



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

Mother's Day/Father's Day

Television commercials and Hallmark cards tend to promote Mother's Day and Father's Day as the happiest two Sundays of the year. I wonder if these advertisers are aware of what a difficult day these days are for many women and men? I venture to predict the population of hurting people on these two days is equal, or possibly more, than those who thoroughly enjoy these two commemorative days.

So who started all this hoopla anyway? History tells us Mother's Day began by the mother / daughter duo, Ann and Anna Jarvis. Before the Civil War, Ann Reeves Jarvis created what was called, "Mother's Day Work Clubs", which were events to teach local moms how to properly care for their children. Years later, after Ann's death, her daughter, Anna, desired to re-create the day as a Sunday for children of all ages to honor their mothers for the sacrifices they made on the children's behalf. President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day an official holiday in the United States in 1914. Father's Day was given the same acknowledgment 58 years later. Interestingly, by 1920, Anna Jarvis became disgusted by the way confectioners and florists capitalized on Mother's Day so she tried to denounce the holiday. Obviously, she lost that battle. I wonder if she was also aware of the salt in the wound these days presented for so many people who lost children, a parent, or suffered with infertility.

I am certainly all about honoring my parents on these two days, and of course, I cherish the love I receive from my living son on Mother's Day. But I am also painfully aware of the dread these days evoke. Like all other holidays throughout the year, these Sundays become

easier over the years following the loss of our babies, but a portion of the sting remains. I learned in the early years of my grief I needed to re-focus my thoughts on Mother's Day. Instead of dwelling on who was not at Sunday lunch that day, and whose little signatures I didn't see on a hand-made card, I rejoiced in those who were here: my mom, my mother-in-law, and my living son. Above all, I learned to celebrate womanhood. I am thankful God made me a woman. True, I sometimes still inwardly fight that my body seemingly failed me with not keeping two of my children alive, and a kidney disease prevented me from conceiving again, but I love who God created me to be and I am humbly grateful He has great purpose for me - and for you!

I understand these days can be extremely emotional for those of you who are freshly grieving. Know that you will get through them. It may not be easy, but you'll wake up on the Mondays following and breathe with relief that you made it and it's over - at least for another year. If you're a little further along in your grief journey and still find these days unbearable, I urge you to think of these days as Sundays to be thankful for your parents, who God made you to be, and even for the sweet little life or lives you once carried in your womb. Decide to celebrate those precious moments of life, rather than dwell on what is no longer. Most importantly, rejoice that one Sunday we will live in eternity with our loved ones and the Lord will abolish these hard days forever!

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell,*

Mommy to Jonathan Daniel and Baby Mitchell

M.E.N.D. President/Founder

M.E.N.D. had another wonderful Leadership Conference this past February. New this year was the opportunity on Friday for Chapter Directors and the Board to attend a training led by Rebekah (seen in picture) at a Fort Worth hospital to guide new nurses and staff how they can provide comfort and care to families enduring losses. Also, later that day, ideas were shared with a local county hospital on how to provide care and comfort to their families as well. Saturday was filled with sessions on the future of the newsletter, website and how we continue to provide support for hurting families and support each other. More pictures are included throughout the newsletter from our conference.



Nota Español: El artículo de Rebekah Mitchell aparece en cada emisión de nuestro boletín para la audiencia latina.
Para ver el artículo de este mes en español, por favor vea la pagina numero 15.

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 website 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

First Candle/SIDS Alliance

International Stillbirth Alliance

Be Part of the Garden of Hope Unveiling!

2016 commemorates the 20th anniversary of M.E.N.D. In observance of this special milestone of our ministry, we are creating a Garden of Hope in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. The center point of this Garden will be the beautiful Hope Monument. The Garden of Hope will be placed on the grounds of Calvary Church in Irving, Texas, where the annual Walk to Remember ceremony is held each year. It is our desire that this garden will be a place of solace not just for M.E.N.D. families who have endured the loss of a baby, but also for those who just want a quiet place to pray, rest and perhaps remember special times with a loved one who has died.



The patio of the Garden will be made of commemorative bricks. The bricks can be made in memory of a baby, or anyone who has died. Additionally, "In Honor of" bricks can also be purchased to acknowledge someone special.

How can you be involved?

To contribute:

Become a Donor

- Friends of the Garden - \$100-\$999 – Your name placed on a "Friends of the Garden of Hope" plaque
 - Major Contributors - \$1,000+ – Your name, along with the name of the person being remembered, placed on a "Major Contributors" plaque
- Brick or Memory Bench purchase
- Brick purchase - Prices and sizes vary so please visit www.mend.org or email bricks@mend.org. Orders must be received by **May 31, 2016**.
 - Memory bench purchase - Limestone benches are \$1,500, and Park Benches are \$2,000. Quantities are limited and anticipated to sell out before the **May 31** deadline, so please contact amber@mend.org asap for purchase.

Note: Purchase of a brick or bench will not qualify toward the donor levels.

Join us for the unveiling!

The Garden of Hope and the Hope Monument will be unveiled and dedicated in conjunction with the 20th Walk to Remember on Saturday, October 1, 2016. Registration to attend will be available in August.

For questions about the M.E.N.D. Garden of Hope, please visit www.mend.org.

What If Your Blessings Come Through Raindrops...

Through the raindrops and tears of sorrow, have you seen the blessings? Found something positive you would not have expected?

In our M.E.N.D. Support Group Meetings, we end each meeting sharing something positive we have learned or seen as we travel the journey of our loss or losses. We are excited to start including these in our M.E.N.D. newsletters! In this issue you will see a few shared by our Board, Directors and Assistants, and we look forward to sharing many more in future issues.

We would love to hear from YOU! If you would like to share something positive or a blessing to be included in the newsletter, please send it to jennifer@mend.org.

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you!



