



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

When Your Loss is Your Last

I am a planner, and always have been. I get more than a little bent out of shape when plans change at the last minute or if things don't go the way I think they should – or the way I planned them to be. When I was a little girl, I often dreamed of what my life would be like when I grew up. My mom raised us five girls to be wives and moms, and she taught us that being a wife and a mother “was a very high calling.” Therefore, I never planned to be a career woman or spend much time in the workforce. I planned only to be the best wife I could be to my future husband and a mother to three boys. Yes, I said *three boys* - I had it all planned out, even down to the names for the most part. My firstborn son would bear the name of my husband, whatever name that might be. My second son would be given the name Jonathan. And my third...I could never come up with a suitable name, so I decided to wait until I was pregnant for the third time to decide.

I married my husband Byron when I was 19 years old, just after he completed his first year of dental school. The plan was for us to start a family three years later, shortly after he became a dentist, and I would be a stay-at-home mom. Two and a half years after we married, we announced that we were expecting our first baby. Several weeks later, a sonogram revealed it was a boy. So far, so good! My life was falling into place just as I had planned. Byron, Jr. was born on November 1, 1991. After his third birthday, we became pregnant a second time, and later we were told that this baby, too, was a boy. Perfect! Jonathan was scheduled to arrive around September 7, 1995.

There was a slight glitch in my plans, however, that threatened my “I'm going to have three boys” plan. Just after Byron and I married, I was diagnosed with a very serious congenital kidney disease. Having one baby was a risk, two was an even greater risk, and three was out of the question at that time, as far as my doctors were concerned. A side effect of this disease is high blood pressure, which posed some problems with my first pregnancy, but our son was born on time and perfectly healthy. However, the second pregnancy did not start off as uneventful. I began having trouble very early in the pregnancy, which

eventually caused us to move in with my parents so our young son could be cared for while I was on bed rest.

As I entered into the third trimester of my pregnancy with Jonathan, I was hospitalized because of the instability of my blood pressure and the evidence that my kidneys were not holding up very well. Despite the complications I was experiencing, my plans were still intact. Jonathan might have to be delivered a little early, but all was well, because God and I had a plan that Jonathan's little life would touch countless people.

My plans were shattered beyond my wildest dreams on Saturday, June 24, 1995. Jonathan became completely entangled in the umbilical cord while I was on bed rest in the hospital. He was delivered that night weighing 2 lbs., 12 oz., and measured 15.5 inches long, with the cord wrapped around his head, his body, and his left leg.

I guess you could say my pregnancy with Jonathan pretty much “awakened” my kidney disease, and I continued to slowly lose what little function I had left. Again, this was certainly not part of any plans I had made for my life. On February 16, 2000, I was given the incredible life-saving gift of a healthy kidney from my dear friend, Valerie Jones. After that, I made a new set of plans for myself.

My doctors told me that if I did not experience any episodes of rejection, we could consider another pregnancy one and a half to two years following the transplant. One year and eight months later, I became pregnant for the third time. Since I had never decided on a name for this third son, I decided to implement the past few years in the choosing of the name. I chose Samuel Jon, which means, “for this child I prayed.” Just in case it was a girl, I chose Valerie Grace.

My plans came crashing down again when at ten weeks along, a sonogram revealed my tiny baby no longer had a beating heart. There would not be a Samuel or Valerie, or any other baby for that matter! I had some fairly major complications with the miscarriage, which ultimately led to our deciding that the loss would be our last.

Continued on page 2

Nota Española: 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 17.

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

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

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Donations make the printing and distribution of this newsletter possible. Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated and should be sent to the address listed above. If your gift is made in memory of a baby, please include that baby's name (if named), date of birth and/or date of death, the parents' names, and the name of the benefactor. You may also include the cause of death (if known).

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

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International Stillbirth Alliance

The Heart of the Leader

My name is Lisa Daily, and I am the director of the M.E.N.D. – Tulsa chapter. On March 11, 2010, our family had no previous sense of loss. Brooke Sophia was scheduled for her C-section the morning of March 12, and all indications were positive that she and I were healthy. Our family went to bed peacefully, only to be awakened by the excitement of the water breaking and getting ready to go to the hospital. Except the normally clear water was abnormally filled with blood. While we didn't know it at the time, we watched the life literally drain from my womb as one of Brooke Sophia's umbilical blood vessels ruptured. Those images are still vividly with me today. Upon arrival at the hospital, our nightmare became a reality when Brooke's heartbeat could not be found. Our spring break was spent arranging our daughter's funeral.

Our debilitating loss lead us to M.E.N.D. My husband Jeremy and I began attending monthly meetings in April 2010. Other groups and people provided love, support and encouragement. However, M.E.N.D. gave us the unique perspective and insight needed to cope with such a specific tragedy. It showed us that we were not alone. When the opportunity arose for me to take on the directorship role at M.E.N.D.—Tulsa, it was a big deal for me because I never could have imagined myself guiding an organization like this. However, I held the deep conviction that Brooke's life had meaning and her spirit would continue to glorify God through M.E.N.D. It's because of her that I chose to passionately run the Tulsa chapter.

♥ Lisa Daily,

Mommy to Brooke Sophia

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa

"When Your Loss is Your Last"

Continued from page 1

Never, ever did I dream I would only raise one child with my husband. I always imagined having a loud household full of happy, good looking, and athletic sons. I did not expect to empty nest when I was only 41 years old and end up directing my instinctive maternal nurturing to our two dogs instead of toward two additional children. However, let me clarify that I am happy, content, and love my life! No, it's not at all like I had planned as a little girl, but my plans don't count anyway, right?

As a follower of Christ, I only want what He has planned for me, and that's something I often have to remind myself. The Bible tells us that God knew us before we were born and knew every one of our days before any of them came to be. If that's true – and I believe it is – then He knew that Byron, Jr. would be the joy and delight of my life. He knew that Jonathan would never breathe one breath outside of my womb, and He knew that my third little baby would be my little mystery prize waiting for me in heaven. No, it's not what I had planned, but, for whatever reason, it is what He had planned. Admittedly, I don't always like the plans of the Lord, and sometimes I foolishly think I know what's best. But I lean on the scripture found in Isaiah 59:5, that says God's ways are higher than ours – and truly, those are the only plans I want for my life – His, not mine.

♥ Rebekah Mitchell,

M.E.N.D. President/Founder

Mommy to Jonathan Daniel and Baby Mitchell



international
stillbirth alliance

Book Review

Ava's Story: Miracles Happen

By Jennifer Rohde Dickerson

Ava's Story is a sweet chronicle of the 47 days little Ava Dickerson lived on this earth. At 36 weeks pregnant, Ava's mom, Jennifer, learned her unborn baby had a condition called congenital diaphragmatic hernia. During the 47 days Ava lived in the NICU at Children's Hospital in Dallas, Jennifer kept her family and friends informed of Ava's days through the online blog, Caring Bridge. This book includes the detailed posts of Ava's condition, as well as heartfelt comments left by loving family and friends. This very well-compiled book will capture your heart, and you're sure to fall in love with precious Ava and her loving family.

Ava's Story can be purchased at www.westbowpress.com or by calling (866) 928-1240.

♥ *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, Web sites, 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.

March/April Topic

Holding on to Spiritual Truths
Deadline: January 31, 2012

May/June Topic

Mother's Day/Father's Day
Deadline: March 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. Because our newsletters are posted online, please understand that your name will likely be attached to your submission when searched on the Internet.

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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.

Heavenly Birthday

January/February
March/April
May/June
July/August
September/October
November/December

Deadline

November 31
January 31
March 31
May 31
July 31
September 31





Birthday Tributes

Happy 1st Birthday, Travis!

Travis, you are the most important part of my heart's memory, and I will cherish every moment I held you in my arms.

Travis Lee Boles

October 12—November 27, 2011

Trisomy 18

Parents: Justin Boles and Jill Kotara



Happy 1st Birthday, Tinsley!

What little time I had with my daughter was a blessing from God.

Tinsley Michelle Chandler

January 23, 2012

Multiple birth defects, premature

Parents: Chuck Chandler and Sarah Curry



Happy 1st Birthday, Grace!

Not a day goes by that you are not in my heart. Everything that I do, I am doing it for you, because I know you are in heaven with the Lord shining down on me, and you constantly are cheering me to go on. I love you and miss you, my sweet Grace Saniya Tisby.

Love you always, forever, and until we meet again,
Mommy

Grace Saniya Tisby

February 27, 2012

Premature

Parents: Cedric Tisby and Shauniesa Sisk



Happy 7th Birthday, Alec!

Little boy, loved and wanted so much from the moment we knew of you. Lived for 21 minutes, loved forever!

Alec Blaine Murphy

January 13, 2006

Premature

Also remembering

Angel Baby I

Miscarried May 2000

Angel Baby II

Miscarried September 2001

Angel Baby III

Miscarried February 2003

Parents: Shawn and Janis Murphy

Sister: Emily



Happy 1st Birthday, Piper!

Piper, not a day goes by that we don't think about you, miss you and wonder what you would be like. Your sister Laiken only knew you as the baby in my tummy, but I know you two would have been the best of friends.

Miss you, Angel,

Mommy, Daddy and Laiken

Piper Noelle Neff

Stillborn February 26, 2012

SCT

Parents: Roddy and Leah Neff

Sister: Laiken Reese



Happy 5th Birthday, Christian!

