



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

Holding on to Spiritual Truths

I was raised in a very devout Christian home. We went to church every Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. My parents have taught an adult Sunday school class since I was a child, and for years they opened our home to twice-monthly prayer meetings on Friday nights. For as long as I can remember, my dad has served as an elder at our church, as well as a member of the Board of Directors. Every Sunday, my parents prayed with people at the altar, and they have led countless to the Lord. My husband, Byron, grew up in a very similar situation. He, too, attended church every time the doors were open. His parents were very involved in church leadership, and he also was raised having always “known the Lord.” And interestingly, we both have grandparents who were Pentecostal preachers.

When we married, we modeled our marriage, our home, and our child rearing after both sets of our parents. We began teaching Sunday school just months after we got married. We spent most of our Saturdays working with various church ministries, and rarely did we attend church fewer than three times a week. We opened our home to a monthly small group when we were in our mid-20s that still meets today, nearly 20 years later. For years, Byron has served on the board of our church, and he has been an elder since he was a young man.

When I was younger – more like “before Jonathan” – if I had been asked if anything would shake my solid faith, I would have shouted a resounding “NO!” But boy, was I wrong! When our second son, Jonathan, was stillborn at 29 1/2 weeks due to a cord accident while I was on bed rest in the hospital, I questioned everything spiritual I had ever believed and told others about. Basically, I crashed spiritually. Admittedly, I even wondered if, indeed, there was a God. Maybe we had all been duped into believing in the supernatural, just to give us warm fuzzies and help us through the day. I think deep, deep down I knew God certainly existed. But I realized I suddenly had a list of questions, and I needed answers.

For example, where was God when Jonathan died? Why didn't He rescue my son? Did God *cause* my baby's

death or *allow* it? Did He know ahead of time that Jonathan would never live outside my womb? Was that His plan for our family all along? I believed Jonathan was in heaven, but was he still a baby there or did he immediately grow up once he arrived? Or does he age as we do here on earth? Did I miss something? Maybe I was never supposed to get pregnant with him in the first place. Or worse...was I being punished for something? Maybe for the times I lost my temper and patience with my then three-year-old?? Was this a test of my faith – my loyalty and obedience to God? Or again, maybe there really wasn't a God and the joke was on me.

I struggled with these questions and feelings for nearly a year after Jonathan's death. After searching scripture and crying out to the Lord from the depth of my soul for months, I finally yielded to Him and allowed Him to comfort me in a way that no one or nothing else could. Once I did this, some of the answers to my questions came to light.

The first epiphany I had was from Psalm 139, which tells us in verse 16 that all of our days were ordained for us before any of them came to be. This lets me know that God was not surprised by Jonathan's stillbirth, for if He knew all of *my* days, then He also knew all of Jonathan's, which means He knew Jonathan would never breathe a breath outside of my womb. Somehow, this was comforting to me. Secondly, I had to concede that God's ways are higher than my ways and His thoughts better than my thoughts (Isaiah 55:9). I also had to realize and be content with the fact that most of my “why” questions would never be answered. They would remain a mystery (Deuteronomy 29:29).

The time when I submitted my sorrow to the Lord is basically when M.E.N.D. began. Once we opened our doors to support groups and listened to other parents share, I realized I was not alone in my spiritual struggle. However, I have to confess that over the years I have been quite surprised and shocked by the beliefs and misconceptions that fellow confessing Christians have

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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 19.

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 at www.mend.org.

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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The Heart of the Leader

My name is Stacy McGhee. I am the Chapter Director for M.E.N.D.-NW Washington. I recently took over as director in August 2012. I have been attending the M.E.N.D. meetings since our chapter opened in October 2010. I was invited to the first meeting by our nurse who cared for our daughter, Sophia, when she was stillborn at 33 weeks in March 2010. I struggled for those six months before M.E.N.D. to find someone who understood how I was feeling, grieving the loss of my baby. I felt like I finally belonged somewhere. I didn't know anyone who had lost a baby, and suddenly I was surrounded by many. It saddened me deeply to see so many faces, but glad to see God had brought us all together to comfort one another. I finally feel like I see the purpose that God has for my life through my three miscarriages, failed adoption, and stillborn daughter. I know the heartache, but I also know the joy in seeing God work through me.



♥ Stacy McGhee,
Mommy to Sophia, Baby McGhee I
Baby McGhee II, Baby McGhee III
M.E.N.D.—NW Washington

“Holding on to Spiritual Truths”

Continued from page 1

about death and heaven. For instance, I was surprised the first time I heard a mom share that her pastor comforted her by assuring her that her baby was now her personal guardian angel, always watching and protecting her. I was even more confused when I heard Bible-believing couples talk about their babies now being a flower, an animal, or some other inanimate object. Moreover, I found myself digging through scripture after hearing people insist that God would never have allowed this, because He doesn't give us more than we can bear (jokingly, I have often wondered if the book of Job was left out of those people's Bibles).

Biblical misconceptions certainly are not that huge of an issue while grieving, but as a Christian ministry, we decided to devote a newsletter to help clarify some of the misunderstandings of scripture you may have. Perhaps clarification on a few things will help you in your healing. The intent of this issue is not to “burst your bubble” or offend any of your beliefs. Hopefully, this issue will instead make a few things clear that have maybe been muddled by your grief, and we pray these revelations will be a comfort to you. We do not claim to be Bible scholars or theologians, just fellow Christians who have taken some time to address some spiritual truths to help guide you in your journey through grief.

♥ Rebekah Mitchell,

M.E.N.D. President/Founder

Mommy to Jonathan Daniel and Baby Mitchell

Book Review

Mended: Pieces of a Life Made Whole

By Angie Smith

Known in the “infant loss world” for her book *I Will Carry You* and her blog *Bring the Rain*, Angie Smith beautifully illustrates the concept of how the Lord puts the broken pieces of our daily lives back together again. Although *Mended* is not a book written specifically about infant loss, bereaved mom Angie Smith most assuredly intertwines her experience of losing her infant daughter, Audrey Caroline, throughout this writing. Each short chapter concludes with a segment called “Mending,” wherein the reader is challenged to apply to her life the focus of the preceding chapter. Whether you are fresh in your grief or made the long journey years ago, you will undoubtedly find this book applicable to your life today.

♥ 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.

Questions

By Steven Curtis Chapman
Recorded on *Beauty Will Rise*

Who are You God
For You are turning out to be
So much different than I imagined

And where are You God
Cuz I am finding life to be
So much harder than I had planned

Know that I am afraid
To ask these questions
But You know they are there

And if You know my heart
The way that I believe You do
You know that I believe in You
Still I have these questions

Like How could You God
How could You be so good and strong
And make a world that can be so painful

And where were You God
I know You had to be right there
I know You never turn Your head

You know that I'm confused
By all this mystery

You know I get afraid
But if You know my heart
As completely as I trust You do
Oh You know that I trust in You

Is it true
That for every tear I cry
You cry a thousand more
'Cause You weep for those that weep

And are You just holding yourself back
From crushing all the pain and evil in this
world

For reasons we just cant understand for
now
But isn't there a day of redemption
coming
Redemption is coming

Quickly Lord, come quickly
Lord, come quickly

So who am I God
That You would raise me from the dust
To breathe Your life and Your love in me
You know that I believe

May/June Topic

Mother's Day/Father's Day
Deadline: March 31, 2012

July/August Topic

Social Network Grieving
Deadline: May 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, Wiley!

Happy first birthday, sweet boy! We wish we could celebrate with you. Thank you for making us a mommy and a daddy. We look forward to that sweet day in heaven when we get to hold you again. We're one year closer! We miss and love you so much.

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

Wiley Boyce Phifer
February 17, 2012
Umbilical cord accident at 32 weeks
Parents: Sam and Amy Phifer
Little sister: Ellie



Happy 2nd Birthday, Zachary!

My sweet boy, I can't believe you're 2! It seems like it was just yesterday I was seeing you for the first time. It's hard to believe we said goodbye two years ago. I know you're in heaven looking down on me, and I promise I'm going to make you proud. I love you, little man, more than words can ever express, and I miss you more and more every day. I'll be seeing you soon, Son.

Love forever,
Mommy

Zachary Choriki
February 13, 2011
Unknown cause
Mommy: Miranda Choriki



Happy 3rd Birthday, Tomas Andres and Isabela!

Our little twins, you are always in our hearts! We miss you so much! Love you always!

Daddy, Mommy, Tomas Eduardo and Andres Ignacio

Tomas Andres Castillo Lares
January 11, 2010
Isabela Castillo Lares
January 18, 2010
Preterm Labor
Parents: Jesus and Marisela Castillo Lares
Siblings: Tomas Eduardo and Andres Ignacio



Happy 1st Birthday, Gabriel!

Our dearest Gabriel, has it truly been a year ago that you grew your angel wings? We have so many wonderful memories with you that we cherish and hold close in our hearts. There isn't a day that goes by that we don't think of you. You continue to be such a blessing in our life, and, in your time on earth, I am thankful that you knew love in its purest form. Many people remember you and hold you in a special place in their hearts. We love you dearly and miss you so very much, but we know we will be reunited in heaven.