Their Arms Are Empty

Their arms are empty
 Their hearts are broken,
 How could a gift so precious
 be taken away so suddenly?
 Months of excitement, joy and anticipation now becomes a lifetime of grief.
 The emptiness is suffocating and on “those” days impossible to handle.
 Dreams are disrupted.
 Worlds torn apart.
 They cling to the life that is no longer present,
 questioning every aspect.
 How could You let this happen?
 Why me?
 Where are You now?
 Their plans have been halted,
 and recovery seems impossible.
 Faith dwindles and relationships are tested.
 Friends and family mean well but often fail.
 In the end some just fall away.
 Some don't get it while others chose to ignore and avoid.
 Anger develops and resentment begins to grow.
 Some walk away others only step back.
 They look for something or someone to cling to
 And we sometimes forget that someone is
 YOU.
 We shout and cry and even begin to hate.
 But You know our hearts and wait patiently for Your set date.
 You take our hits with grace and our tears fill Your cup.
 You send us signs that You are with us,
 Carrying us on one side
 With a part of our heart on the other.

This is dedicated to our daughter,
 Bethany Faye Thomas
 Born sleeping in the Father's arms
 August 26, 2015

And to all the mothers and fathers out there who have experienced the loss of a child.

♥ Letha Thomas,
 Mommy to Bethany Faye
 M.E.N.D.—Houston



M.E.N.D.—Houston

A beautiful blessing that has happened since our sweet Gideon went to heaven has been how he taught me about love. Because of him and through his life, God has given me a greater capacity for love and compassion. I can see people more the way Jesus sees people. I love even deeper than I thought possible, with more grace and patience for those in my life. I am so thankful for that gift Gideon gave me.

♥ Stormy Mitchell,
 Mommy to Gideon Zeller, Avery and Joy

July/August Topic

Music Therapy

Deadline: May 31, 2016

September/October Topic

M.E.N.D.'s 20th Anniversary

Deadline: July 31, 2016

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	Deadline
January/February	November 30
March/April	January 31
May/June	March 31
July/August	May 31
September/October	July 31
November/December	September 30



Birthday Tributes

Happy 2nd Birthday, Gisele!

We celebrate the day we finally met you, and our hearts were filled with such an incredible amazing love for you. Our hearts ached to see you suffering for so long, and we hurt that you are gone, but are so grateful your suffering ended. We know heaven is so much better than the sorrows and challenges of life on earth, so we are grateful God chose to take you home and hold on to hope that though life is long, it will feel like only a moment when we see your face again. We love you, my little sweetheart.

Gisele Kaia Mendiola

February 7—May 21, 2014

*Sacroccygeal teratoma and
pulmonary lymphangiectasia*

Parents: Ron and Tiffany Pla-Mendiola

Sibling: Tykei



Happy 3rd Birthday, AJ!

Dear AJ, it's hard to believe another year without you has gone by. I cry whenever I think of you not being here playing with your sisters and brother or never getting to hear your laugh or seeing you smile. I miss you every day and wish I could kiss and hold you always.

Miss you and love you,

Mommy, Daddy, Ava, Nora and Nicolas

Andrew Mwirigi

May 13, 2013

Parvovirus

Also remembering

January Mwirigi

January 25, 2006

Unknown cause

Parents: Andrew Mureti and Nicola Mwirigi

Siblings: Ava, Nora and Nico



Happy 1st Birthday, Teegan!

Happy 1-year birthday to our precious daughter, Teegan Rose! It has been so hard being here without you. We never imagined life without you, but know Mommy and Daddy love you and miss you so very much! I can't believe you would be 1 year old already. Wow, all the things you would be doing by now - growing and showing us your personality. Oh, how I wish things were different. You are our precious angel, and I know you will continue to watch over us. I love you, baby girl! Happy 1-year birthday, beautiful! Mommy sure loves you with all of her heart!

Teegan Rose Jones

April 30-May 18, 2015

Unknown cause

Parents: Chris and Kelly Jones



Happy 2nd Birthday, Lidia MaryLou!

Happy 2nd birthday in heaven, Lidia MaryLou. We remember you every day and are so thankful you are a guardian angel for your baby sister. You were so perfect and good, we named your sister after you, so I still hear your name every day and think of how perfect you were. Mami and Papi miss you so very much and can't wait to see you again someday. We love you, baby.

Mami, Papi, Lidia Magdalena and the perro, Sonny

Lidia MaryLou Fleitas

May 5, 2014

Premature birth

Parents: Sergio and Josey Fleitas

Sister: Lidia Magdalena



Happy 1st Birthday, Parker!

Parker, happy 1st heavenly birthday, buddy! Not one day has passed you haven't been my first and last thought. Missing you and wondering what life would be like if you were here with us is the kind of heartache you feel deep in your bones. You are missed beyond measure, and there isn't a day goes by we don't wish you were here with us!

I could go on and on telling you how much you are loved, but you already know!

"As long as I live, as long as I breathe, with every beat of my heart, you will not be forgotten. This I promise you!"

Love,

Mommy and Daddy

Parker Alan Blevins

May 30-31, 2015

PPROM due to incompetent cervix

Parents: Brent and Jessica Blevins



Happy 15th Birthday, Griffin!

Happy birthday to a boy who was so bright,
You lit up our world on a hot summer night.
You were born the next morn when all was not right
but we loved you and held you
because you gave us the light.
You transferred your soul to the heavens that day
when we thought you were staying with us,
in the month after May.
We miss you, we love you this fifteenth of years,
as we think back to when we shed all those tears.
Tears of joy come to us this year
as we remember you...our first of three dears!

Griffin Caleb McIntosh

Stillborn June 6, 2001

Parents: Matthew and Naomi McIntosh

Siblings: Mya and Aidan



Happy 13th Birthday, Cooper!

Happy 13th birthday, sweet boy! You will forever and always be a part of our hearts. We love you and miss you.

Cooper Graham Dill

May 26, 2003

Cord accident/twin to twin transfusion

Also remembering

Baby Dill

Miscarried May 2002

Parents: Jim and Brandee Dill

Siblings: Avery, Tate and Paxton (Cooper's twin)



Happy 2nd Birthday, Paul!

Happy 2nd birthday to our little man, whom we love and miss dearly. We know you are with us always in spirit, but there comes times where we wish you were here on earth. Happy 2nd birthday, Paul.

Love you always and forever, hugs and kisses,
Dad, Mom, Brother and Sisters

Paul Bradley Brady

May 29, 2014

Unknown cause

Parents: James and Jessica Brady

Siblings: Matthew, Melissa, Kristen, Ruby and Bella



Happy 7th Birthday, Jackson!