Remembering a special boy who was taken away too soon and earned his angel wings. Mommy loves you and will see you later.

Christian Cook

February 15, 2008

Premature, internal bleeding

Mommy: Stephanie Cook



Happy 9th Birthday, Emily!

It's so hard to believe it's been nine years since we lost you. We still hurt as if you just left us. Our angel in heaven, you are missed every single day, and your little brother even wishes you could still be here with us. Keep visiting me in my dreams; I love them, and I love you! Give everyone in heaven lots of hugs from us.

All our love,

Mommy, Daddy and Devin

Emily Jane Matheson

January 10-12, 2004

Unknown cause

Parents: Ronnie and Carla Matheson

Brother: Devin



Happy 1st Birthday, Kylie!

To our angel in heaven, we love you and miss you every day. Although our time was brief, you will forever be in our hearts. Our angel, our baby girl, Mommy and Daddy love you!

Kylie Danielle Bohuslav

Stillborn January 4, 2012

Abruption

Parents: Kevan and Stefanie Bohuslav



Happy 1st Birthday, Brianna!

Our angel baby, Brianna, you touched our lives for a minute, but you will never be forgotten. We will love you forever.

Love always,
Mom and Dad

Brianna Taylor
Stillborn January 13, 2012
Parents: Joseph and Laurel Taylor

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Nathan!**

In loving memory of our little warrior.
We love you and miss you.

Nathan Joseph Sepeda
January 19 - October 18, 2010
Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome
Parents: Simmon and Teresa Sepeda
Siblings: Celeste, Simmon Jr., Sophia and Nathaniel

**Happy 1st Birthday, Aubrey!**

Tears

If tears could build a stairway,
and dark memories a lane,
I'd walk right up to Heaven
and bring you home again.
No farewell words were spoken
no time to say goodbye
you were gone before I knew it,
and only God knows why.
My heart still aches in sadness
and secret tears still flow,
what it meant to lose you,
no one will ever know.
~Author Unknown

Aubrey Chantelle Mallard
January 19, 2012
Body wall defect/fetal anomalies
Parents: Nathan Mallard and Wyniesa Nolan

**Happy 1st Birthday, Dayton!**

We think of you every day and wish you were here with us. We miss you so much but hope you are having a wonderful 1st birthday in heaven.

Love,
Daddy, Mommy, and your big brother Davin

Dayton Asher Standridge
Stillborn February 11, 2012, at 37 weeks
Unknown cause
Parents: Jason and Jessica Standridge
Brother: Davin

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Ellanor!**

We think of you each day and miss you tremendously!
We wish you a happy 2nd birthday!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and Zoey

Ellanor Jane Webb
January 15, 2011
Amniotic Band Syndrome
Also remembering
Baby Webb
Miscarried November 24, 2010
Parents: Patrick and Kristen Webb
Sister: Zoey Jane

**Happy 8th Birthday, James!**

We release ten colorful balloons every year for you on your birthday. This year makes number eight. I know you will be smiling down as we sing "Happy Birthday," eat cake and let go of your beautiful balloons.

Love,
Mom

James Michael King
Stillborn December 5, 2005
Mommy: Angela King
Siblings: Kaleb, Skyla and Daisy

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Tristin!**

Happy 3rd birthday, sweet baby. We still think of you every day, but we know you are in good hands in heaven.

Love and kisses always,
Mommy, Daddy and big brother Kyle

Tristin Patton
Miscarried February 15, 2010
Parents: William and Christina Patton
Big brother: Kyle

**Happy 4th Birthday, D'Antoni!**

There isn't a day that goes by we do not think of you. Our lives will never be the same because you have touched us in more ways than we could ever imagine. Your short-lived life nor your death will be in vain. We will make sure your name lives on as long as we have breath to breathe! You will always be our littlest angel.

Loving you forever and a day,
The family

D'Antoni N Berry
January 6 - February 1, 2009
Complications from Hirschsprung's Disease
Parents: Will and Nicole Berry
Siblings: D'Metri, Domani and D'Marco



Happy 2nd Birthday, Delila!

Happy 2nd birthday, baby girl! It's hard to believe you'd be 2! I can only sit and wait until I get to see and hold you again. We love you so much! I know you are having an amazing time in heaven with our Lord. You are always on our minds, baby girl!

Love always,
Mommy, Daddy, Jonas and Josie

Delila Katherine Holt
Stillborn February 14, 2011
Umbilical cord accident
Also remembering
Baby Holt

Miscarried January 9, 2006
Parents: Michael and Amanda Holt
Siblings: Jonas and Josie

**Happy 4th Birthday, Jackson and Tyler!**

Four years ago, we wrote your names in the powder white sand of Florida. The water was crystal clear and the sun shining bright. This year, as we played at that same spot with your little brother, two butterflies flew right by us and out over the ocean. Thank you for being in our precious family moments. We love you so much, our firstborn sons.

Love,
Daddy, Mommy and Brayden

Jackson Glen and Tyler Ray Light
February 23, 2009
Premature
Parents: Kirk and Diana Light
Brother: Brayden

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Faraih!**

Our hearts broke upon receiving the news that you went to be with Jesus. Your daddy and I cried that day before we gave birth to you. You spent six months inside of Mommy's tummy. I remember your beautiful toes and toe nails, so neat and finely shaped. Surely God knew what He was doing when He made you. Oh, so beautiful. Our arms ache to hold you and hug on you, but we know you have Jesus right there with you to hold you and raise you. You have a beautiful sister now, her name is T—that's what we like to call her. We all look forward to heaven when we shall see you.

Faraih Chavangi
December 15, 2010
Blood clots in the placenta-death at 6 months of pregnancy
Parents: Andrew and Angie Chavangi
Sibling: Thembi

**Happy 15th Birthday, Maya!**

You are deeply missed.
You would be such a big girl by now.
From Mommy, Daddy, Erin and Brandon

Maya Denise Ates
January 6, 1998
Clot in umbilical cord
Parents: Horace and Tammie Ates
Siblings: Erin and Brandon

**Happy 4th Birthday, Leah Grace!**

Where does the time go? It felt like yesterday that you squeezed my finger for the first time. That squeeze only lasted for seconds, but it is sketched in my memory for eternity. I often think about how you should be here holding hands with your brother as we walk, but then I think about how you have a much more important job of watching over us until the day we are destined to see you again. Where does the time go? Maybe our time here on Earth is only a grain of sand compared to the entire beach of time we will spend with you in heaven. As we celebrate your 4th birthday, I hope you feel the warmth of our love. We miss you very much, but we take comfort in knowing we will one day see you again.

With our love,
Mom, Dad, Ellis, Lola, Lolo,
Mommy, Granddad, Grandma, Uncle Ton,
Auntie Pam, Auntie Wendy and all of your cousins

Leah Grace Bravo Cockrell
February 6, 2009
Hydrop
Parents: Clint and Joahna Cockrell
Sibling: Ellis

**Happy 3rd Birthday Hudson!**

We miss you and think about you so much, sweet boy. We know you are in the best place, worshiping our Lord Jesus Christ, but our hearts still ache to know you here. This earth is not our home, so we will be home soon and worship and enjoy heaven with you. As we watch your little sister grow up, we wonder if you would be like her, and how you would teach her to share and throw a ball. We love you so much!

Love,
Daddy, Mommy and Presley

Hudson Parker Jones
January 9, 2010
Lower bladder obstruction
Parents: Travis and Jennifer Jones
Sister: Presley



Happy 1st Birthday, Jake!

Happy 1st heavenly birthday, Jake! My precious boy, oh how I wish I could hug and kiss you each and every time I think of you. It is so hard to believe that a whole year has gone by since I saw your sweet face and hugged you close to me. I cannot wait until the day we're together again in heaven; what a glorious day that will be. Have a wonderful birthday, baby boy, and eat lots of cake with your friends! We'll love you forever and miss you even more!

Love,
Mommy, Ben, Payton, Papa, Mimi,
Uncle Cody, Aunt Jackie and Adleigh

Jacob Austin Berryman
February 10, 2012
PPROM/Infection
Mommy: Jessica Dison
Sibling: Payton

**Happy 4th Birthday, Abigail and Gabriella!**

Daddy and I are missing you both so very much. We love you. I'm sure you two and baby Nathan are playing in heaven. Take care of your baby brother/sister on the way.

Abigail and Gabriella Jaimes
December 31, 2008
PPROM
Also remembering
Nathan Alexander Jaimes
August 21, 2012
Extreme prematurity
Parents: Alex Jaimes and Irma Martinez
Sibling: Baby Jaimes due August 10, 2013

**Happy 1st Birthday, Olivia!**

Our hearts still ache with sadness, and secret tears still flow. What it meant to lose you no one could ever know.

Sweet angel Olivia, the first year without you here on earth was hard, even harder now that we lost your little brother as well, but we know you two are playing in the Lord's garden, and life on earth for us is just a moment before we will all be reunited as a family. We love you so much. Happy birthday, angel baby.

Olivia Ormiston
January 14, 2012
Placenta detachment
Also remembering
Baby Boy Ormiston
November 24, 2012
Unknown cause
Parents: Chris and Angie Ormiston
Brother: Jakob

**Happy 6th Birthday, Benjamin!**

My sweet son, another birthday without you. I miss you very much but most of all, I miss being "Benjamin's mommy." I think of you often and love you very much.