Lost you before I found you
Gone before you came
But I love you just the same.
Missed you before I met you
On earth we never can,
But in heaven we'll meet again.
"Still" by Gerrit Hofsink

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Gabriel David Gimlin
Stillborn March 29, 2012
Parents: Gary and Andrea Gimlin



Happy 4th Birthday, Alethia Joy!

We can hardly believe it has already been four years since we held you in our arms, sang to you and "gave you back" to the Giver of Life. Your little sister, Hannah Beth, looks at your pictures and talks often about how you are in heaven with Jesus. We so wish you were here to run around and play with her and little Anthony. Not a day goes by that we don't think about you and miss you, our precious firstborn. Thank you for all the ways you've blessed our lives in just the short time you were with us. We love you, sweet girl!

Daddy, Mommy, Hannah Beth and Anthony

Alethia Joy Myers
Stillborn February 3, 2009, at 39 weeks
Also remembering
Baby Grace Myers
Miscarried July 2009
Parents: Tony and Charity Myers
Siblings: Hannah Beth and Anthony



Happy 3rd Birthday, Jacob!

Mommy and Daddy miss you a lot!

Jacob Lopez
January 13, 2010
Fraser Syndrome
Parents: Victor and Jenny Lopez
Siblings: Romeo, Jasmine, Alexandra and Savannah



Happy 6th Birthday, Carsen!

Six years ago, I was chosen to be the mother of an angel, and what a job it has been! I never imagined the impact you would have on our lives and the joy you have brought. We have loved stronger, lived lighter and never once have we forgotten what your spirit has taught us. Your brothers, father and I think of you often and talk to you daily. We miss you and hope your birthday in heaven is perfect. We will hold you again soon!

Carsen Matthew Landis

April 30, 2007

Injury sustained during birth

Also remembering

Baby May Landis

Miscarried May 1, 2008

Parents: Josh and Jenny Landis

Siblings: Fisher, Brysen and Layne



Happy 3rd Birthday, Alexander!

Happy third birthday, my sunshine! What a blessing this year has been. You are now a big brother! God has given us the blessing of having Abraham in our lives. I know you will be watching us from heaven. Thank you for showing us what love really means. Our relationship will last forever. The support group for parents grieving babies in Puerto Rico has helped many families, and we are meeting monthly! So happy for this opportunity.

Te Amamos por Siempre,
Daddy, Mama and Abraham

Alexander Seely-Robles

April 30, 2010

Cord accident

Parents: Ron Seely and Raquel Robles

Little brother: Abraham



Happy 7th Birthday, Michaela!

Missing you seven years later

Michaela Slocum

January 25—February 6, 2006

Congenital heart defect

Parents: Mike and Lee Slocum

Siblings: Isabella and Leilani



Happy 1st Birthday, Noah!

We miss you and love you. It's been a tough year without you. I know you are watching over us. We can't wait to see you one sweet day. We love you, baby boy.

Noah Wayne Lively

Miscarried March 15, 2012

Knot in the cord

Parents: Ken and Faren Lively

Siblings: Stormee, Levin and Aeonnis



Happy 6th Birthday, Julian!

Happy birthday, little man. I think about you every day. You have forever changed my life. I am so grateful that God gave you to me. You are my special little angel, and now you are celebrating your big day with Grandpa. I'll be looking for your sign. Mommy loves you with all her heart. Happy birthday, Son.

Julian David Rodriguez

April 1, 2007

Premature

Mommy: Rachel Prado-Wall

Siblings: Mike Jr, Leeana, Mikayla and Sonya



Happy 1st Birthday, Mikey!

Happy first birthday to our precious baby boy, Mikey! Mommy and Daddy love and miss you so much. There isn't a day that goes by that we don't talk or think about you. We knew you were special. You're our perfect son! You look just like Daddy, black hair and all, but you have Mommy's eyes. You're so brave and smart. You always knew our voices and never took your eyes off of us. We can still hear your cry, see your smile, feel your touch and hear your sounds. We're so grateful to have had you for two months. You gave us so much love and happiness. You'll always be with us.

In our hearts forever

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

Michael James Hill, Jr.

March 4—May 5, 2012

Unknown cause

Parents: Michael and Tawsha Hill



Happy 1st Birthday, Paislee Ann!

Paislee Ann, you brought so much joy into our lives. We can't believe it's been a year since you've come and gone. You made such a huge impact on everyone who knew you, and you will always be remembered. You were our diamond in the rough, and we could never express how much we love you and how proud we are to be your parents. We wish you were here with us but know that you will have the best birthday ever in heaven!

Happy first birthday, baby girl!

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

As you hold me close in memory,
even though we are apart,
my spirit will live on there within your heart.

Paislee Ann Frette

April 4-5, 2012

Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome

Parents: Brent and Courtney Frette



Happy 2nd Birthday, Chase!

Our sweet Chase, it is hard to believe it has been two years since we first and last held you, baby boy. While we miss you so much, we are so thrilled to know that we will spend eternity with you. Your life and death have brought us many blessings, and we are so thankful God gave us you. Happy second birthday, sweet boy! We love you!

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

Chase Austin Miller
April 21, 2011
Incompetent cervix
Parents: Greg and Stefanie Miller



Happy 1st Birthday, Ryder!

It's so hard to believe that a year has gone by since we lost you. We hope you know how much you are loved and missed. Not a day goes by that you aren't on our minds. We want to wish you the happiest first birthday, and even though we can't be with you on this day, it is still your special day!

We love you!
Happy first birthday, baby boy!
Love,
Daddy, Mommy, Raegan and Blakely

Ryder Alan Beene
Stillborn February 18, 2012
Unknown cause
Parents: Jason and Courtney Beene
Sisters: Raegan and Blakely



Happy 1st Birthday, Case!

Happy first birthday to our perfect baby boy! Your coming into our life brought us such joy. We miss you every day, but know we'll meet again. Momma can't wait to hold you in her arms again, and never let you go. Love you, our birthday boy, Case Jackson!

Case Jackson Nix
Stillborn April 30, 2012
Incompetent cervix
Parents: Cody and Lesley Nix



Happy 3rd Birthday, Connor!

Happy third birthday, baby boy! We can't believe it has been three years! We love you and miss you every day!

Love,
Dad, Mom, Caleb and Kyle

Connor Tidman
April 21, 2010
Unknown cause
Parents: Geoff and Rachel Tidman
Siblings: Caleb and Kyle



Happy 4th Birthday, Baby Wheeler!

Wow! We can't believe that you have been gone for four years! We wonder what you would do if you were here. Would you like soccer or T-ball? Would you like to play with cars or build with blocks? We miss you and love you so much! We hope you are taking good care of your little brother! We will hold you in heaven!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and Juju

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



Happy 1st Birthday, Marcus!

Our dear son, it's been one year since we held you in our arms. The joy of your presence, even though for a short while, abides in our hearts forever. We love you so much and think of you daily. One day we will all be together rejoicing at the Father's throne.

Love,
Daddy and Mama

Marcus John Willie
March 24, 2012
Umbilical cord cyst
Also remembering
Willie babies
Miscarried November 2010
Juliette Willie
Miscarried November 2011
Willie babies
Miscarried October 2012
Parents: Vernon and Yakima Willie



Happy 3rd Birthday, Andrew!

You are dearly missed and loved. Thank you for making us even better parents for Kaylee. We wish you were here playing with Kaylee, but know you are playing with the other babies in heaven.

Love,
Daddy, Mommy and Kaylee

Andrew Michael Pittman
Stillborn March 23, 2010
Cord accident
Parents: Kindale and Melody Pittman
Sibling: Kaylee Drew



Happy 5th Birthday, Dharma!

I can't believe it has been so long. It feels like just yesterday we were jamming to Ray Charles while waiting for my extra long chili cheese coney at Sonic. I miss you terribly and wish you were here to play with Max and Mollie. I, however, would not change a thing, because you have touched so many lives, and it is a blessing to share your legacy with others. God surely has removed my sack cloth and clothed me with joy. Psalms 30:11-12

Thank you, God, for my beautiful daughter!

Love always,

Mommy, Daddy, Max and Mollie

Dharma Lucille Drude
March 31—April 1, 2008
Anencephaly

Parents: Jason and Jennie Drude
Siblings: Max and Mollie



Happy 1st Birthday, Jayden and BJ!

20 small fingers and toes
4 tiny hands to hold
2 beating hearts that stopped
1 God to call our Rock

Although your precious lives were short-lived, they made a tremendous impact on us and you shall never be forgotten. We miss you dearly!

Love,

Mommy and Daddy

Jayden Lamar Thomas
April 22-23, 2012
Brandon Prescott Thomas, Jr.
April 22-May 27, 2012
Incompetent cervix/severe prematurity
Parents: Brandon, Sr., and Tenya Thomas



Happy 2nd Birthday, Baby O'Neil-Drummond!

I can't believe it has been two years. It feels like it just happened yesterday. I thought by now the road would be a little easier, but it's not, baby. Mommy misses you so much. My heart still hurts as if it just happened. I wish I had the chance to hold you just once, but God is still good, baby. You were too bright for this earth. He needed you more. I thank you for choosing me, and for making me a mom. You are forever in my heart and mind, baby. Happy second heavenly birthday, baby.