Jackson, it's been seven years! It's hard to believe you have been gone that long! We all love you so much and miss you dearly! Not a day goes by we don't miss you and wish we could see who you would've become. Your brothers talk about wishing they could play with you and talk trains, and your sister looks just like you. Happy 7th heavenly birthday, baby! Until we see you again...

Love,

Mommy, Daddy, Isaiah, Thomas and Alexis!

Jackson Connor Wood

June 6, 2009

Cord issues

Parents: Darin and April Wood

Siblings: Isaiah, Thomas and Alexis



Happy 1st Birthday, Eva!

Our precious Eva, what Mommy and Daddy wouldn't give to be celebrating you today and all the joyful milestones of turning 1 year old. We can only imagine the celebration in heaven for your beautiful life. Know you are so very loved and missed deeply. There's not a day passes we do not think about you. We remember you always and the sunshine you brought and continue to bring in our lives. Thank you for watching over us and all the little signs you send reminding us how Jesus cares for you. Happy 1st birthday in heaven, our baby girl.

Eva Juliette Talavera

May 7, 2015

Umbilical cord accident

Parents: Miguel and Lexie Talavera



Happy 3rd Birthday, Scarlette!

Happy birthday, my sweet love! You are turning 3 years old now! I am still in awe of how much time has gone by since I last held you in my arms and kissed your beautiful face. We miss you so much, my baby girl, and I can only imagine the wonderful birthday party our Heavenly Father will be having for you on this day with all your friends. I love you so very much, and I can't wait for the day I get to hold you again and give you a gazillion kisses! Until then, dance among the flowers, my sweet little ladybug. I will be blowing many birthday kisses and balloons your way. Mommy loves you!

Scarlette Faith Hite

June 14, 2013

Extreme prematurity

Also remembering

Destiny Hope Hite

Miscarried February 26, 2013

Mommy: Caroline Perez



Happy 5th Birthday, Abby!

Your wings were spread on your way above as my heart continues to ache. Losing you was hard enough at the time, but for reasons unknown to me that may never be revealed, I can never hold your little hand. So my heart stays unhealed, but it stays with you and the spirit of your being. Each time I close my puffy eyes, one day it will be you I'll be seeing. I will no longer mourn for your precious life. I take comfort in the darkest of nights, holding your mother's hand. Hours pass and days are long, I hold back a tear as I write this, my dear. Spread your wings, I won't cry as you fly above the clouds so high.

Happy birthday!

Abby Garcia

June 17, 2011

Unknown cause

Also remembering

Gabby Garcia

July 3, 2007

Unknown cause

Parents: Adam and Alex Garcia

Siblings: Kylie, Adayna and AJ



Happy 2nd Birthday, Bryson!

It's hard to believe another year has gone by. There is not a day we do not think about you in some way. Enjoy your day, and we love you always!

Love,

Mom, Dad, Mackenzie and Brayden

Bryson Glenn Middleton

Stillborn June 19, 2014

Placental abruption

Also remembering

Baby Middleton

Miscarried April 2007

Parents: Brandon and Jennie Middleton

Siblings: Mackenzie and Brayden



Happy 1st Birthday, Hope, Gypsy and Tate!

Happy birthday, my precious children. I love you to the moon and back. You will always be in my heart even though I never got to see you. You are all God's special angels. Fly free on pastel wings. Until we meet one day, Mommy and Grandma love you all and miss you very much. Happy birthday in heaven! We send angel kisses.

Hope Marie Travis

May 23, 2015

Gypsy Vale and Tate Montgomery Travis

June 15, 2015

Mommy: Valerie Travis

Grandmother: Patricia Travis

**Happy 5th Birthday, Gideon!**

You would be turning 5 this year, my little love! I cannot believe it has been five years since we felt your kicks! Our love for you grows each day as we await the day we get to see you and kiss you once again. I see so much of you in your younger brothers' faces, and I wonder what life would be like with three boys running around the house. I wish you were here with us, but I am continually amazed at the works God is doing through your short life. I am thankful Jesus is holding you until we can hold you again. We love you beyond the moon and the stars.

Gideon Zeller Mitchell

Stillborn May 17, 2011

Membranous cord insertion

**Happy 8th Birthday, Avery!**

You made us parents for the first time. You were only with us a short time, but we are so thankful for you. We look forward to the day we get to finally meet you. I can't wait until we are all reunited, I get to hold all of my babies in my arms and finally see Jesus's face. We love you.

Avery Mitchell

Miscarried May 2008

Unknown cause

Also remembering

Joy Mitchell

December 2014

Vanishing twin syndrome

Parents: Todd and Stormy Mitchell

Brothers: Silas and Justus

**Happy 1st Birthday, Caleb!**

Happy 1st birthday in heaven to our precious Caleb! We celebrate your short time with us and long for the day we can hold you close again. You are forever loved, forever in our hearts and forever our perfectly formed baby boy.

"I thank my God every time I remember you." Phil 1:3

Caleb Anthony Haynes

May 5, 2015

Cord accident

Parents: Anthony and Robyn Haynes

Brothers: Cody, Camryn, Baby Boy Haynes (due Aug 2016)

**Happy 7th Birthday, Emma!**

Happy birthday, sweet Emma. It is hard to believe you would have been 7! We always imagine how it would be if you were here with your sister playing and running around. She asks a lot of questions about you, and she misses you a lot. We love you so much, and you are in our hearts and in our lives every single day.

Mommy, Daddy and Littler Sister Isabella

Emma Krymkiewicz

May 5, 2009

Neonatal hemochromatosis

Also remembering

Baby Girl Krymkiewicz

Miscarried June 13, 2008

Parents: Hernan and Ana Krymkiewicz

Sister: Isabella

**Happy 13th Birthday, Matthew!**

How can it be that you're a teenager now?
Wasn't it just yesterday I held you in my arms?
The years have passed by so quick; yet so slow.

And now here you are -

my little baby

my little boy

my young man.

I look back through these years and see:

wonder at God's healing,

joy you've brought to my life,

hope of life eternal with you.