Love,
Your Mommy

Benjamin Kent Baack
January 10, 2007
Cord accident
Parents: Kent and Karen Baack
Siblings: Ashlyn, Grace, Anna, Gaby and Josiah

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Michael!**

Wow! We can't believe it has been three years since you went to heaven! We miss you so much. Your baby sister just turned 1, and it was very bittersweet. We have loved watching her grow up, but our hearts ache for you. Do you have her blue eyes and bright smile? Are you friendly and outgoing like her, or are you shy and reserved? We wish we could have seen your first smile, heard the beautiful sound of your laughter and first words and watched you take your first steps. We wish we could have celebrated your first birthday and watch you dive into that birthday cake! We show your picture to Julianne all the time and tell her how special she is to have two big brothers in heaven. Be a good boy! We love you and miss you so much. We will hold you in heaven!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and Juju

Michael Noah Wheeler
Stillborn January 27, 2010
Unknown cause
Also remembering
Baby Wheeler
Miscarried March 2009
Parents: Jim and Larissa Wheeler
Sister: Julianne Joy

**Happy 1st Birthday, Joseph!**

Our sweet Joseph, happy 1st birthday in heaven! We have missed you every second of every day. We love you and wish you were here.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Bert, Basalia, Sarah, Chase, Riley,
Hunter, Abby, Chloe, Phoebe, Rachel and Mary-Esther

Joseph Parker Nelson
January 30, 2012
Gastroschisis
Parents: Michael and Danielle Nelson
Siblings: Bert, Basalia, Sarah, Chase, Riley, Hunter,
Abigail, Chloe, Phoebe, Rachel and Mary-Esther



Happy 3rd Birthday, Skylar!

Happy 3rd heavenly birthday, angel. You are missed more than you know. I can't believe it has already been three years. Time has flown, but memories are still there. Anastacia talks to Triton about you a lot. Everyone misses you so much. We love you, angel baby, with all our hearts. We wish you were here to celebrate your birthday on earth. I can only wonder what theme you would like, colors, characters, etc., but I do know you will be blessed in heaven! Love you, angel, to the moon and back. Can't wait until the day we can hold you. Love you, Skylar.

Skylar Faith Metcalfe

January 27, 2010

Unknown cause

Parents: Albert and Ashlee Metcalfe

Siblings: Baylee, Anastacia, Triton and Preslee

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Erik!**

We all love and miss you so much. I find comfort in knowing we will all be together some day. Happy birthday, my angel boy. You would be 2 this year, and your brothers wanted so much to show you how to have fun, and your sisters wanted to carry you around. Your baby brother will be 1 this year, and I know you would have loved playing with him. Until I hold you in my arms, I send hugs and kisses.

Erik Gabriel Warner

February 9, 2011

God's will

Also remembering

Payton Warner

February 15, 2010

God's will

Parents: Mike and Melissa Warner

Siblings: Justyn, Andy, Alex, Malia, Gracie, Pyper and Jonah

**Happy 1st Birthday, Mason!**

Our sweet little Mason, happy 1st birthday! We love you, our sweet boy, and we miss you so much. We can't wait till we can be together again. Your big sister asks often when are we going to drive to heaven to pick you up. We are looking forward to holding you and seeing your precious little face again soon.

Love,
Daddy, Mommy and Lilly

Mason Lee Shreve

January 15, 2012

Cord accident

Parents: Gary and Stacy Shreve

Sister: Lilly Shreve

**Happy 6th Birthday, Jordan!**

Happy 6th birthday, Jordan, my love! This year marks your 6th birthday, my precious love! Remember as you are celebrating your birthday in heaven, please take a moment and glance down at Mommy and Jazz. We love you, we miss you, and we are lovingly celebrating you here on earth. As always, we must continue to trust God's plan, endure this temporary separation and continue celebrating all the love that you are!

We love you, baby boy!
Mommy and Jazz (Your Puppy-Doggie)

Jordan Alexander Booker

January 11, 2007

True knot in cord

Mommy: Norma Jordan

Puppy-Doggie: Jazz

**Happy 4th Birthday, Alexis!**

Thinking of you on your 4th heavenly birthday.

I thought of you with love today,
but that is nothing new.

I thought about you yesterday
and days before that too.

I think of you in silence

I often speak your name

All I have are memories

And your picture in a frame.

Your memory is my keepsake

with which I'll never part

God has you in His arms

I have you in my heart.

Love, Mommy

Alexis, you live in our hearts every day! You are our
"Greatest Blessing." We love you and miss you so much.
Grandpa and Grandma Sonnenberg

Alexis Sonnenberg

January 24—February 3, 2009

Diaphragmatic hernia

Parents: Alex Sonnenberg and Lindsey James

Grandparents: Mark and Ruth Sonnenberg

**Happy 14th Birthday, Angel!**

Without ever seeing you with our eyes, we know that you are beautiful and complete. We look forward to being with you one day forever!

Angel Bartel

Miscarried 1999

Parents: Kim and Julie Bartel

Siblings: Grayson, Kimberlyn, Jilene and Garrison



No Subsequent Children

We will never have “subsequent children” listed in the M.E.N.D. newsletter. After one healthy pregnancy, two miscarriages, infertility and looking at all our options, we made the very difficult decision to not have any more children. Our journey has been one of several types of losses, each with its own challenges.

My three angels have been the source of great joy and challenge. My first pregnancy was fairly normal. It only took us three months to conceive. The only unusual, not even abnormal, part was having a period after I got pregnant, so I did not know I was pregnant until week five or six. Thirty-eight weeks later our miracle baby, Emily Kathryn, was born. She is our strong-willed, smart, funny, caring and challenging living child. My second pregnancy happened after 15 months of trying. Since I had a period after conceiving again, I had an ultrasound on my initial visit. The heartbeat was low, and I was spotting again, so I was scheduled for a follow up visit a few days later, only it never happened. After a weekend of bed rest and prayer, we endured our CJ going to heaven on August 12, 2008, at only 6 weeks old. After trying eight months, I found out I was pregnant with Marina. At my eight week appointment, she was fine with a strong heartbeat. After having my “one statistical miscarriage,” I never dreamed that my 10-week appointment would reveal no heartbeat. It was such a shock; I just could not believe this would happen to us again.

After several tests and doctor’s appointments, we were cleared to start trying again. If I could get pregnant again, I would have to give myself daily shots to keep the pregnancy viable. My body had produced tiny blood clots that ended the lives of both my babies. My doctor assured me it was not my fault, so fortunately, I have never had the guilt that my body failed my children. Since I needed to start those shots as soon as I found out I was pregnant, I had to take a pregnancy test after every period, in case I had conceived. We tried for one year. That is a lot of pregnancy tests, and a lot of negative signs. Each month was the loss of a child that never was. We had seriously considered adoption but did not think we could take the chance that the mother would see her child and change her mind at the last minute. At this point, mostly because of our ages, we decided to quit trying. My husband had surgery so there would be no “surprise,” knowing that by the time I would find out I was pregnant, we would probably miscarry again.

I mentioned before that we have had several types of losses. We have endured, literally by the grace of God, two miscarriages. Grief kept me from baby showers, baby dedications and dealing with those “surprises” - moments when something causes your grief to hit you out of the blue. Infertility grief hit me every month with each negative pregnancy test. Then there is the continual grief that there will never be another baby. Surprisingly, Marina’s second heavenly birthday hit me as hard as the first. In the past there was hope for another baby to come, but not this time.

After making our final decision, I also grieved for my living daughter who daily asked for a brother or sister. She had no one to play with; she was lonely. She wished CJ and Marina were here with her. Three years later, she rarely asks anymore, but it still breaks my heart. I am concerned about her being an “only” child: being selfish, spoiled, well-rounded, able to share and missing out on that very special bond with siblings. I do my best to set up play dates, give her responsibilities around the house and involve her in ministry and missions opportunities. She also attends every M.E.N.D. ceremony we have and knows all about her brother and sister in heaven. I pray a lot for her to have a special friend who will be as close to her as a sister.

The past four years have been the most difficult of my life. I am blessed that these challenges have strengthened my relationship with God and with my husband, but they have been full of sadness. When I look back there are two main things that have helped me heal: time and a sermon my pastor preached. I remember when Madison Fann, the only living child of my friends Jon and Heather, was dedicated. Our pastor called her a miracle baby. After my two losses, I dreamed of the day that he would say that about my fourth child. It never happened. One day he preached about how God either gives you a miracle (like us having another child), or He makes you a miracle.



Continued on page 13

In Loving Memory**Joshua and Jeromy Barstanti**

Stillborn November 21, 1996
Anencephaly
Given by parents Randy and DaLana Barsanti and little brothers Taylor, Collin, Harrison and Riley

Sydney Lynne Brown

May 18, 2000
Cord problem/unknown cause

Ashley MacKenzie Brown

May 18, 2001
Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome
Given by parents Brian and Marilyn Brown and little brother Samuel

Liam and Sebastian Callaway

Stillborn August 5, 2011
Unknown cause
Parents: Zach and Rori Callaway
Little brother: Miles
Given by grandmother Robin Rose/
The Harrington School, Inc.

