brianna Joyce

November 12 - 26, 2007
NEC
Given by parents Jon and Jennifer Joyce

Joseph Charles Libby

Stillborn May 26, 1996
Cord accident
Given by parents Wim and Sharlene Libby
and siblings Will, John and Mary Grace

Baby Malone I

Miscarried December 2003

Baby Malone II

Miscarried May 2004
Parents: Robbie and Heather Malone
Siblings: Kaid and Brie
Given by Phyllis McClemore

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!

Lyle Dale Mitchell

February 21, 1937 - March 30, 2012

Papa to Jonathan Daniel Mitchell
and Baby Mitchell

Gifts given by

Lynette Nally
Patti Braue
Monica Mitre**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

Zoe Jane Ogburn

May 18, 2012

Parents: Bryan and Jennifer Ogburn

Gifts given by

Alan and Elizabeth Epps
Ronald and Debra Braden
Brenda and Nicholas Roberts
Larry and Charlotte Feazel
Mike and Kathy Allen
Bates Funeral Home**Spencer Charles Tschoepe**

Stillborn July 24, 2000

Unknown cause

Given by parents Ernie and Mandy Tschoepe
and siblings Clara, Kathleen and Bennett**Alivia Elizabeth Grace Walker**

Stillborn July 24, 2006

Incompetent cervix

Given by parents Robert and Liz Walker
and little brother Jaxson**Kyle Charles Walton**

November 19, 1998

Group B Strep

Given by parents Jason and Kristen Walton
and siblings Jessica, Laura and Joshua**Caelan Matthew Wallace**

July 30 - August 3, 2010

Premature birth

Given by parents Andy and Dana Wallace

Elliot Joseph Wood

Stillborn December 21, 2011

Parents: Ron and Halee Wood

Big brother: Reese Wood

Gift given anonymously

Gifts of SupportSecond Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
West Conroe Baptist Church, TX

Who Am I Made Of?

Life threw me for a loop on July 24, 2006, when we lost our daughter, Alivia. Our make-shift perfect world was completely shattered. Alivia brought a journey of grief that was hard to swallow and kept rearing its little head. I was asking God day-in and day-out why I was chosen to have this as part of my life, why He didn't choose someone else who was stronger. "I am weak and cannot do this grief thing," I told myself. Actually, I was telling God, "I know You made me fearfully and wonderfully, but I have a flaw in me that can't take this. You have made a mistake and I want out."

I thought, "I will sleep this life away and wake up to my new life with my baby girl in my arms." When that didn't work, I decided to take medication so I didn't feel the pain. That did not work, either. Everything I tried to make the pain go away caused the grief to seep back in and grab hold of me again. It would not let go, so I created a new me and made it through about a year and half. Around the summer of 2008, our prayers had been answered with the birth of our subsequent baby, Jaxson, and life was good on the outside, but the new me I had created was crumbling. Grief again, when I was supposed to be happy!

The person I had created was not who God created. We are fearfully and wonderfully made by God, and He is the only one that can change our mourning into gladness. Until I realized who He really was to me, my blessings were being stolen. Blessings in my life—my husband, my son, my job, my body, my mind and my Livi—all being stolen from me. I asked God what could I do to get my blessings back, and all I heard was "Serve me! Serve me, and I will give you all those blessings and many more and some peace to go with it." At that time in my life I was only looking at my situation, no one else's, but then I realized I am still standing because God gave me the strength to stand, and I need to help others to "get back up again."

It started with taking over the M.E.N.D. subsequent pregnancy group in 2008, and then a journey I have been on since the fall of 2010: school. I am pursuing a degree in counseling, a degree which will focus mostly on grief, because that is the way God has shown me how I can help people "get back up again" for the remainder of my days. God never said life would be easy, but He chose weak ones like us to fulfill His purposes. Relax in His presence and trust in His strength. Live for life, not grief, because we are only here for a season.

♥ *Liz Walker, M.E.N.D. —Dallas Subsequent Pregnancy Group Director
Mommy to Alivia Elizabeth-Grace*

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.

*A butterfly came floating by
and I thought I knew her face.
She landed on my shoulder and
spread her wings of lace.
I looked and saw her smiling as
she winked and flew away
I'm sure I heard her whisper,
"We'll meet again one day."
~Author Unknown*



Subsequent Births

Michael and Megan Balliette,
of Hot Springs, Arkansas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Merritt Rae,
born on March 2, 2012,
measuring 6 lb., 3 oz.,
and 18.9 inches long.