You bring me such joy and happiness! I can't imagine my life without you. You truly are God's precious gift to me. I love you always, Matthew! Happy birthday, my precious son!

Matthew Joel Mifflin

Stillborn June 6, 2003

Cord accident

Also remembering

Little One Mifflin

Miscarried February 6, 2006

lil' rosebud Mifflin

Miscarried March 10, 2007

Parents: Dennis and Janet Mifflin

Siblings: Thomas and Michelle

**Happy 1st Birthday, Dakota!**

"I wanted you more than you will ever know,
so I sent love to follow, wherever you go..."

You are my angel, my darling, my star...

My love will find you wherever you are.

You are so loved."

~ Nancy Tillman

To our darling Dakota, happy 1st birthday in heaven.

We love you so.

Mommy and Daddy



Dakota Lane Smythe

June 5, 2015

Unknown cause

Parents: Timothy and Barbara Smythe

Happy 15th Birthday, Mac!

We always go back to, "I wonder what you would have been like?" Ashley-rather quiet, reserved, serious, studious nature. You have sensitivity and appreciation for the finer and deeper things of life, the beauties of nature, music, art and literature. The people who mean the most to you are those who can offer you intellectual companionship. It is only when you are among people who understand your deeper nature that you can really be yourself. If this would have been you on earth, we know you're amazing in heaven. Happy 15th birthday! We love and miss you very much! "Until We Meet Again"

Ashley Mackenzie Brown
May 18, 2001

**Happy 16th Birthday, Little Bit!**

Happy heavenly 16th birthday, Sydney! 16 ways you have changed us 1. Life is precious. 2. Life can be measured in a short time. 3. Knowledge. 4. Innocence of our living children. 5. Proof that GOD is good. 6. We can still live even after a unexplainable, unfair loss. 7. Grandparents extra hugs/kisses. 8. You made our world more loving. 9. Heaven is brighter to us. 10. You drew our family closer. 11. You hold our whole heart. 12. Compassion for other families. 13. Growing in Grace. 14. Unconditional Love. 15. Big things come in small packages. 16. Your impact only took 30 weeks, and we will love you forever.

Sydney Lynne Brown
May 18, 2000
Parents: Brian and Marilyn Brown
Brother: Samuel

**Happy 10th Birthday, Morgan!**

We can't believe it's been 10 years! We love and miss you so much, Morgan! We enjoyed reading from Isaiah 26:3-12 and 55:8-13 when we released our balloons at the M.E.N.D. tree. It was such a beautiful day to watch our bundle of balloons lifting towards heaven. Thank you, darling child, for all the gifts you have given to us. We hold them close to our heart. We wait patiently to hold you in our arms. Until we meet in heaven...

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Big Brother Isaac,
Grandpa and Grandma Kellogg

Morgan Schear
Miscarried March 28, 2006
Parents: Nobel and Paula Schear
Big Brother: Isaac

**Happy 4th Birthday, Anneliese Marie!**

Missing you always and forever.
I won't give up the fight against SIDS.

Anneliese Marie Reher
June 21-October 27, 2012
SIDS
Mommy: Cindy Reher

**Happy 1st Birthday, Lucas!**

Happy birthday, our beautiful boy. We miss you so much. There is not a day goes by we don't think of you. We are celebrating your life and the many blessings you have brought us. We love you.

Love,
Mom, Dad and Jacob

Lucas James Varady
June 16, 2015
Pentalogy of Cantrell
Parents: Thomas and Lisa Varady
Brother: Jacob

**Happy 1st Birthday, Eden!**

We miss you, Eden. You'll always be our Ezzy Bear. We love you so much and are holding on until you, Mommy and Daddy can be reunited one day. Happy birthday, Eden! We wish you were here and can't wait to see you again!

Love always and forever,
Mommy and Daddy

Eden Ezinne Nwaokelemeh
May 1-6, 2015
Neonatal sepsis
Parents: Nonye and Angelita Nwaokelemeh

**Happy 5th Birthday, Elena!**

"Your days here changed everything.
You're missed here and will always be,
But you left here the greatest gift of all
"Cause our hearts ache for home."
-Nicol Sponberg, "Home"

Dear Elena, every day we miss you and long for the day we will be together again. Happy birthday, sweet girl!

We love you.
Mommy, Daddy, Liam, Asher and Gavin

Elena Marie Rusert
May 23, 2011
Prematurity
Parents: Michael and Tina Rusert
Brothers: Liam, Asher and Gavin

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Jason!**

Two years have come gone and not much has changed. We still think about you every day in some way. Sometimes it brings smiles and laughter. Sometimes just tears. No matter what, memories are all we have, so we'll cherish them always. Sending hugs and kisses until we see you again.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and Hailey

Jason Hunter Thomas
June 30, 2014
PPROM
Parents: Steven and Melissa Thomas
Sibling: Hailey



Happy 4th Birthday, Sophie Jane!

Happy 4th birthday to our precious firstborn girl. It's hard to believe it has been four years since we held you and saw your beautiful face. The days/months/years continue to fly by and your brother and sister keep us busy, but what we wouldn't give to have you here with us, another girl in the house, with more activities to add to the mix. As Piper gets older, we are talking to her more about you...she can even say Sophie already! We're so thankful Luke talks about you often still, and we know he will talk about you to Piper too! We love you and miss you so much, sweet girl.

Sophie Jane Darnell
Stillborn May 28, 2012, at 40 weeks
Unknown cause
Parents: Tommy and Brea Darnell
Siblings: Luke and Piper

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Gabriel!**

Gabriel, happy 3rd heavenly birthday! It's hard to believe you're turning 3 in heaven this year. You are such a joy to us, and we talk of you daily. Hope you enjoy a huge birthday party in heaven with lots of cake and ice cream! How we long to hold you, watch you play, and hear your laughter, sweet boy. Until then, we miss you every second.