Always in my heart and never forgetting,
Mommy

Baby O'Neil-Drummond
Miscarried March 13, 2011
Parents: Timothy Drummond and Carren O'Neil



Happy 3rd Birthday, Brooke!

Baby Brooke, we wish you were here and still miss you very much. In fact, there isn't a day that goes by without our thinking of you. While your life was so short, we are grateful you came to us. We strive to honor you through the M.E.N.D. ministry.

Love,

Mamma, Daddy, Sarah and Savannah

Brooke Sophia Daily
March 11, 2010
Vasa Previa
Parents: Jeremy and Lisa Daily
Sisters: Sarah and Savannah



Happy 4th Birthday, Sophia!

To our dear little angel, happy fourth birthday to our sweet girl. Not a day goes by that we don't think of you. Mommy, Daddy and Nicholas wish you a wonderful birthday. We miss you!

Much Love,

Mommy, Daddy and Nicholas

Sophia Elise Lewis
March 25, 2009
Triploidy 69
Parents: Eric and Janie Lewis
Brother: Nicholas



Happy 1st Birthday, Everett!

Our precious one, we wish you a happy first birthday! We love and miss you so much, and we look forward to being with you some day.

All our love forever and ever,
Mommy and Daddy

Everett Christopher Delmar
Stillborn April 18, 2012, at 28 weeks
Unknown cause
Also remembering
Baby Delmars 1, 2 and 3
November 2012
Failed IVF
Parents: Chris and Miranda Delmar



Happy 13th Birthday, Joshua and Caleb!

We miss you both and look forward to the day
we see you again in heaven!

Joshua Mark and Caleb Matthew Davis
April 14, 2000
Prematurity
Parents: Shawn and Monica Davis
Siblings: Landon and Kylie



Happy 1st Birthday, Gemma!

Missing You Always

You never said "I'm leaving,"
 You never said "Goodbye,"
 You were gone before we knew it
 And only God knows why.
 A million times we needed you,
 A million times we cried,
 If love alone could have saved you,
 You never would have died.
 In life we loved you dearly
 In death we love you still,
 In our hearts we hold a place
 That only you can fill.
 Love always,
 Daddy, Mama and Logan

*Gemma Nicole Bentley**April 18, 2012**Cord accident**Parents: Christopher and Lindsey Bentley**Brother: Logan***Happy 6th Birthday, AJ!**

We miss you so much! We are continually amazed how God uses your life to mold us into better parents and teach us to be better people. As we watch your brothers grow up with compassion, sensitivity and love, we know that it is you shining through. We will hold you in heaven. Our love for you is endless!

We love you more!
 Daddy, Mommy, Eli and Alex

*Adrian Joseph "AJ" Zuckerman**March 30, 2007**True knot cord accident**Parents: Alfredo and Amber Zuckerman**Brothers: Eli and Alex***Happy 5th Birthday, Mason and Matthew!**

Mason and Matthew, it's hard to believe that it has been five years since we held you. Every day you are on our hearts and minds and missed. You are also a daily blessing and have made us the family we are today. The memories of carrying you, loving you and losing you will always be treasured.

Love,
 Momma, Dada, Miles and Graham

*Mason and Matthew Bass**April 10, 2008**Premature due to incompetent cervix**Parents: Chad Bass and Leah Robilotto-Bass**Siblings: Miles and Graham***Happy 10th Birthday, Baby Burden!**

To my precious baby boy born at only 8 weeks old, I miss you every day. I wish I could hold you. I wish I had a picture or anything to keep your memory alive more. How I miss you so. In heaven you will remain but in my heart I hold you forever.

*Baby Burden (Brandan)**Miscarried April 2003**Also remembering**Abigail (Abby) Burden**Stillborn October 10, 2006**Parents: Dale and Melissa Burden**Siblings: Hannah, Emily and Malakai***Happy 5th Birthday, Tanner!**

We patiently await the day to see your sweet face again! We cannot believe it has been five years in this journey we have endured. We love and miss you! We have not and will not ever forget you, sweet Tanner! Happy birthday, precious!

*Tanner Lee Clark**Stillborn March 3, 2008, at 37 weeks**True knot in cord**Parents: Brian and Allison Clark**Siblings: Tate and Camdyn***Happy 1st Birthday, Amal!**

We miss you sooo much! You will always be our pure, perfect angel.

*Amal Robinson**February 7, 2012**Spontaneous miscarriage**Parents: Antoine Robinson and Evony Centrelle**Sibling: Arion***Happy 3rd Birthday, Rowan!**

I wish things were different and we were celebrating your third birthday together. I can only imagine the fun we would have, how your eyes would have lit up seeing the candles sparkle. That isn't the case, though. You get to spend your special day with Jesus, and I'm pretty sure the party He's going to throw is going to be amazing! We love you and miss you very much, baby girl. How I wish the circumstances were different, but I know you are in great hands!

Love you bunches!

Mommy, Daddy, Zekey, Keirsty, Amiah, Jakey and Lilly

*Rowan Marie McCall**Stillborn April 9, 2010**Parents: Ryan and Erica McCall**Siblings: Zeke, Keirsten, Amiah, Jacob and Lilly*

Happy 2nd Birthday, Samira!

I think about you often, Samira. It has been two years now since you went to be with Jesus. I hope you have a wonderful celebration in heaven. We love you so much. You now have a little sister, Isha, to watch over, also.

Samira SueAnne Regmi

March 13, 2011

PPROM

Also remembering

Skylar Regmi

September 1, 2010

Unknown cause

Parents: Santosh and Sara Regmi

Little sister: Isha McKenzie



Happy 2nd Birthday, Lily!

Dear Lily, my sweet baby girl is turning 2! Your life continues to bring glory to the Lord and lasting joy in my life. You are never far from my mind or my heart. Isaac is a fiercely devoted big brother and continues to express his love for you. We miss you so very much. We will be celebrating your special day and thinking of you. Happy birthday!

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

Lily, I hope we come to see you soon. We love you and love you and love you.

Isaac

Lily Joy Moore

March 2, 2011

Early pregnancy loss

Parents: Jeremy and Kathleen Moore

Siblings: Isaac and Baby Moore (due October 2013)



Happy 7th Birthday, Ava!

Happy birthday, sweet baby girl. It's hard to believe that you would be 7 this year. So much has happened in those seven years. We miss and love you so much and long for the day that we will see you in heaven.

Much love!

Mommy, Daddy, Madison, Spencer and Garrett

Ava Grace Browning

March 7, 2006

Ebstein's Anomaly

Also remembering

Baby Browning, January 2009

Baby Twin Browning, September 2010

Baby Girl Browning, October 2012

Parents: Kevin and Christal Browning

Siblings: Madison, Spencer and Garrett



Happy 1st Heavenly Birthday, Sean!

Sweet baby Sean, we all miss you so much! You were with us for such a short time but forever made an impression on our hearts. We will always count you as Baby #3, because your life counted. So many people's lives have been transformed by Christ because of your life, your story! We continue to praise our God even though our hearts break with you not here. You are incredible! Not only are you "little brother," you're also "big brother," and we will tell your little siblings just how special you are. You made heaven real for your sisters. One day we will all be together again. We love you!

Sean Isaac Howell

Miscarried April 30, 2012

Unknown cause

Parents: Roger and Lisa Howell

Siblings: Mckyla, Abby and twins on the way



Happy 7th Birthday, Morgan!

Happy heavenly birthday, Morgan. We are so thankful to know that you are with Jesus but miss you so much! Your big brother sees his friends enjoying their siblings at school and wishes you were here. He imagines what life would be like if you were here. I continue to remind him that God knows our hurts and has a perfect plan for our lives. We look forward to the day we meet you and Jesus in heaven.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Isaac, Grandma, Grandpa and Auntie Michelle

Morgan Schear

March 28, 2006

Unknown cause

Parents: Nobel and Paula Schear

Brother: Isaac



Happy 1st Birthday, Bryson!

It is so hard to accept that you are gone, yet it is so easy to realize all of the things we are missing out on with you not here.

You touched everyone who knew you as only you could, and we thank God for showing us and others what truly is important in life.

We want to celebrate your short life on earth with us and look forward to seeing you again!

We love you!
Mommy and Daddy

Bryson Cross Rawlins

February 25—March 3, 2012

Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC)

Parents: Terry and Carrie Rawlins

Siblings: Brayden, Breanna, Luke, Brooklynn and Emily



Happy 2nd Birthday, Jaliyah!

Happy second birthday to my ladybug, Jaliyah. Mommy misses you with all her heart. You will never be forgotten. Know you mean the world to me and on your birthday, I hope you are enjoying it with your great-grandparents.

Love you always,
Mommy

Jaliyah Danielle Rodriguez
April 29, 2011
Anencephaly
Mommy: Rosanna Rodriguez



Happy 3rd Birthday, Sophia!

Mommy and Daddy and your big brother and little sister miss you so much! We think of you every day.