The Balliettes lovingly remember
Madison Rose Balliette,
stillborn July 14, 2010

Daniel and Jennifer McCullah
of Hot Springs, Arkansas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Adalynn Joyce,
born March 6, 2012,
measuring 9 lb., and 19.5 inches long.
The McCullahs lovingly remember
Blake Wendell McCullah,
December 20, 2010,
Factor V Leiden blood clotting disorder

Travis and Channon Soppe
of Hurst, Texas,
along with big brother Adrian,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Hadlee Hope,
born April 12, 2012,
measuring 8 lb., 4oz.,
and 20.25 inches long.
The Soppes lovingly remember
Ainslee Ryan,
October 29, 2010 -
February 8, 2011,
SIDS

Geoff and Rachel Tidman
of Fort Worth, Texas,
along with big brother Caleb,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Kyle Eugene,
born April 17, 2012,
measuring 7 lb., 11oz.,
and 19.75 inches long.
The Tidmans lovingly remember
Connor Eugene,
stillborn April 21, 2010,
unknown cause

Sara and Santosh Regmi
of Northlake, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Isha McKenzie,
born May 5, 2012,
measuring 1 lb., 3.8 oz.,
The Regmis lovingly remember
Skylar,
miscarried September 1, 2012,
and Samira Sue Ann,
miscarried March 13, 2011

Natalie and Greg Grimshaw
of Weatherford, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Adler August and Emory Jasper,
born May 18, 2012,
5 lb., 12 oz., and 3 lb., 8.6 oz.
The Grimshaws lovingly remember
Aidan William,
stillborn November 19, 2010,
possible cord accident and stroke

Jennifer and Todd Dickerson
of Dallas, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Jackson Chase,
born May 1, 2012,
measuring 7 lb., 10 oz.,
and 20.5 inches long.
The Dickersons lovingly remember
Ava Elaine,
October 22 - December 7, 2010,
congenital diaphragmatic hernia

Tonya and Eric Brown
of Lancaster, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Haley Justine,
born June 1, 2012,
measuring 6 lb., and 17.5 inches long.
The Browns lovingly remember
Baby Brown I,
miscarried August 2006,
Tiffany Evette,
July 21, 2008,
incompetent cervix,
Elizabeth Hope,
June 21, 2009,
incompetent cervix,
Baby Brown II,
miscarried January 2010,
Baby Brown III,
miscarried September 2010,
and Baby Brown IV
miscarried May 2011

Gayla and Adrian Moore
of Irving, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Maxwell Alexander and Olivia Grace,
born May 7, 2012,
measuring 4 lb., 4 oz., and 4 lb., 13 oz.
The Moores lovingly remember
Twins Moore,
miscarried November 29, 2009,
Avery Moore,
stillborn November 6, 2010,
unknown cause

Peter and Julie Forrest
of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma,
joyfully announce the arrival of
John "Jack" Peter,
born July 19, 2011,
measuring 6 lb., 11 oz.,
and 19 inches long.
The Forrest family lovingly remembers
Henry,
July 24 - 25, 2010,
and Sam,
July 24 - August 8, 2010,
preterm labor - unknown cause

Todd and Stormy Mitchell
of Conroe, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Silas Todd,
born April 16, 2012,
measuring 7 lb., 2 oz.,
and 19.5 inches long.
The Mitchells lovingly remember
Gideon,
May 17, 2011,
membranous cord insertion,
and Avery Mitchell,
miscarried May 2008

Justin and Ashlea Schroeder,
of College Station, TX,
along with big brother Jacob,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Ella Rylee,
born October 13, 2011,
measuring 6 lb., 6 oz.,
and 18 inches long.
The Schroeders lovingly remember
Wyatt Paul,
October 14, 2010
Placental abruption

“Vive tu Vida! No dejes que el dolor te robe tu bendición” continuación de la página 12...

mío era el único sin un hermano. No podía entender el tratar la rivalidad entre hermanos en el hogar, ni el tratar de balancear horarios de varios hijos en múltiples actividades. Suena trivial ahora y sé que debo estar agradecida por el único hijo que tengo, pero como una mamá joven condolidada, esto me lastimaba. Una vez más, ninguno de ellos sabía de mi confusión interna.

Hace dos años, Byron Jr. se graduó de la escuela secundaria y se fue a la Universidad. Aunque mi esposo, Byron y yo estábamos muy contentos y emocionados por la nueva etapa de la vida de nuestro hijo, se me hacía muy difícil estar con la casa vacía cuando técnicamente, no debería de ser así, ya que aun deberíamos de tener hijos en casa. Cuando se fue por primera vez, tuve que recordarme de estar agradecida de que tenía un hijo que estaba disfrutando de su nueva aventura en la vida, en lugar de sentirme triste por mí misma, ya que ahora estaba sola en mi casa más tiempo durante el día y nuestro hogar parecía tan vacío.