We love you,
 Mommy, Daddy and Kendall

Gabriel Lee Butler
June 14-15, 2013
Anencephaly
Parents: Brandon and Angie Butler
Big Sister: Kendall

**Happy 5th Birthday, Jordan!**

June 1, 2011, is the day my life changed, never to be the same again. In that moment I thought it was for the worst. It was the worst feeling I could have ever imagined. Fast forward to today on your 5th angelversary, I realize it was a positive change. You helped me grow into a strong, more understanding and loving person. Because of you, Jordan, so many great people are in my life-way more than I could ask for. I miss you so much every day, but I know here on earth you wouldn't be happy. You are forever my son, forever in my heart and forever on my mind.

I love you,
 Your mommy

Jordan Matthew Kaiwa
June 1, 2011
Trisomy 18
Parents: Justen and Alessys Chesnut

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Isaac!**

Happy 3rd heavenly birthday, Isaac. We often wonder what your personality would be like, would you be wild and busy or reserved and quiet? We miss you bunches and look forward to being reunited with you and Elizabeth one day. Celebrate big! We send hugs and kisses to you. Hug sissy and Jesus.

Love you to the heavens,
 Daddy, Mommy and Emily

Isaac David Jackson
June 24, 2013
Trisomy 13
Also remembering
Elizabeth Jackson
April 29, 2002
Trisomy 16
Parents: Jeromye and Angi Jackson
Sister: Emily

**Happy 1st Birthday, Carmine!**

Happy birthday to our sweet baby boy! Mommy and Daddy miss you so much, but we know you are in a better place. We love you to the moon and back.

Carmine Roppolo
Stillborn June 20, 2015
Parents: Michael and Angela Roppolo
Siblings: Isabella and Will

**Happy 1st Birthday, Charli!**

We love you, sweet girl! Mommy and Daddy miss you more every day! Hope you have the happiest of birthdays! Until we see you again in heaven. Big kisses and hugs, Charli!

Charlotte Jo Beck
Stillborn May 29, 2015
Parents: Jordan and Angela Beck

**Happy 1st Birthday, Wyatt!**

"You are my angel, my darling, my star...and my love will find you wherever you are."

We cannot believe it has been a year since we had to say "Hello" and "Goodbye" to you all at once. We love and miss you with all our hearts, sweet boy. We only held you for a moment in our arms, but we will hold you forever in our hearts.

Wyatt Douglas Somers
June 16, 2015
Placental abruption
Parents: Jessica and Stephanie Somers
Siblings: Cody, Kaitlyn and Madisen



We are so grateful and blessed for the time we had with our darling Brooke Sophia. Our families' lives are forever changed, and we cherish life like we never have before. We certainly don't try to take anything for granted. Our family, including our two living daughters, has a great deal of compassion for people who are hurting. We continue to honor Brooke by ministering to grieving families.

♥ Lisa Daily, Mommy to Brooke Sophia

God's Plans

As many of us do, we begin planning our life on how we want things to happen. I had made those plans too, only to realize later God has His own plan for me, and far different than anything I ever imagined.

The first unexpected change came before my pregnancy struggles. My mom was diagnosed with brain cancer. While she did overcome cancer, the brain surgery had lasting effects. Currently she is in a nursing home needing full-time care. I thought surely this is enough burden for my life, but God still had other changes to my plan in my family.

In the midst of taking care of my mom, though, my husband and I felt like we were doing everything else right for our little family. We married and then waited five years to have children in order to grow our marriage. Once the time came, I was thrilled and hoped to conceive in 3-6 months. Unfortunately, conception was not easy for us as we tried for three years without success. We then tried fertility treatments. Finally, in December 2008, I became pregnant.

I excitingly announced my pregnancy to my whole family at Christmas, but at 10 weeks, I miscarried, leaving me in complete devastation. Looking back, this is when pregnancy would never be the same for me again. We became pregnant in April 2009, but lost again shortly after 7 weeks. I remember going in for an urgent ultrasound due to bleeding and seeing the baby's heartbeat, only to lose the baby a few hours later. It was a hopeless feeling that no one could do anything about it.

I was given advice from a nurse practitioner to try progesterone when I became pregnant again to hopefully maintain pregnancy. As soon as I found out I was pregnant in August 2009, I started on progesterone. I was scared out of my mind I would lose again, but 12 weeks turned into 20 weeks and so on. Honestly, I felt I was "out of the woods." I was so excited to learn at an ultrasound surrounded by my husband, sister and mom that we would be having a boy. We decided to name him Andrew Michael.

Everything was going well until my doctor noticed my moderately high blood pressure. He decided I should take a week off from work, not on bed rest, but to just relax. I remember my cousin came over and helped put the crib together. I went for my 36-week check-up after that week, fully expecting to either go back to work or at worst, bed rest. Or perhaps have a baby! I remember my doctor placing the wand on my belly and looking confused. Then he just said, "Let's take a look on the ultrasound."

Immediately, I noticed a stillness on the ultrasound screen. I knew. Then he confirmed what I already knew. Andrew had passed. I was stunned as the doctor had the receptionist come in to hold my hand. My husband was an hour away due to work, but was told to come immediately, and we made the decision to deliver right away.

Andrew was born March 23, 2010. The doctor warned us we may never know the cause for his passing, but once I delivered the cause was clear. The umbilical cord was wrapped twice around his neck and once around his chest. With this being my first loss in a hospital, I didn't know what to expect. Unfortunately, we only spent an hour or less with him before being rushed to have the nurse take him. Thankfully, I was blessed to have pictures my sister took, a piece of his hair and footprints.

The coming days were a mixture of shock, sadness, anger and confusion. My husband and I had a lot of emotional and financial support from family, friends and our coworkers. We managed to hold ourselves together for the graveside service, but remained in a state of denial for a long time. Even after returning to work I spent a lot of time crying in the restroom.

My husband and I changed jobs and bought our first home hoping for a new start. We could only hope and pray for children to share our new home with. I became pregnant four months after the move. During this pregnancy, I didn't believe I would have a living child until I went to the hospital to be induced. We were blessed to have our daughter, Kaylee Drew, born August 11, 2011.

In 2013, we decided we wanted Kaylee to have a sibling and became pregnant rather quickly. Within a few weeks, though, I noticed a pain that went down one hip into my upper thigh. I thought this was strange, but as a nurse briefly thought maybe this is what an ectopic pregnancy would feel like. On instinct I called my doctor and shortly after, at 6 weeks pregnant, my thought was confirmed. I was given shots, but after going home from work sick and then later almost passing out several times, I had to have surgery to remove the fallopian tube due to internal bleeding. I had to recover from surgery and another loss, but still hoped for another chance to have a child, even though my chances were getting smaller.