Noah Garcia Casas

August 28, 2011
Cord accident

Lupe Garcia

Miscarried July 3, 2012
Given by parents Jose Luis Garcia and Silvia Casas

Catherine Grace Chapman

August 10-12, 2012
Premature birth/HELLP
Gifts given by
Mommy Kara Chapman
Grandmother Margaret McNally

Norah Cook

Given by Stacy Winters

Abigail Grace Crump

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

Aidan Shaw Vander Cruyssen

October 2 - December 3, 2005
PKD
Given by mommy Shane Meyer and little sister Cameron

Brooke Sophia Daily

Stillborn March 11, 2010
Vasa Previa
Gifts given by
Parents Jeremy and Lisa Daily
and sisters Sarah and Savannah
Grandparents John and Carol Eck

Sophie Jane Darnell

Stillborn May 28, 2012
Unknown cause
Gifts given by
Parents Brea and Tommy Darnell
and big brother Luke
Debbie and Gary Skrasek

Riley and Parker Davis

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

Joshua and Caleb Davis

April 14, 2000
Prematurity
Given by parents Monica and Shawn Davis
and little siblings Landon and Kylie

Ava Elaine Dickerson

October 22—December 7, 2010
Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia
Given by parents Todd and Jennifer
Dickerson

Baby Dill

Miscarried May 2002

Cooper Dill

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

William Charles Dillard

October 19, 2010
Rh-complications and prematurity
Given by parents
Chris and Amanda Dillard

Princess Jahzara Emami

July 26, 2010
Premature/incompetent cervix
Given by mommy Jasmine Swain

Kyler Paul English

Stillborn January 20, 2006
Cord accident
Parents: Laurie McPike and Bob English
Gifts given by
Jon and Laurie McPike and
brothers Kinser, Kelson and
Kayden
Remarkable Healthcare of Fort Worth

Dylan Carlos and Trystan Macario Estala

December 11, 2008
Premature rupture of membrane, pre-term
labor at 22 weeks
Given by parents
Adrian and Stephanie Estala

Caleb Scott Fann

December 1, 2003
PROM

Baby August Fann

Miscarried August 13, 2004
Gifts given by
Parents Jonathan and Heather
Fann and little sister Madison
Aunt Patricia Ervin

Logan Wayne Fish

September 17, 2002
Skeletal Dysplasia
Given by parents Brittney and David Fish
and brothers Landry and Hudson

Cambron Edward Fisk

Stillborn June 18, 2010
Cord accident
Given by parents Darren and Meredith Fisk

Amanda Morgan Galleger

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

Michael Garabedian, Jr

Stillborn February 2, 1998
Cord accident/Villamentous cord insertion

Adam Michael Garabedian

Stillborn July 25, 2001
Cord accident
Given by Garabedian Properties/
Parents Michael and Cindy Garabedian
and sisters Victoria, Elizabeth and
Catherine

Janelle Marie Gibson

Stillborn November 17, 2006
Clot in placenta

Gabriel Gibson

Miscarried October 31, 2007
Ectopic pregnancy
Parents: Scott and Jodie Gibson
Siblings: Will, Andrew and Isaac
Given by grandparents
Joyce and William Esser

Erika Brienne Grau

July 9—August 3, 1997
Anoxic brain injury due to ruptured uterus
Parents: Ray and Yvette Grau
Given by little sister Nataly Grau

Reese Elizabeth Harrington

Stillborn August 26, 2012
Automobile accident
Given by parents Andrew and Brooke Harrington

Michael Hill, Jr.

March 4 - May 5, 2012
SIDS
Given by parents Michael and Tawsha Hill

Samuel Mark Hintz

Stillborn October 29, 2008
Cord accident

Joel Hintz

Stillborn July 3, 2009
Unknown cause

Taylor Hintz

Miscarried February 2010
Gifts given by parents Greg and Sara Hintz and siblings Louis, Caleb, Anna, Elijah, Hope, Levi and Isaiah
John and Carla Odom
Crissy Seemster

Isaac Huff

Stillborn August 27, 2005
Preterm labor

Baby Huff I

Miscarried April 2006

Baby Huff II

Miscarried January 2007

Baby Huff III

Miscarried October 2007

Baby Huff IV

Miscarried September 2008

Baby Huff V

Miscarried December 2009
Given by parents Nick and Erika Huff and siblings Rafael, Blythe and Nash

Avery Grace Kargel

Stillborn July 13, 2006
Unknown cause
Given by Jennifer A Jordan Fund/Greater Houston Community Foundation

Mathew Kennedy

April 28, 2008
Preeclampsia
Parents: Zac and Dawn Kennedy
Given by grandparents
George and Debbie Kennedy

Emma Krymkiewiez

May 5, 2009
Neonatal hemochromatosis

Baby Girl Krymkiewiez

Miscarried June 13, 2008
Given by parents
Ana Ayon and Hernan Krymkiewiez

Jackson Glen and Tyler Ray Light

February 23, 2009
Placental abruption
Given by parents Kirk and Diana Light

Avery Merae Longgood

August 2-3, 2007
Possible stroke
Given by parents Neil and Jamie Longgood

Elizabeth Luke Matthes

July 25, 2012
Given by mommy Marianne Matthes

Bay Miltenberger, Jr

Stillborn December 9, 1998
Preterm labor
Given by parents Bay and Paula Miltenberger and siblings Bryce, Bo and Brady

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
Uncle Jack and Aunt Susan Burkman

Parker Houston Mitchell

Stillborn November 26, 2011
Unknown cause
Gifts given by
Parents Kris and Beth Mitchell
Grandparents Michael and Anna Kay
Grandparents Kathryn and Bob Travis
Great-grandmother Bonnie Kay
Uncle Michael Jr and Aunt Alice Kay
Uncle Brandon and Aunt Lisa Williams
Laura and Karl Harroff
Gerald and Jaimie Crump
Andy and Cheryl Spafford
Paul and Natalie Pesek
Nick and Alia Gonzales
Heather Sanders
Jennifer Sanders
Ken and Maureen Barrett
Johnathan Siefert
Tricia and Steve Irion
La Parmigiana Italian Oven
Cindy and Randy Vaughn

Lily Joy Moore

Miscarried March 2, 2011
Unknown cause
Given by parents Jeremy and Kathleen Moore and big brother Isaac

Pam Morren

April 5, 1971 - November 22, 2012
Breast cancer
Gifts given by husband Tim Morren and children Ashton, Alexa and Ben
Barbara Brannan
Bay and Paula Miltenberger
Susan Etheridge
Bruce and Elaine Mulkey
Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
Sam and April Moreton
Steve and Diane Galleger
Randy, Dollie, Elizabeth and Gerald Resh
Steve and Carla Mills

Samuel James Nienhuis

October 14, 2006
Factor V Liden
Gifts given by parents Seth and Marcie Nienhuis and siblings Landon, Olivia and James
Jerry and Wendy Burger

Carter Patrick Outen

Stillborn November 6, 2000
Unknown cause

Baby Outen I

Miscarried April 3, 2001

Baby Outen II

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

Zoe Jane Ogburn

May 18, 2012
Parents: Bryan and Jennifer Ogburn

Kara Parker

July 20, 2012
SIDS
Parents: Michael and Rachael Parker
Given by Jon and Linda Pennino

Joshua, Jacob and Jordan Ragon

February 12, 2003
Incompetent cervix
Given by parents Kimberly and Terry Ragon and siblings Heather, Tiffany, Morgan, Sarah, Joseph, Lucas and Annmarie

Julian David Rodriguez

April 1, 2007
Baby Rodriguez-Wall
December 25, 1992
Given by mommy Rachel Prado-Wall

Carson Mitchell Shaw

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

Last Chance

I am an “older” mother by most standards. My first child was born when I was 35. Due to my age I had to have a level 2 sonogram, which helped discover a problem that sent us on for further testing. During this testing we learned my daughter had a terrible heart defect. I delivered Ava stillborn at almost 35 weeks. Devastated was an understatement. I couldn't understand why when I had waited and longed for a child for so long.

A year later I became pregnant with my son, Spencer. Finally, a baby that I could take home. Raising my healthy baby boy quickly gave me a desire for another child. My husband was somewhat reluctant, but being from a family of six, he understood wanting a sibling for Spencer (Kevin has a daughter, Spencer's half -sister, but she is seven years older and not with us all the time). When Spencer turned 1, we found out that we were pregnant. Excitedly we went for a sonogram, but we were devastated to learn there was no heartbeat. As we began asking why again, time marched on. My desire for more children still grew stronger, and we tried several options my OB doctor suggested. She finally recommended me to a fertility specialist because, in her words, “Christal, you're not getting any younger, and I just don't want to waste any more of your time.” So at 39 years of age, we started the IVF process, and it worked! At seven weeks we became so excited as we learned we were pregnant with twins. This gift did not come without heartache, though. At ten weeks we lost one of the twins. Not wanting to seem greedy, we continued to be grateful for the gift I was still carrying. Garrett was born one month after my 40th birthday. It became shocking to most people after learning my age and that I had a newborn and 3-year-old.