Sophia Rose McGhee
Stillborn March 29, 2010
Unknown cause
Also remembering
Baby McGhee 1
Miscarried 2002
Baby McGhee 2
Miscarried 2009
Baby McGhee 3
Miscarried 2009
Parents: Matt and Stacy McGhee
Siblings: Micah and Scarlett



Happy 11th Birthday, Anastasia!

Anastasia means "one who will rise again." I named you that because I know you will--and I will meet you one day in heaven!

Happy 1st Birthday, Jensen!

It has been very difficult to be expecting your sister since you just left us a few months ago. But, as with Ana, I'm eager to meet you one day in heaven. I know you were a gift to me--I've learned so much from your loss. God has been so gracious to teach me about Himself through your brief life and your death. I hold tightly to His promises each day, knowing His ways are not mine. I miss you, my sweet one.

Anastasia Langley
Miscarried April 26, 2002 (5 weeks)
Unknown cause
Jenson Langley
Miscarried April 16, 2012 (6 weeks)
Unknown cause
Parents: Jason and Jenni Langley
Siblings: Alissa, Rachel, Benjamin
and Baby Girl (due July 5)



Happy 17th Birthday, Katie!

Katie, it is hard to believe that it has been 17 years. I think of you every day. I look forward to the day we are together again. You will always be in my heart.

Love you always,
Mom and Jeremy

Kaitlyn Paige Ramage
April 2—May 5, 1996
Prematurity/kidney failure
Mommy: Amy Gregorcyk



Happy 3rd Birthday, Mila!

I love you so much, my sweet girl. My heart yearns for you every single day. Please take care of your sister Charlotte. Hold each other for Mommy.

Mila Wheat
Miscarried April 9, 2010
Unknown cause
Also remembering
Charlotte Beydler
Miscarried October 17, 2011
Mommy: Precia Wheat



Happy 1st Birthday, William!

I can't believe it's been a year! I thank God for you, William, for showing me what is truly important. Your short life does count; we have been changed, and we will love you forever, baby boy.

Holding you in our hearts until we can be together again,
Momma, Daddy, Courtney and Tyler

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me"
Philippians 4:13

William Dennis Broughton
April 20, 2012
Umbilical cord accident
Parents: Chad and Lindsay Broughton
Siblings: Courtney and Tyler



Happy 6th Birthday, Liam!

My sweet little "Lambchop," happy sixth birthday! There is not a day that goes by that we don't think of you. You're so missed every day, but we find comfort in knowing where you are and that you're okay. We love you so very much!

Liam Scott Elmer
April 9—May 17, 2007
SIDS
Parents: Adrian and Hillary Fedoroff
Sibling: Jayden



Happy 4th Heavenly Birthday, Michael!

I can't believe our baby boy is having his fourth heavenly birthday. I think about him every day but I know one day I will get to see our baby boy again. Have a great birthday, our little angel.

Happy 3rd Heavenly Birthday, Madison!

Our sweet baby girl is turning 3. I miss her every day, but I know I will get to see her again one day. I hope you have a great heavenly birthday, and me and your daddy love you.

Michael Stephen Parris

April 9, 2009

Clostridium Innocuum/Infection

Madison Nicole Parris

March 5, 2010

Prevotella Bivia (infection)

Also remembering

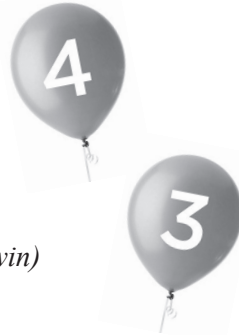
The Baby Twin Parris (Madison's twin)

January 2010

Unknown cause

Parents: Sam and Stacey Parris

Siblings: Lucas and Seth

**Happy 1st Heavenly Birthday, Elle!**

Happy birthday to our beautiful girl in heaven on your first birthday.

Elle Goebbel

April 3, 2012

Fetal hydrops

Parents: Zach and Traci Goebbel

Sibling: Marshall



Today should have been so different.

Just know I'm thinking about you
missing you
loving you
celebrating you
 this side of Heaven.

*I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.
 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay,
 and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.
 Psalm 40: 1-2*

Is My Baby an Angel?

An answer from Billy Graham

Billy Graham post: My sister lost her small son a little over a year ago, and on the anniversary of his death, she put a poem in the paper to remember him. It said something about him being an angel now. Is that what happens to us when we die and go to heaven, that we become angels? — Mrs. L.C.

I know your sister was sincere, and I respect her sorrow and her desire to remember and honor her son—but no, we don't become angels when we die and go to heaven.

The truth is, when we die and go to heaven we become even greater than the angels! The angels are spiritual beings who were created by God to be His servants, and God has given them great authority and power to do His will. And at the present time the angels are greater than we are, because God made us "a little lower than the heavenly beings" (Psalm 8:5).

But the Bible also says that in heaven we will be higher than the angels—and the reason is because we will be like Christ. The Bible says, "Do you not know that we will judge angels?" (1 Corinthians 6:3). While this verse may be referring to the rebellious angels who chose to follow Satan, it still implies that our status after death will be above that of the angels.

All of this, I know, may seem like theological hairsplitting to you. But don't lose sight of the central truth: When we know Christ, we know that this life is not all, but ahead of us is the joy of heaven. May your sister take comfort in this truth, and in the fact that her little son now is beyond all the pain and suffering of this world. Is this your hope as well? It can be, as you give your life to Christ and trust Him as your Savior.

For more answers to spiritual questions from Billy Graham, please visit www.billygraham.org.

In Loving Memory**Everett Alexander**

Given by Kathleen Quinn

Lauren Isabelle Autry

June 17—July 2, 2011
Campomelic Dysplasia
Given by mommy Melissa Autry

Baby Bass

Miscarried December 26, 2006
Given by parents Travis and Heather Bass
and siblings Rachel and Braden

Grace Irene Biglieni

December 6-19, 2007
Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome
Given by mommy Lindy Biglieni

Jesse Hope Burgess

Given by grandparents
John and Susan Adams

Grant Oliver Bybee

Mommy: Kristy Bybee
Given by Christian Mission Concerns

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 sisters Sarah and Savannah
Grandparents John and Carolyn Daily
David Dilley and Lessia Goad
Ed and Sandy Rybicki

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!

Riley and Parker Davis

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

Everett Christopher Delmar

April 18, 2012
Unknown cause
Parents: Christopher and Miranda Delmar
Given by Elizabeth Bohlen

Dharma Lucille Drude

March 31—April 1, 2008
Anencephaly
Parents: Jason and Jennie Drude
Siblings: Max and Molli
Given by great-grandmother
Barbara Branson

Royce Haskil Dugan

October 9, 2011
Cord accident
Parents: Sean and Ashley Dugan
Given by Uncle Mike and Aunt Diane
Hotchkiss

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

Hallie Anne Fantine

Stillborn September 22, 1997
Cord accident

Baby Fantine

Miscarried March 2, 2001
Given by parents Richard and Laurie
Fantine and siblings Alex and Brandon

Logan Wayne Fish

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

Erika Brianne Grau

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

Baby Green

Miscarried October 2011
Parents: Kollin and Jennifer Green
Sisters: Trinity, Zoe and Selah
Given by grandparents
John and Carolyn Daily

Lauren Paige Grimes

Stillborn March 6, 1999
Unknown cause

Baby Grimes

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

Carson Humphries

March 23, 2009
Trisomy 9
Parents: J.J. and Amy Humphries
Big sister: Sarah Jessica
Given by
Uncle Jake and Aunt Timie Yancey
James and Marsha Paslay

Baby Krocka

Miscarried June 24, 2011
Parents: Scott and Krissy Krocka
Brother: Tyler
Given by
Uncle John and Aunt Carolyn Daily

Jackson Glen and Tyler Ray Light

February 23, 2009
Placental abruption
Given by parents Kirk and Diana Light and
siblings Brayden and Alexis Faith

Seth Alan Lindamood

Stillborn December 2, 1977

Jesse Lindamood

Miscarried May 1972
Gifts given by parents James and Karen
Lindamood

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
Dentistry of Las Colinas/
Byron L. Mitchell, DDS
Northland Cathedral Assembly of God,
Kansas City, MO

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
 Husband: Tim Morren
 Children: Ashton, Alexa and Ben
 Gifts given by
 David and Brittney Fish
 Bill and Rae Scrivner
 Richard and Laurie Fantine
 Anonymous

Samuel James Nienhuis

October 14, 2006
 Factor V Liden
 Given by parents Seth and Marcie Nienhuis
 and siblings Landon, Olivia and James

Morgan Schear

Miscarried March 28, 2006
 Given by Parents Nobel and Paula Schear
 and big brother Isaac

Rianne Ellisa Scrivner

March 4-7, 1997
 Severe hydrocephaly
 Given by parents Bill and Rae Scrivner
 and sisters Chanie, Casidy and Canlie

Hannah Grace Sherman

August 12, 2005
 Given by parents Randy and Toni Sherman
 and big sister Kaitlin

Mindy and Maggie Smith

Stillborn November 4, 1997
 Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome and
 Polyhydraminos
 Given by parents Scott and Karla Smith
 and siblings Travis and Julia

Owen Patrick Webb

Stillborn April 30, 2009
 Unknown cause
 Given by parents Brian and Melissa Webb
 and siblings Sophia Gail (Owen's twin),
 Natalie Jane and Zachary Michael

Gifts of Support

Alpha Delta Kappa, Alpha Epsilon Chapter,
 Springfield, MO
 Center Fork Missionary Baptist Church, Hot
 Springs, AR
 Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
 West Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, TX

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.