On March 5, 2015, also our 15th wedding anniversary, we welcomed Avery Jane into our life. We are blessed to now have two living daughters from six pregnancies. I look forward to the day when I will be reunited with my four babies. My hope is to tell others that God can do ALL things, even when we think all is lost! Life does change. And God does have control and the best plan for our lives.

Jesus said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10:14.



♥ Melody Pittman,
Mommy to Andrew Michael and 3 heavenly babies
M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station

Broken Pieces of My Heart: The Counselor's Corner

“Providing Guidance Through Life's Storms”
 Written by Susan A. Adams, PhD, LPC-S, NCC
www.drSusanAdams.com

As I pen the words of this column, I am reminded of approaching holidays that will be difficult for many of you, my readers. Mother's Day and Father's Day. What special days they are for many – so full of joy and happiness. However, I am always reminded when I sit across from clients that this is not true for everyone. For many, there is the pain of loss or pain from never having a tiny baby to hold in their arms and never experiencing the graduation or marriage of their child. Many never had a loving spouse to grieve with them or never had a loving home growing up, and therefore, never had the positive influences of a loving mom or dad.

Even now, there often is a “never had” in their friend circle. Their lives are busy, and they know a lot of people. Many even have “tons of friends” on social media. However, there is often a lack of a close friend who cares enough about them to listen to their grief, to hear their broken hearts beat, or just hold their hand so they don't feel alone. Why? Good question...

Grief is a hurt on the inside that often cannot find words to express itself to the outside world. No matter who has died, no matter what the relationship was, they are the ones left with the fragments of grief lodged deep inside. Grief's not something to heal from, and it never goes away. However, it does get easier to live with – over time.

There is no shortage of books, articles and poems that have been penned to help ease the pain. Did you know the movie, *Steel Magnolias*, was written as a cathartic play by Shelby's brother that later became a box office hit? The story is based on a true story in a real town with many local town people in it, including her real parents and the author of the story (he's the minister in the movie). The Christmas festival is an annual event in the town. Yes, the women are composites created with literary license, but they are reflective of the support network that surrounded the family as they grieved. M'Lynn eventually was able to move her grief into her secret room.

In time, we each learn to tuck our grief into a secret room known only to us. We have the key, and when we need to spend time with our memories, hurts, lost dreams or pain, we pull out the key and unlock the door. It does get easier over time, but it is never a final product – only an unfinished painting. Life moves on for us as well. However, the confusing cacophony of notes and complicated cadence that plays in our heads and hearts does become less disturbing. It's not that we “forget” the one who died, but we can refocus on those who are living. We can laugh without feeling guilty. We can appreciate and celebrate life with others.

If our friends or loved ones seem to be at a loss for words to comfort us, be kind to them. They often carry their own internal hurt and pain. They cannot know or understand our pain because they are not us. They are most likely scared... scared our pain is contagious (even though logic says it's not). They don't mean to hurt or be insensitive. They just don't know what to say or do to “fix” things, and it makes them feel powerless, which is very scary! However, grief isn't fixable. There's no pill or potion that will make it go away. Sometimes we need them to sit quietly beside us and create a safe place for us.

If others can't, or won't, do that for us, then perhaps it is time to seek professional counseling. However – caution! Not all mental health professionals are capable of walking with us to fill that gap either. Unless they (e.g., psychologist, counselor, family therapist, or licensed social worker) have sought elective additional training, they may not know how to help. Grief therapy is not required training in the vast majority of training programs. So find a competent professional who is a good fit for you on this leg of the journey. Don't be afraid to ask about their training and modality of therapy. Most of all don't let anyone tell you “just get over it” because clearly they have never walked down your road.

Book Recommendations:

***Grieving Grandparents: Following Miscarriage, Stillbirth, SIDS, or Infant Death* by Sherokee Isle and Lori Leininger with special contributions by Barbara Rosenthal.** *Grieving Grandparents* is a practical exploration of the anguish, sorrow and sense of helplessness grandparents feel when their beloved grandchild dies. Critical information is shared to aid grandparents as they attempt to comfort and support their children who suffer, while they also learn to cope with their own grief. (Available from the Centering Corp – www.centering.org)

***Strong and Tender* by Pat Schwiebert.** This book is intended to help you, the bereaved father, to understand in general terms the kind of work which grief requires, and then to find your own unique and personal ways of expressing your sorrow - ways that take into account your own particular upbringing and provide you with the comfort which works for you. Also, besides offering you some important self help tools, the book is designed to provide you with some ways to offer emotional and spiritual support for your family during this difficult time. (Available from the Centering Corp – www.centering.org)

Kaiya Dawn has allowed me to touch so many families and has strengthened my relationship with my mom and most of all God.

♥ LaRhessa Johnson, Mommy to Kaiya Dawn

Men Have Miscarriages, Too

By Ann Zamudio

Of the five stages of grief, I tend to linger in anger the longest. After I miscarried my first child, I simmered with anger for weeks, furious at the world for a variety of reasons. Infused with my old energy now that my pregnancy was no longer exhausting me, I attacked my home in an effort to clean my way to healing.

In all my furious scrubbing of baseboards, though, I never once stopped to ask my husband how he was handling the loss. After all my introspection and self-discovery, the one thing that escaped my notice in the weeks after the miscarriage was that it wasn't my loss — it was *our* loss. I am not alone in making this mistake.

Time after time, when a woman bares herself and talks about her miscarriage, the story is the same: I feel so alone, it's like my husband doesn't even care. He doesn't say anything to me. It's like this never even happened for him.

Even taking it outside the intimacy of a marriage, or even an extended family, let's consider how society treats men whose partners have lost a baby. Men are rarely asked how they're coping, and the focus is often placed on the recovery of the woman. *How's she healing? How's she feeling? She's fine? OK, let's stop talking about it, then. How about those Wildcats?*

As an artist and a filmmaker and an activist, my goal is to take the taboo away from miscarriage and change how people talk about loss. Many other women share my goal, and share their stories with the world in an attempt to take the shame away. We have absolutely no hope of doing that if we leave out half of the population.