My husband was happy with his family. I still wanted another baby but knew it would not be an option, considering I would have to use the IVF method. The only two embryos that were of good quality were used, and we could never afford to do the process again. Time continued to march on, and a year and a half later, at age 41, I found out I was pregnant again. I was elated! I had a sonogram before telling my husband the news and was shocked to learn I was nine weeks pregnant with a strong heartbeat. It took my husband a few days to process what I had told him, but I was so excited. Once my husband was able to wrap his brain around having another baby, he became really excited also. “God's will...this must be God's will for us” is what he would say. I knew it would be a girl; I never wavered from that. Finally, I would be able to bring my baby girl home. From the moment I found out that I was pregnant, I would pray, “Lord this is more than likely my last chance at another baby since Kevin really didn't want any more kids, and I can't handle any more heartache, so please, Lord, keep me from heartache, and take care of this baby.”

I saw the baby again at 11 weeks, still strong with a lot of movement. Things were wonderful in my world. Two days before my 13-week appointment I started bleeding, but very mildly. I called my doctor and begged for a sonogram. They said bleeding is very common and to not worry. I worried. I knew something was wrong with my baby. I had never bled with the other pregnancies. I had a sonogram the next day, and, as I predicted, no heartbeat.

“Why, God, why!?!?!? I begged you to keep me from heartache!!” As we prepared for the D&C, I requesting testing done on the baby; I had to know what went wrong. Of course my husband was concerned to find out the sex for fear of what it would do to me, knowing that I had lost my last chance at a girl. Initially, my doctor asked “Will you be trying again? If you are, then I would find out what went wrong, but if you're not, what does it really matter?” Deep down, knowing my husband didn't want any more children but that I still had the desire, I said do the test, that maybe it would help my cause in some way. I felt a hole that I wanted to fill “What if I could get pregnant again? Obviously it is possible without fertility medicine to get pregnant again. I have to try,” I reasoned. Some doctors request you wait for at least three months before you try again, and I could do that, no problem.

After my follow-up appointment two weeks after the D&C, my husband and I had “a talk.” “Christal, it just wasn't meant to be. Yes, I was excited about having another baby, but that was taken and now we have a choice. I think that we need to just focus on what we have. Let's enjoy the three children we have on the ground.” I understood but begged him to give me 2013 to try again. My age concerned him a lot, but mostly he said he couldn't handle seeing me so heartbroken again. He did decide that it's too early to talk about a vasectomy, but in three months when we could try again, he really didn't see his mind changing. I was still hopeful.

Five weeks after the miscarriage, my doctor called with the news of what happened to the baby. I was correct that it was a girl. She had Trisomy 21, which is Down Syndrome. I was not expecting that, nor was my doctor. She had always said that most of patients that had a Down's baby were all under the age of 35. I was hoping the results of the test would help me in my case to try for another child, but now I knew that when my husband heard this news, he would want a vasectomy and put having babies behind us. It didn't help that the doctor said that the one chromosome that causes Down Syndrome comes from the mother, an older mother whose eggs are thrown into a category of “over 40, and this was bound to happen due to your age.”

As I told my husband, he was calm but in shock. He asked why this baby did not survive when other babies with Down Syndrome did. At first I tried to convince myself that God was protecting me from the heartache of raising my daughter

with Down Syndrome because in my mind, I thought her disabilities would be more than I could handle. But over the next two weeks, God introduced me to people with Down Syndrome, and I realized she was my daughter, Down Syndrome or not, and I was going to miss the chance to raise her, to love on her, to watch her play and just to be there for her every need. God makes every person perfect in His image and says He knew her when she was in my womb, so she was perfect in every way. This realization brought a new grief, a grief that I was not entrusted with raising a child with Down Syndrome. I don't understand why God chose to take this baby and the others to heaven, but I rest in the fact that I will see them again.

The topic of the newsletter is "When Your Loss is Your Last," and when I first wrote this article, I thought this was becoming our situation. My husband is ready to put having babies behind us, and at the time, I thought maybe I was too. But as I have traveled further in my nine weeks of grief of losing my little girl, I am torn because I am unsure if I am ready to add the grief of loss of my hope for another child. Deep inside me still burns the desire for another baby, and the possibility of no more babies in my family brings me more heartache, so much that it hurts to talk about it. I feel cheated that I did not get the chance to raise this baby, and cheated that I may not ever get another chance. For me to say this loss was our last, I do not know, and am not sure I am ready to make such a permanent decision for our family.

Whatever is decided, I know God is and will be in control. I apologized to God for being so angry at Him for taking my baby, and said thank You for giving me those 13 weeks to love her, and I know that she is now playing with her older sister and siblings in heaven. I am sad, I am thankful, I am frustrated, I am heartbroken, but, most importantly, I am reminded that God really is in control all of the time, even as we face our tough decision. He never left me; last chance or not, He never left me and never will.

♥ *Christal Browning,*
Mommy to Ava Grace, Baby Browning,
Baby Twin Browning, Baby Girl Browning
M.E.N.D.—Texarkana

“There is, I am convinced, no picture that conveys in all its dreadfulness, a vision of sorrow, despairing, remediless, supreme. If I could paint such a picture, the canvas would show only a woman looking down at her empty arms.”



Quoted in *Emma* by Charlotte Brontë (author of *Jane Eyre*)
Emma was completed by another author after Charlotte Brontë,
 who was carrying her first child, died of pneumonia
 Retrieved December 15, 2012 from facesoffloss.com

“No Subsequent Children”

Continued from page 9

I'm a miracle. I have learned how to totally lean on God to get through tough months, weeks, days and moments. I have learned that His grace is enough. I have learned that He loves my daughter, Emily, more than I do and has her best interest at heart; He will take care of her. I now appreciate my daughter more and am so grateful that He allowed her to live. I try to be the best mom I can be to Emily and honor CJ and Marina as best as I can. I do not know if I will ever be okay with a three-person family, but I am becoming more accepting of it. Even though we have no "subsequent children," I continue to choose to trust the One who loves me more than anyone on this earth: trusting Him with all the grief, loss and future of our lives.

♥ *Kathryn Gold,*
Mommy to CJ and Marina
M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

M.E.N.D.

*Chapter Corner**Chapter Meeting
Information***M.E.N.D.—Houston**Meets the 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

D. Bradley McWilliams YMCA at Cypress

Creek, Schindlerdecker Building
19915 SH 249 Houston, TX 77070

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.—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.—TulsaMeets 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 MissouriMeets 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

Food and Fellowship

Meets the 3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Hebrews Coffee

1604 E Republic Road

Kathleen@mend.org

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College StationMeets 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*Dallas*

Our 16th annual Christmas Candlelight Ceremony was held on December 4, at Calvary Church in Irving, TX, with more than 250 guests in attendance. Thank you to our generous sponsors and committee members who made the service a beautiful success!

Rebekah Mitchell

NW Washington

We had our 2nd annual Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on December 7. What an amazing night for our families to remember and share their babies with one another. We were so blessed by donations of services from Sarah Alston Photography, Sallie Nau/Seattle Porcelain Company and Flowers to Go.

On December 16, I had amazing opportunity to speak at my church about M.E.N.D., which enabled me to share about what we do and how we minister to grieving families in our area.

Stacy McGhee

Houston

We had a beautiful ceremony on Friday, December 1, with harp music, an a cappella trio, touching poetry from Stormy Mitchell and Shane Meyer, and Sarah Winebrenner closing out the ceremony as always with her gorgeous rendition of "O Holy Night." I want to especially thank Stormy Mitchell, Stefanie Miller and Chiara Ott for helping set up on Friday. Also, thank you to Tim Winebrenner, our sound guy!

I also want to send a big thank you to Jason and Heather Kargel. They held their annual Avery Grace Kargel Memorial Golf Tournament on December 1, and they very generously gave M.E.N.D. the proceeds from the tournament. The Kargels are such a blessing to our chapter every year and "thank you" will never be sufficient.

Jaimie Crump

Bryan/College Station

God is moving in M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station like never before! We are continuing to grow and provide comfort to the families of Brazos county. We look forward to raising funds for our chapter in the next few months to help us reach even more hurting families. I want to thank Sandy, LaRhesa, Justin and Ashlea for all their help making our first Christmas ceremony a success!

Jennie Drude

Hot Springs

M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs held its first Christmas Candlelight Memorial Service on December 1. We hope this beautiful evening was one of healing and remembrance for those families who attended. We would like to thank the Davis-Smith Funeral Home and Caruth-Hale Funeral Home for their generous donations toward the ceremony and to New Life Church for allowing us to have the ceremony in their beautiful worship center. The ceremony would not have been possible without the hard work and support from Nancy Hulsey, Megan Balliette, Ashley Paul and Jennifer McCullah.

Amy Humphries

SW Missouri

As 2012 draws to a close, we look forward to another year of serving bereaved parents in the M.E.N.D.—Southwest Missouri area. We celebrated the holiday season with more than 90 people from 29 families honoring more than 39 babies at our 3rd Annual Christmas Candlelight Ceremony. This event would not have happened without the selfless service of our chapter leadership: Heather Bass, Kathryn Gold, Jennifer Harrison, Kathleen Moore and Ruth Sonnenberg.

Our new year is already filling with events. Starting in January we will add a Food & Fellowship evening on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Contact Kathleen@mend.org for times and location. We will also have our 3rd Annual Scrapbook & Craft Night fundraiser on Friday, February 8. Tickets are \$20 and include dinner and lots of fun. Contact heather@mend.org to purchase a ticket. Seating is limited and will go fast!

Heather Fann

Wichita Falls

M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls continues to meet monthly and reach out to grieving families. This month we distributed our pamphlets to local church ministries so they could refer grieving families in their congregation to M.E.N.D.