*M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri
 Scrapbook and Craft Night*



*Thank you so much to the following sponsors of the
 3rd Annual M.E.N.D. Scrapbook and Craft Night:*

Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
 Red Crow Marketing
 Patricia Ervin, Close To My Heart Consultant
 Jeremy and Kathleen Moore
 Linda's Flowers
 Fann Ministries LLC

Never Alone

Performed and written by Barlow Girl

Recorded on *Barlow Girl*

I waited for you today
 But you didn't show
 No no no
 I needed You today
 So where did You go?
 You told me to call
 Said You'd be there
 And though I haven't seen You
 Are You still there?

I cried out with no reply
 And I can't feel You by my side
 So I'll hold tight to what I know
 You're here and I'm never alone

And though I cannot see You
 And I can't explain why
 Such a deep, deep reassurance
 You've placed in my life

We cannot separate
 'Cause You're part of me
 And though You're invisible
 I'll trust the unseen

I cried out with no reply
 And I can't feel You by my side
 So I'll hold tight to what I know
 You're here and I'm never alone

We cannot separate
 You're part of me
 And though You're invisible
 I'll trust the unseen

I cried out with no reply
 And I can't feel You by my side
 So I'll hold tight to what I know
 You're here and I'm never alone

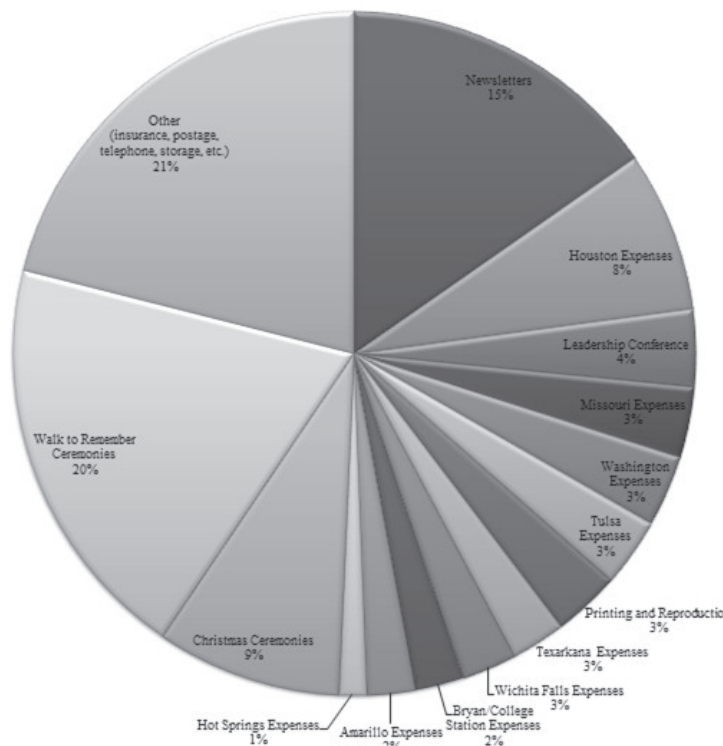
2012 M.E.N.D. Financial Report

M.E.N.D. continued to grow in 2012. Over 1,300 families have attended a support group since the beginning of M.E.N.D. in 1996. The newsletters are received by over 1,500 readers and reach families all over the world. M.E.N.D. is growing greatly in reaching hurting families.

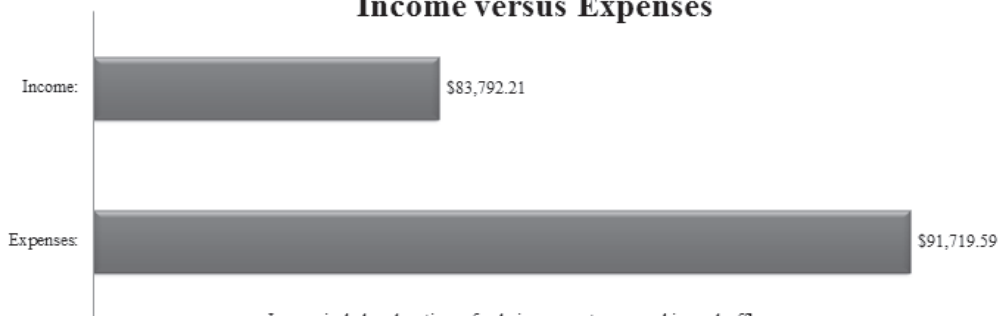
As seen in the "Income versus Expenses" chart, our income, which is our donations, fundraisers, event sponsorships and raffles, has not grown to keep up with expenses. One of our biggest expense is the newsletter, which costs \$2 per subscriber per newsletter, a total of \$12 for a year. Our newsletter will remain a free subscription, but, if possible, we ask that our readers consider making a \$12 minimum annual donation to help with the cost of this publication. If you would like to make a donation to M.E.N.D., please send your check to M.E.N.D., PO Box 631566, Irving, TX, 75063, USA, or online at www.mend.org.

<u>Support Groups</u>	
Families attended support group	1,306
Families attending from chapters outside Dallas	667
New Families 2012	150
<u>Newsletter</u>	
Subscribers	1,530
Areas within US reached	45 states in US including Puerto Rico, Hawaii and Alaska
Areas reached outside US	Australia, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, S. Africa, United Kingdom
Cost for newsletters (Subscribers*\$2*6 issues)	\$18,360

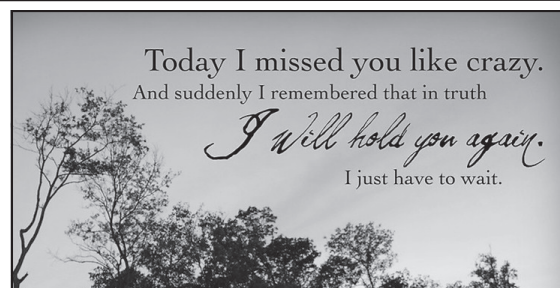
2012 M.E.N.D. Expenses



Income versus Expenses



*This world is not my home I'm just passing through
my treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue...*



Living the Promises

It has been a year since our family said goodbye to our sweet little boy, Elliot, after he was stillborn. The year was full of pain and grieving, but I am often reminded of how faithful God is to fulfill His promises to us. God provided three promises to our family over the last year regarding the past, regarding the here and now, and regarding our future. I have found that these three promises are true for us all.

Promise #1—Our Past: As we were preparing to go to the hospital, I prayed to God in sheer agony as I knew our lives were about to change. I prayed, “Dear God, please prepare us. I don’t know how you prepare someone for losing a child in such a short time frame between here and the doctor’s office, but, please, Father, prepare us.” God replied with a spoken word to my heart: “Do you think this is a surprise to Me? I have always known this was going to happen, so I’ve been preparing you for a long time.” Since that moment, I have recognized so many areas in which God did prepare us—of course NOTHING completely prepares anyone for the loss of a child, but God did do many things for us leading up to Elliot’s death that proved His love and compassion for us. For example, a few years ago, I felt God tugging at my heart to start treating my body healthier, so I began to eat more appropriately, exercise regularly again, drink more water, etc. During my pregnancy with Elliot I was healthier than I’ve been in years. Since his death, I’ve felt no need to say, “What if I would have been healthier?” In preparation for Elliot’s death, God gave me a clear conscience that I treated my body and, therefore, our child, in the healthiest of ways. This is only one of many, many examples.

Promise #2—The Present: The morning after Elliot’s death, my husband and I didn’t know what to do with ourselves, so, before the visitors started arriving, we lay in the hospital bed together, cried and turned to the only thing we knew to turn to—our Bible. Of the things we read that day, there was one verse that jumped out and grabbed both of us: Romans 8:37. “But IN all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loves us.” He promised us not just survival as we are going through this; He promises that we are overwhelmingly conquering. It is in Him we have an amazing strength that would otherwise not exist.

Promise #3—The Future: 1 Peter 5:10 says “After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.” I’m so thankful to know that our suffering is not all for nothing. He has a plan to continue working in us and establishing us. This event will allow us to love and invest in others in a new way. This helps give meaning to Elliot’s and all of our babies’ short lives. It provides drive to move forward and to do SOMETHING with the pain besides just wallow in it and hope it disappears. Ten years from now, nobody will look back on this time that our family has endured and think, “Wow, that destroyed them.” I believe that many will instead proclaim, “Look what God did with it all. I can’t believe it.”

Our family has grown tremendously this year. It has required seeking God’s wisdom, making some major personal sacrifices, and allowing others to invest in us, but I stand amazed at how God’s promises are in full bloom. We continue to run this race. I hope you’ll join me. Find this and more of my writings on my blog www.haleewood-runtherace/blogspot.com.