We simply need to start acknowledging that men suffer a loss when a pregnancy is lost. Women don't have a corner on the grief market.

Our culture is rife with stereotypes about how a man should feel or should behave in the face of hardship. It's enough to discourage most men from entering the conversation at all. We raise men to be strong, the emotional pillars of our families. They should "be there" for their wives when they cry. It's hard for many men to show some vulnerability and admit that they mourn their lost child as much as their wife does.

Add in our cultural attitudes that tend to dismiss early loss, and it's even more improbable that a man is going to raise his hand and say, "Hey, I'm hurting here."

Does a man not get just as invested as a woman when those two lines turn pink? Does his mind not race with possibilities and anxieties and dreams? Just because a woman doesn't have a living child, that doesn't mean she's not a mother. And just because a man doesn't feel the nausea and the fatigue and the pain of pregnancy, doesn't mean he's not a father.

If we want to live in a world where miscarriage isn't a dirty word, and families feel free to mourn the babies they lose, then we need to start including men in the conversation. We can't try to normalize something while expecting half of those affected to quietly stand by.

As with most things, it starts at home. It should have started at my home. I should have asked my husband how he felt when we lost our first. I should have told him that he was free to feel however he wanted to feel about it, and he could share those feelings with me when he needed to.

When a woman tells me that she's lost a pregnancy, I shouldn't only ask how she's doing. The question should be how her family is doing, and asking if any of them need support.

We need to start giving men permission to grieve when they suffer a loss. And make no mistake about it, they've suffered a loss just as surely as the woman has.

Many people would agree that our culture needs to stop treating miscarriage like a dirty secret. We have a long way to go on this journey of taking the silence away, but one of our first steps is clear. We need to take the burden of silence away from men.

Published on Huffington Post on April 7, 2015. Retrieved from Huffington Post on April 2, 2016.

Dharma Lucille has been a blessing to me because she taught me all about being a mother. Because of Dharma, I am truly a better mother to my living children and to her sisters who subsequently joined her in heaven.

A blessing Stella Darling brought me was the best friends I could ever ask for. I lost her after already being a M.E.N.D. mom, so she showed me these are not just "seasonal" friends, but my family. For better or worse, we will always be there for each other.

Liza Belle blessed me with the knowledge of knowing and understanding a different kind of loss. I can now reach out to moms with similar losses with wisdom you only gain through doing it yourself.

♥ Jennie Drude, Mommy to Dharma Lucille, Stella Darling and Liza Belle

M.E.N.D.

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

Meets the 1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
4500 Bissonnet, Ste 337B,
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Meets the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Lone Star College,

3200 College Park Dr, Room A228,
The Woodlands, Texas 77384

Director: Stormy Mitchell
stormym@mend.org, (281) 374-8528

Subsequent pregnancy group meets
every other month

on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,
led by Stormy Mitchell (stormym@mend.org)

Daddy's group meets quarterly
on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,
led by Greg Miller (stephaniem@mend.org)

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana

Meets the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehab Hospital
2400 St. Michael Drive
Texarkana, Texas 75503
Director: Monica Davis
monica@mend.org, (903) 490-1210

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 98383

Gig Harbor Meeting

Meets the 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
St. Anthony Hospital/Greenpoint Dining Room

11567 Canterwood Blvd NW,

Gig Harbor, Washington 98332

Director: Stacy McGhee

stacym@mend.org, (360) 662-6161

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: Kathryn Gold

kathryn@mend.org, (417) 770-0600

M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates***Bryan/College Station***

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station is busy visiting with our local hospitals, women's ministries and other resources for women to share about M.E.N.D. with hope that other hurting moms will find us in their time of need.

Our advisory board has been hard at work! Stay tuned for information about upcoming fundraisers on our Facebook page. Just search "M.E.N.D. (Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death) of Bryan/College Station" on www.facebook.com.

Jennie Drude

NW Washington

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington continues to offer support to our community. Sadly, we have welcomed four new families this year. We are honored to be given two art journal craft nights in May for our moms. Please continue to pray with us as we welcome new families, and continue to pray for all our current families as they navigate through Mother's/Father's Day.

Stacy McGhee

Wichita Falls

We are having a busy spring in Wichita Falls. Our group began a monthly fellowship gathering at Orange Leaf Yogurt for parents to gather in a social environment; details are available on our local Facebook page. We are putting the finishing touches on our 2nd Annual Mother's Day event, A Life To Remember to be held on Saturday, May 7, 2016, at 10:00 AM, at First Presbyterian Church of Wichita Falls. The event will feature a guest speaker, special music and a balloon release. This will be such a special time to remember our babies, and we want to invite all local families whether or not they have attended a meeting. For more information, please contact me at sarah@mend.org.

Sarah Fukasawa

Houston

M.E.N.D.—Houston has seen great success in our fundraising efforts. Thank you to everyone who donated, participated and volunteered in our garage sale. We also have a Bravelets fundraiser happening right now. For every item bought, Bravelets will donate \$10 to M.E.N.D. Go to bravelets.com or our Facebook page for more information.

We are also distributing our brochure through the mail to all of the Houston area hospitals and doctor's offices. If you would like your doctor to receive M.E.N.D. brochures, please email their name and address to me at stormym@mend.org.

Please know your families are being prayed for by our M.E.N.D. family, and we remember your babies with you.

Stormy Mitchell

Chicagoland

M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland has seen more new families at our meetings each month. While this is sad, we are so grateful word is being spread about M.E.N.D. and our support of families who are enduring the loss of their babies. We are thankful for the opportunity to minister to hurting families in our area, to be able to support them in their time of sorrow, and to share the hope we can have in heaven.

Sara Hintz

Texarkana

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana continues to minister to hurting families in our area through meetings, our Facebook page and phone calls. The 3rd Annual Life to Remember will be May 7 at Christus St. Michael Hospital, Serenity Garden. For more details about this event or our chapter, please contact Monica Davis at monica@mend.org or (903) 490-1210.