Sarah Fukasawa

Amarillo

We just finished with our 3rd Wrapping for M.E.N.D. fundraiser, and it was a great success! Thank you, Amarillo, for your loving support! We look forward to seeing what the new year holds for us here in the Texas Panhandle.

Becky Anderson

Tulsa

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa held our first Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on December 14. It was a beautiful and meaningful event to commemorate our babies in heaven. Thank you to all of our wonderful sponsors and volunteers who helped with the ceremony: Sara and Greg Hintz and family, Erika and Nick Huff, Marcie and Seth Nienhuis, Lisa and Jeremy Daily and family. Additionally, I would like to thank Rebekah Mitchell for being our guest speaker, Teddy Kurth for organizing all of our desserts/refreshments, and LeeAnn Bruch, Holly Nelson, and Pam Danner for the beautiful music they provided. As we look to 2013, we pray that God continues to bless our chapter and that we continue to minister to grieving families.

Lisa Daily

Texarkana

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana hosted our 6th Annual Christmas Candlelight Ceremony honoring 23 babies in the Texarkana area. We were blessed to have one of our members, Abbie Riddle, read a poem she wrote in memory of her baby. This ceremony would not have been possible without our generous sponsors and the dedication of these ladies and gentlemen: Tania Greer, Dawn Kennedy, Toni and Randy Sherman, Melissa Thomas and Shawn Davis. A special thank you to Mary Ann Jordan, Steve Minter, Melanie and Craig Jenkins, and Marshall Pope Design for their services and to Beech Street First Baptist Church's staff for their leadership and ministry in this year's event.

Monica Davis

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.—NW Washington
Meets the 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Harrison Medical Center/Iris Room
1800 Myhre Rd.
Silverdale, Washington
Director: Stacy McGhee
stacym@mend.org, (360) 621-7279

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

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.



Subsequent Births

Meredith and Darren Fisk,
of Lewisville, Texas,
along with big sister Madison,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Benjamin Cambron,
born November 24, 2012.

The Fisk family lovingly remembers
Cambron Edward Fisk,
stillborn June 28, 2010,
cord accident,
and Baby Fisk
miscarried February 1, 2012

Jon and Tiffany Klubnik,
of Pearland, Texas,
along with big sister Allie,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Kyle Zeke,

born November 13, 2012,
measuring 8 lb., 4 oz.,
and 20.75 inches long.

The Klubniks lovingly remember
Michael David and Jake Thomas,
September 7, 2010,
infection,
and Baby Klubnik,
miscarried June 8, 2010

Tina and Michael Rusert,
of Plano, Texas,
along with big brother Liam,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Asher Michael,
born November 21, 2012,
measuring 7 lb., 7 oz.,
and 19 inches long.

The Ruserts lovingly remember
Elena Marie,
May 23, 2011,
premature

Rori and Zach Callaway,
of Dallas, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Miles,

born October 31, 2012,
measuring 8 lb., 12 oz.,
and 20.25 inches long.

The Callaways lovingly remember
twins Liam and Sebastian,
stillborn August 5, 2011,
unknown cause

Richie and Sara-beth Stilwell
of Fort Worth, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Isaiah Emory,

born September 14, 2012,
measuring 7 lb., 5 oz.,
and 19.5 inches long.

The Stilwells lovingly remember
Adellae Constance,
stillborn October 17, 2011,
Triploidy

Marc and Jena Johnson,
of Fort Worth, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Jack Alan,
born August 9, 2012,
measuring 7 lb., 13 oz.,
and 22 inches long.

The Johnsons lovingly remember
Marcus Alan, Jr.,
July 5, 2011,
cord accident

Victor and Renae Bravenec,
of Fort Worth, Texas,
along with big sister, Ellen,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Shane Paul,

born December 3, 2012,
measuring 7 lb., 12 oz.,
and 21.25 inches long.

The Bravenec family lovingly remembers
their three babies in heaven who were
miscarried in
2005, 2010 and 2011

Mark and Melinda Novik,
of Ozark, Missouri,
along with big sister Sam,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Jenna Rose,

born November 29, 2012,
measuring 8 lb., 13 oz.,
and 21 inches long.

The Novik family lovingly remembers
Sam's twin brother
Max Emmanuel,
May 9-10, 2011,
Anencephaly

"In Loving Memory"
Continued from page 11

Savannah Kate Stanley
January 3, 2004

Prematurity/incompetent cervix

Baby Stanley

Miscarried November 10, 2004

Given by parents Joel and Calli Stanley
and siblings Colton, Danika and Sara

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!

Alivia Elizabeth Grace Walker

Stillborn July 24, 2006

Incompetent cervix

Given by parents Robert and Liz Walker
and little brother Jaxson

Brand and Colt Whigham

August 4, 2011

Umbilical Cord Knotted Together

Given by parents

Chris and Beverlyann Whigham

Baby Wilson I

Miscarried January 2007

Baby Wilson II

Miscarried June 2007

Given by parents Doug and Michele Wilson
and siblings Gabe and Sadie

Baby John Vanthang

Adrian "AJ" Zuckerman

Stillborn March 30, 2007

Cord accident

Gifts given by parents Amber and Al
Zuckerman and siblings Eli and Alex
Kristin and Victor Vandergriff

Gifts of Support

Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

Junior League of Texarkana, Texas

Johnny J. Peet, MD

Mercy Hospital, Springfield, MO

Davis-Smith Funeral Home, Glenwood, AR

Jennifer Quimby, MD, Silverdale, WA

West Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, TX

Anita Alvestad-McIntyre, M.D., P.S./

Silverdale, WA

Cuando la pérdida es el último embarazo

Soy una planificadora y siempre lo he sido. Me molesto un poco más de lo normal cuando hay cambio de planes a última hora o si las cosas no salen de la manera que yo creo que deberían de salir, o de la manera que yo lo planifique. Cuando era niña, soñaba con lo que sería mi vida cuando yo fuera grande. Mi mamá nos crió a las cinco hijas para ser esposas y madres y nos enseñó que ser una esposa y madre, “era un gran llamamiento”. Por lo tanto, nunca planeé ser una mujer de carrera o pasar mucho tiempo como empleada de un trabajo. Pensaba sólo ser la mejor esposa que podría ser a mi futuro esposo y madre de tres niños. Sí, dije tres niños - lo tenía todo planeado, hasta los detalles de los nombres para la mayoría. Mi hijo primogénito llevaría el nombre de mi esposo, que en ese momento no se sabía que podría ser. Mi segundo hijo se le daría el nombre, Jonathan. Y mi tercer... nunca pude pensar en un nombre adecuado así que decidí esperar hasta que quedara embarazada por tercera vez.

Me casé con mi esposo, Byron, cuando tenía 19 años, justo después de que completó su primer año de la escuela de odontología. El plan era de que nosotros empezáramos una familia tres años más tarde, poco después de que él se graduara de dentista, y sería yo una ama de casa. Dos años después de que nos casamos, anunciamos que estábamos esperando a nuestro primer bebé. Varias semanas más tarde, un sonograma reveló que era un niño. ¡Hasta este momento todo iba bien! Mi vida fue cayendo en su lugar tal como había planeado. Byron, Jr. nació el 01 de noviembre de 1991. Después de su tercer cumpleaños, quede embarazada por segunda vez y luego nos dijeron que este bebé, también era un niño. Perfecto! Jonathan estaba previsto llegar alrededor del 7 de septiembre de 1995.

Hubo una leve falla en mis planes, que amenazaba mi plan de “Voy a tener tres niños”. Justo después de que Byron y yo nos casamos, fui diagnosticada con una enfermedad renal congénita grave. Tener un bebé era un riesgo, dos un riesgo aún mayor y tres estaba fuera de cuestión en ese momento según mis doctores. Un efecto secundario de esta enfermedad es la hipertensión arterial, que planteo algunos problemas con mi primer embarazo, pero nuestro hijo nació a tiempo y perfectamente sano. Sin embargo, el segundo embarazo empezó con incidentes. Comencé a tener problemas muy temprano en el embarazo, lo que eventualmente causó la necesidad de vivir con mis padres para que nuestro hijo pudiera ser atendido mientras yo estaba en reposo.

Al entrar en el tercer trimestre de mi embarazo con Jonathan, fui hospitalizada debido a la inestabilidad de la presión arterial y a la evidencia de que mis riñones no podían aguantar muy bien. A pesar de las complicaciones que estaba experimentando, mis planes estaban todavía intactos. Jonathan tal vez tendría que nacer algo temprano, pero Dios ya tenía un plan de que su pequeña vida tocaría innumerables personas, pero todo iba bien.

Mis planes fueron destruidos más allá de mis más alocados sueños el sábado 24 de junio de 1995. Jonathan estaba comple-

tamente enredado en el cordón umbilical mientras yo estaba en reposo en el hospital. Él fue entregado esa noche pesando 2 libras 12 onz. y midió 15 pulgadas de largo, con el cordón enrollado alrededor de su cabeza, su cuerpo y su pierna izquierda. Mi embarazo con Jonathan “despertó” mi enfermedad renal, supongo que se podría decir, y continué perdiendo lentamente la poca función que me quedaba. Una vez más, sin duda esto no era parte de los planes que yo había hecho para mi vida. El 16 de febrero del 2000, recibí el increíble regalo de un riñón sano de salvamento de mi querida amiga, Valerie Jones. Después de eso, hice un nuevo conjunto de planes para mí.