♥ *Halee Wood,*
Mommy to Elliot
M.E.N.D.—Tulsa



*He giveth power to the faint;
and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.
Even the youths shall faint and be weary,
and the young men shall utterly fall:
But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as eagles;
they shall run, and not be weary;
and they shall walk, and not faint.*

Isaiah 40:29-31

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.—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
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 Station

Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Hawthorn Suites
1010 University Drive East
College Station, Texas 77840
Director: Jennie Drude
jennie@mend.org, (979) 220-7851

M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates

NW Washington

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington's leadership team had a great time in Texas at the leadership conference. What an amazing weekend filled with God's love and devotion to what we are all doing with M.E.N.D.! We are excited to implement many new ideas. It was wonderful to meet all the other leaders and learn from them.

We have welcomed a couple of new families recently. We are really working on getting the word out about M.E.N.D. to our military families in the area.

We have had five new rainbow babies born in our group recently!

Stacy McGhee

Houston

M.E.N.D.—Houston is excited about our new location. It has a well-lit and safe parking lot with a big room for growth. We are very thankful to the YMCA for letting us use this facility. We are now located at the D. Bradley McWilliams YMCA at Cypress Creek, 19915 S.H. 249, Houston, TX 77070, Shindeldecker Family Youth Center (a white building next to the soccer fields with a bright red "Y" on the side of the building).

Jaimie Crump

Bryan/College Station

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College station had a great time at our leadership conference in Dallas. We are looking forward to all the things God has planned for us this year! I want to thank Sandy, LaRhesa, Meredith, Ashlea, and Melody for all their hard work and dedication for our chapter.

Jennie Drude

Hot Springs

M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs just returned from the annual M.E.N.D. leadership conference feeling refreshed and excited about what God is doing through all of the different M.E.N.D. chapters.

Amy Humphries

SW Missouri

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri has seen its largest growth in our nearly four years with five new families joining in February alone. We had a wonderful time at our 3rd Annual Scrapbook and Craft Night in February! Thank you to our wonderful volunteers for all their time and energy: Patricia Ervin (this event would NOT happen without you), Patty Marshall, Heather Bass, Kathryn Gold and Kathleen Moore.

Heather Fann

Wichita Falls

Our chapter continues to grow as we welcome new families each month. We are excited about new fundraising ideas this year and new ways to reach and meet new families.

Sarah Fukasawa

Tulsa

I recently attended the M.E.N.D. annual leadership conference in Dallas. Thank you to the Dallas chapter for being such gracious hosts. It was a fun weekend that brought about many fresh ideas about how we can continue to minister to our grieving families. We look forward to seeing what God has in store for our chapter this year.

Lisa Daily

Texarkana

Toni and I traveled to Dallas for the annual M.E.N.D. leadership conference. We had a wonderful time. I was reminded again what an incredible ministry we have through M.E.N.D.

Watch for more details as we plan our annual rummage sale in the spring. If you would like to donate any items or volunteer to work the sale, please contact Monica Davis at 903-490-1210 or email monica@mend.org.

Monica Davis

Amarillo

M.E.N.D.—Amarillo's leadership team just returned from M.E.N.D. conference in Dallas and are refreshed for the new year. We are so excited to see what this year holds for us. BUNCO for BABIES and Wrapping for M.E.N.D. are on the schedule for later in the year. Thank you all for supporting M.E.N.D.

Becky Anderson

Looking Ahead

Please contact your chapter for more details on the events.

<i>April 27</i> NW Washington Balloon Release	<i>October 5</i> Dallas, Texas Walk to Remember	<i>October 12</i> SW Missouri Balloon Release
<i>April 28</i> NW Washington Food and Fellowship	<i>October 5</i> Houston, Texas Walk to Remember	<i>December 9</i> SW Missouri Christmas Ceremony
<i>May 10</i> Headquarters-Irving, TX Zumba Fundraiser		<i>December 10</i> Headquarters-Irving, TX Christmas Ceremony

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
stacy@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

Dwayne and Gayla Mathis

of Amarillo, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Claire Elisa,
born October 4, 2012,
measuring 6 lb., 9 oz.,
and 19 inches long.

The Mathis family lovingly remembers
Miles Payton,
stillborn March 31, 2009

Paul and Kristin Brander

of Poulosbo, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Rylee Nicole,
born October 18, 2012,
measuring 8 lb., 15 oz.,
and 21 inches long.

The Brander family lovingly remember
Cameron Nicole,
October 12, 2010
PPROM

Whitney and Casey Thurber

of Crossroads, Texas,
along with big brother Oren Rilee,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Ennen Radlee,
born December 11, 2012,
measuring 8 lb., 5 oz.,
and 21.5 inches long.

The Thurber family lovingly remembers
Autumn Nevaeh,
stillborn August 17, 2011,
anencephaly

Marisela and Jesus Castillo

of Irving, Texas,
along with big brother Tomas Eduardo,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Andres Ignacio,
born January 30, 2013,
measuring 9 lb., 13 oz.,
and 21.25 inches long.

The Castillos lovingly remember twins
Tomas Andres Castillo Lares,
stillborn January 11, 2010,
and Isabelita Castillo Lares,
stillborn January 18, 2010,
preterm labor at 20 and 21 weeks

Benny and Mariana Horowitz

of Katy, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Cassandra Susan,
born December 8, 2012,
measuring 7 lb., 10 oz., and
21.25 inches long.

The Horowitzes lovingly remember
Madeline Joy,
miscarried February 18, 2011

Timothy and Andrea Hall

of Garland, Texas,
along with siblings
Lydia and Benjamin,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Josiah Nathan,
born December 31, 2012,
measuring 9 lb., 6 oz.,
and 21 inches long.

The Hall family lovingly remembers
Jonathan Gabriel,
November 27—December 24, 2011,
complications from sepsis in the NICU

Phil and Katie Goodson,

of Tulsa, Oklahoma,
along with big brothers
Bennett, Pax, and Tate,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Elizabeth Rowan,
born November 7, 2012,
measuring 7 lb., 3 oz.,
and 21 inches long.

The Goodsons lovingly remember
Daniel Joseph,
miscarried July 4, 2005,
Baby Taylor,
miscarried April 6, 2010,
and Baby Goodson,
miscarried July 4, 2010,
unknown causes

Jason and Jeanelle League

of Houston, Texas,
along with big brothers
Cooper and Camden,
joyfully announce the arrival of twins,
Cullen Keiser and Corbin Wayne,
born December 6, 2012.
Cullen measured 7 lb.,
and Corbin measured 4.9 lb.

The Leagues lovingly remember
Kennady Ann,
stillborn January 17, 2007,
unknown cause

Brian and Melissa Webb

of Keller, Texas,
along with big sisters
Sophia and Natalie,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Zachary Michael,
born December 27, 2012,
8 lb., 11 oz.,
and 20.25 inches long.

The Webbs lovingly remember
Owen Patrick (Sophia's twin),
stillborn April 30, 2009,
unknown cause

Molly and Mike Dennin

of Kingston, Washington,
along with sisters Emily and Katie,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Matthew Thomas,
born February 12, 2013,
measuring 6 lb., 9 oz.,
and 18.75 inches.

The Dennin family lovingly remember
Connor,
stillborn March 12, 2012

Angela and Joseph Snedker

of Owensboro, Kentucky,
along with brothers
Benjamin and Zachary
joyfully announce the arrival of
Isaac Radley,
born January 7, 2013,
measuring 9 lb., 15 oz.,
and 20 inches long.

The Snedkers lovingly remember
Jacob Radley,
October 7, 2011,
SIDS

Randy and Cortney Dobbins,

of Galena Park, Texas,
along with big sister Cynlee,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Colt Davis,
born December 26, 2012,
measuring 7 lb., 14 oz.,
and 20.25 inches long.
The Dobbins family lovingly remember
Westin,
stillborn August 8, 2010,
incompetent cervix

Sam and Amy Beth Phifer
of Conway, Arkansas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Elisabeth "Ellie" Hope,
born January 24, 2013,
measuring 6 lb., 9 oz.,
and 19.5 inches long.
The Phifers lovingly remember
Wiley Boyce,
February 17, 2012,
cord accident

Joe and Dorothy Bridger
of Perryton, Texas,
along with brothers Josiah &
Jeremiah,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Hannah Elsbeth,
born November 12, 2012,
measuring 7 lb., 7oz.
The Bridgers lovingly remember
Joshua Atreyu,
stillborn December 11, 2011

Hannah Bray and Mark Perritt
of Silverdale, Washington,
along with siblings Nathan and Ali,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Roxanne Lou,
born February 11, 2013,
measuring 7 lb., 9 oz.,
and 20.5 inches long.
They lovingly remember
Everett,
March 9, 2012,
Hydrops/Downs Syndrome

Chris and Beverlyann Whigham
of Montgomery, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Clara Grace,
born January 14, 2013,
measuring 8 lb., 2 oz.,
and 20.5 inches long.
The Whighams lovingly remember
twins Brand and Colt,
August 4, 2011,
umbilical cords knotted together

*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth
our infirmities: for we know not
what we should pray for as we
ought: but the Spirit itself maketh
intercession for us with groanings
which cannot be uttered.*

Romans 8:26

Aferrándose a verdades espirituales

Me crié en un hogar cristiano muy devoto. Nosotros íbamos a la iglesia cada domingo por la mañana, cada domingo por la noche y cada miércoles por la noche. Mis padres han impartido una clase de escuela dominical para adultos desde que era niña, y durante años abrieron nuestra casa para reuniones de oración bimensual los viernes por la noche. Desde que tengo memoria, mi papá ha servido como un anciano en nuestra iglesia, así como miembro de la Junta Directiva. Todos los domingos, mis padres rezaron con gente en el altar, y han llevado a innumerables personas ante el Señor. La crianza de mi esposo, Byron, fue muy similar. Él también asistió a la iglesia cada vez que las puertas estaban abiertas, sus padres estuvieron muy involucrados en el liderazgo de la iglesia, y también se crió siempre "Conociendo al Señor". Y curiosamente, ambos tenemos abuelos que fueron predicadores pentecostales.