Permítanme aclarar que mi vida ha sido ricamente bendecida y completa desde que Jonathan murió hace 17 años, pero hay eventos y temporadas que me hacen luchar a veces. Tuve que tomar una decisión en 1995... que iba a ser miserable el resto de mi vida o que iba a buscar al Señor para preguntarle qué puedo hacer con mi experiencia de perder Jonathan. ¿Podría mi tristeza ser usada por él para algo bueno? Y sí, tuve que asegurarme viendo lo bueno, pero tuve que hacerlo realidad. Pasé muchas horas en la cama revolcándome en mi tristeza los primeros meses después de la muerte de Jonathan, pero eventualmente tuve que decidir que esto no era cómo iba a pasar el resto de mi vida. No quería estar triste para siempre. No quería sentir lástima de mi misma para siempre, y definitivamente, no quería perderme la oportunidad de disfrutar de la vida de mi único hijo. Tuve que aprender a equilibrar ser mamá de un niño vivo y de un niño muerto. Descubrí que podía recordar dulcemente a Jonathan, sin detenerme en las circunstancias de su muerte. En otras palabras, he aprendido a separar mis sentimientos de amarlo, sin asociar los duros recuerdos circunstanciales de perderlo.

Como madres desconsoladas hemos experimentado un evento muy trágico y traumático en nuestras vidas - algunos de nosotros más de una vez. Sin embargo, nos corresponde a nosotros decidir cómo vamos a pasar el resto de nuestras vidas tras la muerte de nuestros hijos. ¿Como dice el viejo cliché: vamos a ser amargados o mejores? ¿Vamos a ir a través del dolor, o crecer a través del dolor? Sinceramente rezo para que elijas en crecer y convertirte en una mejor persona. No permitas que el enemigo robe los buenos años de tu vida por seguir ahogándote en la miseria. Después de haber pasado una intensa temporada de luto, ten deseo de levantarte, toma el día y dale gracias a Dios por lo que si tienes o posees.

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

Happy 15th Birthday, Erika B. Grau!
July 9 – August 3, 1997

Fifteen years ago, there was a myriad of emotions that surrounded Erika's birth to life and birth to eternal life. Joy, laughter, pain, sorrow, sadness and hope are just a few of the many emotions involved. Today, many of these same emotions still remain, but in such a different way, if that makes any sense. The journey I've traveled since Erika left has brought so very much to me in so many aspects of my life. I am a firm believer that, eventually, everything goes in full circle, and sometimes more than once. This circle of life, this circle of love, this circle of daily living—I identify with all of these through my journey of life. A journey that has been intricately paved and weaved specifically for me by my Creator, my Father, my God. A journey that I would not have inflicted upon myself but a journey that I have accepted from my Father because in the midst of these emotions, I know He lovingly and intimately is the author of my life.

Throughout my journey I've felt so blessed that God made me the mother of three amazing children, although I only have two to hold here on earth. Mothering is by far the highest calling in my life as an adult. Honoring my mother is by far my highest calling in life as a daughter even though she has been called home to be with the Lord and Erika. This, albeit out of the expected order, is a circle of life.

There is a tall, stand-up lamp in my room, the very same lamp that was in Erika's room while she was home with us. It was turned on the very first night we brought her home on a "Do Not Resuscitate" order. Other than when the bulb has blown, it has never been voluntarily turned off since that first time it was turned on. It has remained dimly on for fifteen years. I just recently decided it was time. Not quite the time to turn it off just yet, but it was time to transition to a much smaller table-top night lamp which will continue to remain dimly lit. This transition of the lamp light, although meaningless to most, is a symbol of a just another thing I do that contributes to the circle of love for her.

Nik will be a senior in high school; Nataly will be an eighth grader. Erika would have been getting ready to start the tenth grade. I celebrate the milestones of my living children as well as some milestones not materialized for Erika. For the times my heart does not feel like celebrating, my hearts mourns the milestones not materialized for Erika. But it's okay. My journey continues. Adjustments are made and new challenges are met each and every day. Always, I do the best that I can do with all God's blessings and in all circumstances, I am thankful. *“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for me in Christ Jesus” 1 Thessalonians 5:18.* This verse is my pillar to my circle of daily living.

♥ *Yvette Grau, M.E.N.D. — Advisory Board and Spanish Translator
Mommy to Erika B*

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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 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.
- **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.



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