Mis médicos me dijeron que si yo no experimentaba episodios de rechazo, podríamos considerar otro embarazo en un periodo de un año y medio a dos años después del trasplante. Un año y ocho meses más tarde, quede embarazada por tercera vez. Ya que nunca había decidido en un nombre para este tercer hijo, me decidí a aplicar los últimos años en la elección del nombre. Elegí a Samuel Jon, lo que significa, “por este niño yo oraba”. En caso de que fuera niña, elegí Valerie Grace.

Mis planes se cayeron otra vez cuando a las 10 semanas de embarazo, un ultrasonido reveló que mi pequeño bebé ya no tenía un corazón que latía. No sería un Samuel o Valerie o cualquier otro bebé. Tuve algunas complicaciones bastante graves con esta pérdida, que decidimos que esta pérdida sería nuestra última.

Nunca jamás soñe que yo criaría a un solo hijo con mi esposo. Siempre imaginé tener un hogar con hijos completamente feliz, guapos y atléticos. No esperaba a encontrar mi hogar vacío a los 41 años de edad y terminar ofreciendo mi instintivo maternal de crianza a nuestros dos perros en lugar de nuestros dos hijos adicionales. Sin embargo, quiero aclarar que estoy feliz, contenta y amo mi vida! ¿No, no es como lo había planeado de niña, pero mis planes no cuentan de todas maneras, correcto? Como una seguidora de Cristo, sólo quiero lo que él ha planeado para mí, y eso es algo que siempre recuerdo. La Biblia nos dice que Dios nos conocía antes de que nacéramos y conocía cada día nuestra vida antes de que ninguno de ellos llegara a ser. Si esto es cierto, y creo que lo es, él sabía que Byron, Jr. sería la alegría de mi vida. Él sabía que Jonathan nunca respiraría un suspiro fuera de mi vientre, y que mi tercer bebé sería mi pequeño misterioso premio que espera en el cielo por mí. No, no lo había planeado así, pero por alguna razón, él sí. Es cierto que a veces no me gustan los planes del Señor y a veces tontamente pienso que sé lo que es mejor, pero me inclino por la escritura que se encuentra en Isaías 59:5, que dice los caminos de Dios son más grandes que los nuestros - y realmente, esos son los únicos planes que yo quiero para mi vida, los planes del Señor, no los míos.

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

Pam Morren



On Thanksgiving morning, November 22, 2012, we lost one of “us.” Two years after getting diagnosed with breast cancer, Pam Morren thought she had beaten it and had resumed her normal life of teaching school and mothering her three living children, Ashton, Alexa and Benjamin. However, this past May she began having severe headaches, which led to her receiving a horrifying and grim diagnosis: the cancer cells had spread to her cerebral spinal fluid - something so rare that none of her doctors had ever treated a patient where this has happened.

A couple of days after Pam died, her husband Tim asked me to speak at Pam’s funeral to share her testimony - a privilege I will humbly cherish for the rest of my life. Basically, this is a portion of what I said and what I want to share with you:

I will never forget the first time I met Pam and Tim Morren. They, along with Pam’s mom, walked into our support group on January 8, 1998, completely grief stricken. When it came time for the support group to start, Pam could not tell her story of how and when she lost her baby, so Tim told us. Just 16 days prior, on December 23, 1997, he got a call at work that his 3-month-old son, Schuyler, had been taken to the emergency room from the daycare. When he got to the hospital, he was told that his baby boy was dead. Later when Pam arrived, she was told the same: a daycare worker found their infant son dead in his crib. SIDS.

Over time, the Morrens became very involved in M.E.N.D. Pam led our first Parenting After Loss Playgroup, and the Daddies Group that many of our chapters offer today was Tim’s idea. Eventually, Pam was asked to serve on the M.E.N.D. Board of Directors, which she served faithfully for ten years. While Pam was serving on the board, she and her little family moved back to where she was from in Northwest Arkansas. Not long after the Morrens moved away from Dallas, another one of our M.E.N.D. families, April and Sam Moreton, who lived in Dallas during the loss of their babies, had also moved to Northwest Arkansas. A few years later, April expressed an interest to expand M.E.N.D. to where she lived. So, in the spring of 2005, M.E.N.D. opened its very first chapter, M.E.N.D.—NW Arkansas. Since Pam lived in the same area and was still a part of our Board of Directors, it was only natural for her to assist April with this chapter.

The first several years I knew Pam, there was something about her that I was not aware of until much later: she had not committed her life to the Lord, and really did not want to. She had no intention of surrendering her life to a God, who in her mind, had taken her baby away. One night in the fall of 2006, Pam attended a M.E.N.D. support group in NW Arkansas. There was a new lady in attendance that night who had recently lost her baby. During the sharing, this woman expressed praise to God. Pam sat there baffled. How could someone who just buried her baby praise the Lord? When the support group was over, Pam went to her car and sat in the parking lot for a while, thinking. She said, “God, if you’re there....how can someone who has just experienced a terrible suffering praise You?” At that moment, the Holy Spirit spoke to Pam’s heart and said, “Pam, trust Me in all things, in everything.” At that moment, Pam surrendered her life to Jesus and made Him her personal Lord and Savior.

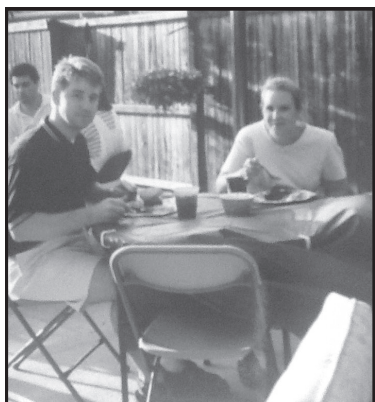
Pam is the first M.E.N.D. mom that we know of who has been reunited with her baby and her Lord. For those of you who have attended one of our support groups, you know at the end we always open the floor and allow parents to share something good or positive that has resulted from the death of their baby. I am confident if Pam could sit through one more M.E.N.D. support group, she would share that out of her loss, she found Jesus. One of the reasons we give families the opportunity to think of something good or positive is so they can create a legacy for their baby. Therefore, I would like to create a legacy for Pam. If any of you have allowed your heart to become hardened due to pain, bitterness, grief and sorrow, just like Pam did, you will seek the Lord and ultimately surrender your life to Him. The Bible tells us that if we seek Him, we *will* find Him (Jeremiah 29:13).

To my dear, sweet friend Pam, on behalf of all of us in M.E.N.D., I want to thank you for your years of service and dedication, and thank you for reaching out and ministering to countless hurting women all over the world. ...until we meet again!

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell,*

M.E.N.D. President/Founder

Mommy to Jonathan Daniel and Baby Mitchell



M.E.N.D. Fellowship 1988

Obituary

Pamela Diane Morren

Fayetteville, AR
1971 – 2012



Pamela Diane (Riebel) Morren born August 5, 1971 in Chicago, Illinois, has gone to be with her Saviour after a courageous battle with breast cancer. She passed away on November 22, 2012, at The Washington Regional Hospital in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Pam graduated from Rogers High School in 1989, after which she attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville until 1993. She worked for Sam's Club corporate office and then moved to Dallas, Texas, and worked in the sales division for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. Then she started her own window treatment business, Sunsetter Blinds and Shutters. After having four children, her love and dedication to her family led her to become a school teacher. She became the head teacher of the 6th grade class at Fayetteville Christian School, where she taught until 2012.

Pam lost her firstborn son in December 1997 and received invitation to become a member of M.E.N.D., a Christian organization in Dallas, Texas, that councils grieving parents who have lost a child to death. She loved M.E.N.D. and, becoming very involved, was elected to the board of directors, helping to open chapters in additional states. She assisted with opening the NW Arkansas M.E.N.D. chapter in Springdale, Arkansas, where she served until 2010. She became a member of Mission Boulevard Baptist Church, being baptized in 2007, followed by the baptism and membership of all her children there.

She was preceded in death by her beloved son Timothy Schuyler Morren, II, and father Edward Joseph Riebel, Jr., grandparents William N. Moore and Caroline of Rogers, Edward Joseph Riebel and Esther Kohlman of Chicago, Illinois. She is survived by her husband Timothy, daughters Ashton and Alexa, son Benjamin, mother Mary Lynn Riebel, her brother Edward Joseph Riebel, III, and his wife Tanya and nieces Jordan Jones and Avery Riebel and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Pam was a devoted wife, mother, daughter and friend. Her kindness and loyalty to those close to her were a most admired characteristic. The faith, love and strength she showed to those around her were such an inspiration and one you immediately sensed upon meeting her. She will be missed by all who knew her, a true, loyal, faithful wife, mother, daughter, and friend!

Memorials may be made to M.E.N.D. at www.mend.org.

Funeral service will be held on Wednesday, November 28, at 11:00 a.m. at the mission Boulevard Baptist Church in Fayetteville. A visitation will be held on Tuesday, November 27, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. at Rollins Funeral Home chapel in Rogers.