Cuando nos casamos, moldeamos nuestro matrimonio, nuestra casa y nuestra crianza al ejemplo de nuestros padres. Empezamos a impartir escuela dominical pocos meses después de casarnos. Pasamos la mayor parte de nuestros sábados trabajando varios ministerios de la iglesia y raramente atendíamos la iglesia menos de tres veces por semana. Abrimos nuestra casa a un pequeño grupo mensual cuando teníamos más o menos 20 años de edad y todavía se reúne este grupo hoy, casi 20 años más tarde. Por años, Byron ha servido en la Junta Directiva de nuestra iglesia, y ha sido un anciano desde que era un hombre joven.

Cuando era más joven, más bien "antes de Jonathan" – si me hubieran preguntado si alguna cosa pudiera temblar mi sólida fé, hubiera gritado un rotundo "Absolutamente No"! Pero estaba muy equivocada! Cuando nuestro segundo hijo, Jonathan, fue nacido muerto a las 29 1/2 semanas debido a un accidente del cordón mientras estaba en reposo, en cama en el hospital, cuestioné todo lo espiritual que siempre había creído y les conté de esto a otras personas. Básicamente, me caí espiritualmente. Admití e incluso me preguntaba si, en efecto, había un Dios. Tal vez todos habíamos sido engañados en creer en lo sobrenatural, solo para darnos consuelo y ayudarnos a lo largo del día. Creo que profundamente, muy en el fondo yo sabía que Dios ciertamente existía. Pero me di cuenta de repente que tenía una lista de preguntas y yo necesitaba respuestas.

Por ejemplo, ¿dónde estaba Dios cuando Jonathan murió? ¿Por qué él no lo rescató? ¿Dios causo la muerte de mi bebé o lo permitió? ¿Sabía el anticipadamente que Jonathan nunca viviría fuera de mi vientre? ¿Ese era su plan para nuestra familia desde el principio? Creía que Jonathan estaba en el cielo, pero seguía siendo él un bebé allí? o ¿inmediatamente creció una vez que llegó? O ¿se envejeció como lo hacemos aquí en la tierra? ¿me perdí algo? Tal vez nunca se suponía que quedara embarazada de él en primer lugar. ¿O peor ... me estaba castigando por algo? Tal vez por las veces que he perdido mi genio y paciencia con mi hijo de 3 años a ese tiempo?? ¿Esto era una prueba de mi fé, mi lealtad y obediencia a Dios? U otra vez, tal vez y realmente no existe Dios y la broma era sobre mí.

Luché con estas preguntas y sentimientos durante casi un año después de la muerte de Jonathan. Después de buscar las escrituras y aclamando al Señor profundamente de mi alma por meses, finalmente me cedí y le permití al Señor consolarme en manera de que nadie más lo podría hacer. Una vez que permití esto, algunas respuestas a mis preguntas resultaron y se dieron a luz.

La primera Epifanía que tuve fue de Salmo 139, que nos dice en el versículo 16 que todos nuestros días fueron ordenados para nosotros antes de que ninguno de ellos llegara a ser. Esto me permite saber que Dios no fue sorprendido cuando nació muerto Jonathan, porque el si conocía todos mis días, entonces él también

Continúa en la página 21

I Know My Daughter

I know my daughter...I held her for hours, but I never saw her breathe, I never saw her move, she never crawled, took her first steps, had a first day in kindergarten, graduated from college or got married. I didn't just lose a baby, I lost all my hopes and dreams and memories that I would never have for a child that I loved.

However, just because I did not get to experience any of these things doesn't mean I don't know a lot about my daughter; not as much as I want to, but enough in this lifetime until I get to spend eternity with her. Everything I know about her I found in the Bible, and some of the following text is adapted from *Safe in the Arms of God*, by John MacArthur.

I know that she was a person who was conceived in the heart and mind of God from the beginning of time:

- *Psalm 139:13-15 For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb and I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

Her destiny was ordained by God:

- *Psalm 139:16 Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*

I know where she is—she is in Heaven. One of the greatest comforts of a parent is to know where your child is:

- *2 Samuel 12:21, when David's infant son was dying, His attendants asked him, "Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!" David replied, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows, the Lord may be gracious to me and let the child live.' But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? He will not return to me, but I will go to him."*
- Jesus confirmed David's belief that he would see his infant son again in Heaven. Jesus loves children!
 - In Matthew 19:14, when He was teaching in Judea, a group of children ran up to him, probably interrupted him as he was speaking to other adults. Instead of sending them away like his disciples wanted him to do, he said: *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these"*
 - Also in Matthew 18:3 *"I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."*
 - *Matthew 18:14 in the same way, your Father in Heaven is not willing that any of these little ones be lost.*
- John Newton, a slave trader who eventually gave his life over to Christ, wrote a song called Amazing Grace...*how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me....*He had a dear friend who lost a baby. In his memoirs, this is the letter he wrote to the grieving family: *"I hope you are both well reconciled with the death of your child. I can't be sorry for the death of infants, how many storms do they escape? Nor can I doubt in my private judgment that they are included in the election of grace."*

I know what she might be experiencing:

- Eternal pleasures—*Psalm 16:11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence with eternal pleasures at your right hand*
- Perfection—*1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.*
- Joy and No Sorrow—*Isaiah 35:10 ...and those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.*
- She is there now – (there is no waiting period) *2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord.*

John MacArthur writes on page 115-116, *"[She] will never have a selfish desire, never utter a useless word, never perform an unkind deed, never think a sinful thought. [She] is completely liberated from any temptation to sin and is able to do all that is absolutely righteous and holy. [She] will not know suffering, sorrow or pain. [She] is free from persecution, division, disunity, hate, disagreements and disappointments. [She] will not weep because there is nothing to make [her] sad. [She] will know a life of unimaginable blessing – and only blessing- for all eternity."*

I will recognize her

- Matthew 17 is about the Transfiguration. Jesus's disciples, Peter and John, went with Jesus on the top of a mountain

and saw Moses and Elijah appear before them. They had been dead for centuries, yet the disciples instantly recognized them.

- She is NOT an angel. So many people believe this and say “you have an angel in Heaven”. It sounds so nice, but it is not the truth according to the Bible.
 - 1 Corinthians 6:3 *Do you not know that we will judge angels?*
 - Hebrews 1:14 *Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*
 - Revelation 7:9-10 *After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”*
- She will NOT be a baby in Heaven. She is conformed to the image of God’s son (Romans 8:29)
 - John MacArthur writes on page 118-119: The largest number of this group may very well be the unborn and the young children saved through the ages by God’s sovereign grace. They will be from every nation, tongue, tribe, and people. They are all capable of praising and worshiping God. They must possess, therefore, enough maturity to voice this praise and to understand the significance of their praise. At no point do we read in Scripture that there are those in Heaven who are incapable of worship, incapable of voicing praise or incapable of falling prostrate in worship before the throne of God.

I know my daughter. You can also know your baby. Dive into the Scripture to learn about him or her, what they may doing, or what they are experiencing. Test what you have heard others say with God’s word. If you are new to the Bible, I encourage you to read, *Safe in the Arms of God*, by John MacArthur. It walks you through many questions with Scriptural truth about the death of infants; then you will know where to look in the Bible for answers.

♥ Jaimie Crump,
M.E.N.D. —Houston
Mommy to Abigail Grace

“*Aferrándose a verdades espirituales*” continuación de la página 19...

sabía que Jonathan nunca respiraría un aliento fuera de mi vientre. En segundo lugar, tuve que admitir que los caminos de Dios son mayores que mis caminos y sus pensamientos mejores que mis pensamientos (Isaías 55). También tuve que realizar y contentarme con el hecho de que la mayoría de mis preguntas de que “por qué” nunca tendrán respuestas. Seguirían siendo un misterio (Deuteronomio 29).

El momento cuando presenté mi tristeza al Señor fue básicamente cuando comenzó M.E.N.D.. Una vez que abrimos nuestras puertas para grupos de apoyo y escuche a otros padres, me di cuenta que no estaba sola en mi lucha espiritual. Sin embargo, tengo que confesar que durante años he sido sorprendida y asombrada por las creencias y conceptos erróneos que tienen algunos compañeros confesados cristianos sobre la muerte y el cielo. Por ejemplo, me sorprendí la primera vez que escuché una mamá compartir que su pastor la consoló y la aseguro que su bebé era ahora su ángel guardián personal, siempre mirándola y protegiéndola. Estaba aún más confundida cuando me enteré de parejas creyendo en la Biblia hablando de que sus bebés ahora eran una flor o un animal o algún otro objeto inanimado. Por otra parte, me encontré buscando las escrituras después de escuchar que Dios nunca hubiera permitido esto, porque él no nos da más de lo que podemos soportar (en broma, me he preguntado muchas veces si el libro de Job se quedó fuera de la biblia de esas personas .)

Conceptos erróneos bíblicos ciertamente no son problemas enormes mientras soportamos el dolor, pero haciendo un Ministerio Cristiano, decidimos dedicar un boletín para ayudar a aclarar algunos de los malentendidos de la escritura que puedan tener. Tal vez aclaraciones sobre algunas cosas le ayudará en su curación. La intención de este tema no es “explotar su burbuja” u ofender a cualquiera de sus creencias. Ojala este boletín le aclare algunas cosas que a lo mejor han sido enlodadas por su dolor, y oremos que estas revelaciones serán un alivio para usted. No reclamamos ser estudiosos de la Biblia o teólogos, si no que somos compañeros cristianos que hemos tomado tiempo para enfrentar algunas verdades espirituales, para ayudar a guiarle en su viaje a través del dolor.

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

Brokenhearted, Telling Yourself the Truth

Excerpt from *The One Year Book of Hope*, by Nancy Guthrie

Brokenhearted. Crushed in spirit. Does that describe the state of your soul? Are you wondering if you will ever feel good again, ever feel hope again? Are you desperate to find a salve to sooth the searing emotional or physical pain that has invaded your existence? Your feelings may tell you that God is very far away from you right now. But the reality is that He is drawn to you. If you have invited God into your life, He is especially near to you now because you need Him so desperately.

You may feel that no one wants to be around you. But God loves brokenhearted people. He doesn't avoid them. He is closer to you now than ever, waiting to talk with you, comfort you, and offer you hope and healing as you face the future. *The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those who are crushed in spirit.* Psalms 34:18

Telling Yourself the Truth

I weep with grief, encourage me by your word. Keep me from lying to myself; give me the privilege of knowing your law.

I have chosen to be faithful; I have determined to live by your laws. Psalms 119:28-30

When we are hurting, it seems like everyone wants to fix us. Well-meaning friends and family tell us what to do and how to feel. And then there's the voice inside our own minds speaking to us too. Oh, the painful thoughts that go through our heads when the hurt is deep! *I will never be able to be happy again. My life is over. God must not love me. God must be punishing me. I am such a failure.*

The psalmist must have recognized this voice and realized it is a voice that cannot be trusted. In the midst of personal pain, he was desperate to hear the truth and live by the truth. He knew that emotions lie to us and people mislead us, but God's Word speaks the truth we are desperate for, even as we weep with grief.

So how do we keep from lying to ourselves in the midst of pain? Instead of believing the voice inside us that says, "God must not care about me," we gaze upon the God we see throughout Scripture who lovingly cares for His own. Even when our feelings tell us, "I will never feel good again," we hold tightly to the truth that God "*heals the brokenhearted, binding up their wounds*" (Psalm 147:3).

Am I talking about denying real feelings by quoting quips and clichés? Not at all. Honestly, I resent it when someone seems to pat me on the head with a Bible verse in a way that seems to devalue my genuine hurt and dismiss my deep questions. I'm talking about confronting our very real fears, feelings and thoughts with scriptural truth. I'm talking about digging deep in God's Word to figure out who He is and what His purposes are in the world and in our lives. Truth soothes our fears, changes our feeling, and shapes our thoughts. The truth is what we need most when the hurt is the deepest.

If you would you like to walk through the Scriptures with Nancy over the year ahead in search of truth to soothe your soul, information to purchase a copy of *The One Year Book of Hope* can be found at www.nancyguthrie.com or directly from the publisher at www.tyndale.com/The-One-Year-Book-of-Hope.

We Won't Be Broken Forever

Tonight I asked myself, where do I find the courage to face each new day? What has given me the strength to make it through this first year? I think back to a Bible verse that was read at my precious son's funeral: "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

In my own grief journey I have wept a million tears, and I have been so far from embraces. In my silence, I have found healing and peace within my heart. I have been able to laugh, to dance, and to love even when I thought I would be broken forever. The death of our children shatters us, it hurts and is a tragedy that we wish only existed in nightmares. If I could give a newly bereaved parent any advice, it would be to find comfort in this verse. I think it assures us of our humanity, it reminds us that we can be weak, we can hurt, we can be angry, but there will come a day when we are able to enjoy life again. It can be hard to believe at first, especially during the low times when life can seem impossible, but if you take it one breath at a time, you will be surprised the miracles that can happen.

♥ Andrea Gimlin,

Mommy to Gabriel David

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

2013 Leadership Conference: Genesis

Attendees enjoyed a time of reflecting and rejuvenating at the 8th annual M.E.N.D. Leadership Conference. On Friday, January 31, at my home in Irving, Texas, all ten of our chapter directors, along with several of their assistants, the M.E.N.D. Board of Directors, Advisory Board members, our Newsletter Editor, Website Master and a number of dedicated volunteers from the Dallas chapter gathered for a time of fellowship and remembering, specifically remembering my story, which started it all.

As all of the chapter directors and their assistants arrived on Friday, each had the opportunity to meet with me to discuss specifics for her chapter. Later that evening, everyone gathered at my house for an appreciation dinner and to acquaint each other with new members and reunite with other leaders of M.E.N.D. We all then enjoyed a time of reflection and devotion, which I led. The theme for this year's conference was "Genesis." I re-told my story of losing my baby, Jonathan, to a cord accident when I was seven months pregnant, which led to the forming of M.E.N.D. I challenged everyone to reflect on their Genesis—the beginning of their journey through grief and what led each Chapter Director to open a chapter of M.E.N.D. in her area.

We began a fresh start on Saturday, discussing the direction of the newsletter and the website, followed by sessions on volunteering and running a non-profit organization, plus some general reminders about running a chapter. After that, we had a special guest speaker, who paused for a moment to allow us to "Be still and know that I am God." We were given information on how to recognize and overcome burn-out. We then turned our skills toward being crafty by learning how to decorate for M.E.N.D. ceremonies. The weekend concluded with a fun fellowship around a campfire and a hayride. Everyone left rejuvenated and ready to take on a new year of ministering and reaching families who, like ourselves, have suffered the death of a baby.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell,*

M.E.N.D. President/Founder

Mommy to Jonathan Daniel and Baby Mitchell



M.E.N.D. Chapter Directors

Starting on left front: Sarah Fukasawa, Rebekah Mitchell, Jennie Drude, Lisa Daily, Heather Fann, Monica Davis, Jaimie Crump, Becky Anderson, Amy Humphries, Stacy McGhee



M.E.N.D. Board of Directors

Front Row: Byron Mitchell, Rebekah Mitchell, Shannon Outen, DaLana Barsanti
Back Row: Brittney Fish, Brandee Dill, Marilyn Brown, Amber Zuckerman

*Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing;
thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;
To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.
Psalm 30:11-12*

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 DeSoto, TX 75115
 Permit No. 614

“... that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God” (2 Corinthians 1:4)

M.E.N.D. Fundraisers *As a non-profit organization, M.E.N.D. is funded solely by private donations and fundraisers. Any assistance you can give us by participating in any or all of these fundraisers is greatly appreciated.*

- **Kroger grocery stores** donate a percentage of all purchases of those shoppers in Texas and Louisiana who have their Kroger Plus Card linked to M.E.N.D. To link your card, contact Rebekah (rebekah@mend.org) to obtain the Kroger Customer Letter. You must only present this letter one time to link your card to M.E.N.D.
- **Tom Thumb** also has a program in Texas that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you have a Tom Thumb Reward Card, please contact Rebekah (rebekah@mend.org) to obtain the Customer Letter. You must only present this letter one time to link your card to M.E.N.D. Reward cards can also be used at Randalls and Simon David stores.
- **Glenn Martin** is looking for M.E.N.D. families willing to grant space for small gumball machines in order to raise funds for M.E.N.D. If you have a retail business or connections to a high traffic location in the Grapevine, Southlake, or metroplex area, Glenn will place, stock, and service the equipment and give M.E.N.D. 35 percent of the proceeds. Glenn can be contacted at (817) 874-5366 or glmartin@attg.net.
- M.E.N.D. can now earn funds through **i.think inc.**, an online marketing research firm. You can help by signing up as a survey panel member and designating us as the recipient of your fee. Just go to the Web site at <http://www.ithink.inc.com> and choose “Sign up to become an i.think inc. panel member.” Fill out the sign-up survey. Under the “Funds for Charity” section, select M.E.N.D. from the list of names.
- **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