A row of M.E.N.D. families hold purple flowers at Pam's funeral that were placed in her casket following the ceremony

Thank you to those who
gave to M.E.N.D.
in memory of

Pam Morren:

Tim Morren and children
Ashton, Alexa and Ben

Barbara Brannan

Bay and Paula Miltenberger

Susan Etheridge

Bruce and Elaine Mulkey

Byron and Rebekah Mitchell

Sam and April Moreton

Steve and Diane Galleger

Randy, Dollie, Elizabeth
and Gerald Resh



Rebekah Mitchell and former M.E.N.D. Board Member, Rae Scrivner just before Pam's service

In the Shelter of His Presence

By Cathy Garnaat
(Pam Morren's husband's cousin)

When I had my first baby in the hospital, the best thing was late in the night when I would finish nursing him and he would fall asleep. The nurses would always say, "Call us when you are done nursing, and we'll come and put him in the nursery." But I would never call them. I would lay myself back on the pillow on the tilted-up hospital bed, lay him on my chest with his body wrapped closely in a couple of soft cotton receiving blankets with his little head just below my chin and touching my chin, bring up the covers around us both, and snuggle with him there for as long as I could, until the nurse would finally come after a couple of hours and put him to bed in the nursery. As I held him, I would drink in the sweetness of hearing him breathe so contentedly and feel his little puffs of breath on my skin. It was a delicious private time just for the two of us. I continued this practice with my other babies, too.

We arrived at the hospital in labor with the excitement that our fourth baby would be born! The doctors hooked me up to the baby monitoring equipment, but it wasn't working. They went and got another machine, and that one didn't work either. The nurse said the doctor would be in. He came in and listened to my belly with his stethoscope. The doctor said the child had died and would be stillborn. I went through the labor and delivery but with no prize at the end. The nurses wrapped him up in receiving blankets and let us see and hold him. Ken held him but I did not. We named him Brian.

My husband Ken stayed with me in my hospital room until about 10 p.m., then left to go home. That night, I didn't have a little baby lying on top of me in the hospital, sheltered close to my chest. I could hear the other babies in the other rooms in the distance of the hospital maternity ward. That night, in the dim light of my room, I opened my Bible, as was my habit every night, and let it fall where it may. I had spent much time in the Psalms, previously, and that's where it naturally divided. Psalms 32 and 33 were my great comfort that night. After I read it, I lay back on my pillow and just meditated. The Lord's Presence filled my hospital room in an unusual feeling of "presence" and comfort, just like I was a baby resting contentedly on His breast.

Part of my scripture reading that night and for several weeks after, was Psalm 33:3 "Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy." Within the next few weeks, I wrote a song regarding that deep personal experience called "In the Shelter of His Presence."

I have used this song many times in public speaking/singing engagements over those years following that stillborn experience to help other people in their sorrow.

Other verses that met my needs were regarding the question on my heart, "Where is my baby? Did he go to heaven?"

I found my answer in II Samuel 12:15 through 23, especially verse 23 where it says, "Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, be he shall not return to me."

"I shall go to him..."

David was a man of God. The place David would go when he died would be into the presence of his God. Since he is saying he will go to his baby, that tells me the baby was also with God. That was my comfort, and I never worried about it again. Ahh...the comfort of the Word of God.

In the Shelter of His Presence

By Cathy Garnaat

Chorus:

In the shelter of His Presence I rest,
Like a baby upon its mother's breast;
I curl up and I ask for His will,
In the shelter of His Presence...I'm still.

Verse 1:

The joy of the Lord is my strength,
My strength from the Lord is His joy;
Don't expect me to be down when he lifts me up!
The joy of the Lord is mine.

Chorus:

In the shelter of His Presence I rest,
Like a baby upon its mother's breast;
I curl up and I ask for His will,
In the shelter of His Presence...I'm still.

Verse 2:

God finds it not easy, I'm sure,
To bring us hard things to endure;
But with His perfect love comes strength from above:
His unfailing love is so pure.

Chorus:

In the shelter of His Presence I rest,
Like a baby upon its mother's breast;
I curl up and I ask for His will,
In the shelter of His Presence...I'm still.

Ending:

The joy of the Lord is my strength,
My strength from the Lord is His joy.
Don't expect me to be down when He lifts me...up!
The joy of the Lord is mine.

I curl up and I ask for His will
In the shelter of His Presence...I'm still.

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M.E.N.D.-NW Washington Christmas Ceremony



Stacy McGee, chapter director, speaking at the ceremony.

Thank you to our sponsors:
Sarah Alston Photography
Sallie Nau/Seattle Porcelain Company
Flowers To Go



Alexandria Mills sharing a beautiful song called "Angel"

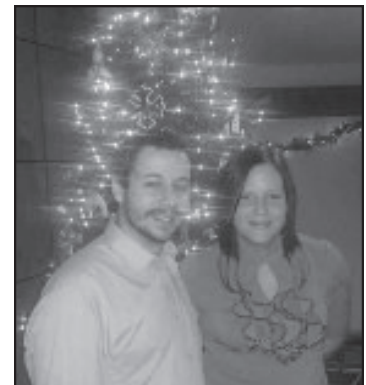
M.E.N.D.-Bryan/College Station Christmas Ceremony



Megan and Kindale Pittman remembering Andrew

Christmas Ceremony

Thank you to our sponsors:
Dr. Peet Harringtons
Marilyn Branson



Jason and Jennie Drude remembering Dharma Lucille

M.E.N.D.-Tulsa Christmas Ceremony



Candle lit in honor of babies in heaven

Thank you to our sponsors:
Paper8
Merritt's Bakery
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Jeremy and Lisa Daily
Greg and Sara Hintz
Nick and Erika Huff
Crissy Seemster



Hintz family remembering Samuel Mark, Joel and Taylor



Rebekah Mitchell speaking to the families

M.E.N.D.-Texarkana Christmas Ceremony



Texarkana Christmas Ceremony Committee
(left to right): Toni Sherman, Monica Davis, Tania Greer
and Dawn Kennedy. Not pictured, Melissa Thomas.

Thank you to our sponsors:

- Baker Brothers American Deli
- Bath and Body Works
- Beauti Control/Mary Ann Jordan
- Beech Street First Baptist Church, and Staff
- Beech Street First Baptist Church, Kidz Ministry
- Buffalo Wild Wings Restaurant
- Celebrating Home/Kim Cearley
- Ellis Pottery
- Jennifer Hood Photography
- Johnny Carino's Italian Grill
- Junior League of Texarkana
- George and Debbie Kennedy
- Elizabeth Hill Lofton
- McAlister's Deli
- Michael's Arts and Crafts
- On the Border Mexican Grill
- RaNachel's Jewelry
- Patricia Sherman
- Starbucks
- TaMolly's Mexican Restaurant
- Terri's Treasures
- Texas Roadhouse
- The Mixing Bowl
- Thirty-one/Tania Greer
- Tractor Supply

M.E.N.D.-SW Missouri Christmas Ceremony



Greg, Kathryn and Emily light candles
in honor of CJ and Marina Gold.



Christmas Ceremony Committee (left to right):
Kathryn Gold, Jennifer Harrison, Heather Fann,
Heather Bass, Kathleen Moore

Thank you to our sponsors:

- Elfindale Mansion and Chapel
- Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
- Mercy Hospital Springfield
- Jonathan and Heather Fann
- Ron and Patty Marshall, Red Crow Marketing
- Windsmore Studio
- Mark and Ruth Sonnenberg
- Patricia Ervin
- Inspired Creations by CEO
- Cunningham/Farrar ABF
- Michelle Cramer, Eternal Image Photography

M.E.N.D.-Dallas Christmas Ceremony



Leydy Cervantes and her son Devin remember Nathaniel T. Cervantes.



Picture of candle and ceremony brochure

Thank you to our sponsors:

- Bob's Steak & Chop House
- Precious Moments
- Garabedian Properties
- Tommy and Brea Darnell
- Randy and Aimee Shaw
- Chris and Shannon Outen
- Highland Park Presbyterian Church / Presbyterian Women
- Byron L. Mitchell, D.D.S. / Dentistry of Las Colinas
- Thirty-one Independent Consulting / Jennifer Wheelbarger
- Remarkable Healthcare of Fort Worth
- Jim and Larissa Wheeler
- J&J
- Maverick's Sports Grill
- Al and Amber Zuckerman
- Inspired Creations by CEO Doug and Angelique Sohn



Beautiful stage for the ceremony

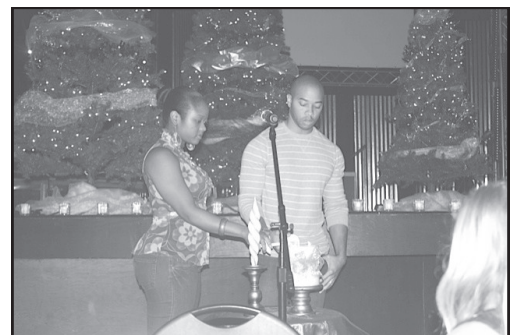
M.E.N.D.-Houston Christmas Ceremony

Thank you to our sponsors:

- Kirk and Diana Light
- Hernan Krymkiewicz & Ana Ayon
- Jose & Silvia Casas
- Chris & Beverlyann Whigham
- Shane Meyer
- Chris & Amanda Dillard
- Kara Chapman
- Adrian and Stephanie Estala



Chris and Miranda Delmar light candles for Everett Christopher



Brandon and Tenya Thomas light candles for Jayden and Brandon Jr.



Committee Members Ana Ayon and Shane Meyer

M.E.N.D. Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death
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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.



www.mend.org