Monica Davis

SW Missouri

We are having a busy yet wonderful year in M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri. My assistants and I had a chance to bond at the annual Leadership Conference in Dallas, our craft fundraiser in April was a success, and we have connected with new organizations to share about M.E.N.D. We look forward to our next fundraiser, an evening of painting with The Social Easel, which will be held in June. Watch our Facebook page for more details.

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri has also welcomed new families to our chapter. While it is sad to need to welcome new families, we are thankful they are finding us through our outreach efforts so we can support them as they grieve.

Kathryn Gold

Tulsa

Despite the ever present grief, we would like to wish you who have babies in heaven and here on earth, “Happy Mother’s Day” and “Happy Father’s Day.” Our heartfelt prayers are with you during this meaningful time. May you see God’s blessings in your lives.

Lisa Daily

Because my daughter, Emily, knew I was pregnant both times we experienced our losses, she asked about them. Questions like, “Where are they?” and “How do you go to heaven?” started a series of conversations over several months. At the same time, she was in a class at church where she memorized verses such as, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Between learning about sin at church and talking about heaven and how to get there at home, she made a decision for Christ on her own one Wednesday evening at church. I feel very strongly she became a Christian at a young age because of asking about her brother and sister in heaven. CJ and Marina’s legacy is taking part in Emily becoming a follower of Christ. The greatest blessing of all is knowing one day our entire family will be reunited in heaven, for eternity.

♥ *Kathryn Gold, Mommy to CJ and Marina*

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station

Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Texas Avenue Baptist Church
3400 State Highway 6 S,
College Station, Texas 77845
Director: Jennie Drude
jennie@mend.org, (979) 220-7851

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.—Wichita Falls, Texas

Meets the 2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Christ Home Place Ministries
1420 Twin Oaks Street
Wichita Falls, Texas 76302
Director: Sarah Fukasawa
sarahf@mend.org, (940) 642-3284

M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland, Illinois

Meets the 1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
St Peter Lutheran Church
202 E Schaumburg Road
Schaumburg, Illinois 60194
Director: Sara Hintz
saraann@mend.org, (630) 267-9134

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 fathers. Our moms and dads meet together for introductions before dividing into two groups for discussion.

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.

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

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.

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

Mommies AND daddies are both welcome at all M.E.N.D. meetings. Unless otherwise noted, all support group meetings are held at:

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

(Located in the Crystals Pizza parking lot, between MacArthur and O’Connor) Meetings will be in the bank board room, located on the first floor.

For more information, call (972) 506-9000.

In Loving Memory**Baby Beckett**

Given by Anonymous

Oliver Brueck

March 10, 2016

Parents: Aaron and Lauren Brueck

Gifts given by

The Chestnut Family

Gilbertsville Elementary School Employees

The Boston Sales Group, LLC

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

Riley and Parker Davis

November 14, 2006

Prematurity

Given by Parents Rob and Cheryl Davis

and little sister Annalise

Paislee Ann Frette

April 4-5, 2012

Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome

Parents: Brent and Courtney Frette

Sister: Colbie Ann

Given by grandparents James and LuAnn Junkin

Serenity Harrison

Miscarried December 3, 2009

Given by parents Curtis and Jennifer Harrison

and siblings Levi and Ziva

Charlotte Grace Harrison

December 28, 2011 – January 4, 2012

Unknown cause

Parents: Luke and Amanda Harrison

Little brother: Evan

Given by Holly Krause

Jordan Ashley Heffley

July 5, 1999

Trisomy 13

Given by parents John and Jan Heffley

Branden Harrison James Kelly

Stillborn December 28, 2015

Unknown cause

Parents: Todd and Adrienne Kelly

Gifts given by

Deana and Gregory King

Joe Knaebe

Nicole Boling

Robert Dro

Jackson Glen and Tyler Ray Light

February 23, 2009

Placental abruption

Given by parents Kirk and Diana Light

and siblings Brayden and Alexis

Randall Ray Loudamy, Jr

March 19, 2015

Parents Melissa and Randall Loudamy

Given by Dustin and Emily Nimz

Avery Mitchell

Miscarried May 2008

Unknown cause

Gideon Zeller Mitchell

Stillborn May 17, 2011

Membranous cord insertion

Joy Mitchell

Miscarried December 2014

Vanishing twin syndrome

Gifts given by

parents Stormy and Todd Mitchell

and brothers Silas and Justus (Joy's twin)

B3 Nelson

Miscarried January 1, 2013

July Baby Nelson

Miscarried July 21, 2013

Given by parents Chris and Chelley Nelson
and siblings Brianna, Brenson,
Brooklyn and Brecklyn**Kyleigh Elaine Rabe**

October 1, 2012 – January 26, 2013

SIDS

Parents: Kyle and Kristen Rabe

Given by Grandmother Faye Smith

Alexander Seely

April 30, 2010

Cord accident

Given by parents Ron and Raquel Seely
and siblings Abraham and Leah**Mindy and Maggie Smith**

Stillborn November 4, 1997

TTTS and Polyhydramnios

Given by parents Scott and Karla Smith
and siblings Travis and Julia**Arie Ronald Witt**

November 5, 2013

Unknown cause

Baby Witt

Miscarried June 2014

Given by parents Mike and Candice Witt
and sister Brinley**Adrian Joseph "AJ" Zuckerman**

Stillborn March 30, 2007

Cord accident

Gifts given by parents Al and Amber Zuckerman
and brothers Eli and Alex**Gifts of Support**

Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

Enterprise Holdings Corporation

West Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, TX

Gary and Carol Cowan

Nelly and Rick Macias,
of Dallas, Texas,
along with big sister Sofia,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Maria Gabriela,
born January 30, 2016,
measuring 6 lb., 12 oz.,
and 19 inches long.
The family lovingly remembers
Sam Frances Macias,
November 16, 2012,
Christian Valentine Macias,
March 21, 2013,
Jo Frances Macias,
April 2014,
Jude Frances Macias,
October 28, 2014

Subsequent Births

Josey and Sergio Fleitas,
of Tulsa, Oklahoma,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Lidia Magdalena,
born January 19, 2016,
measuring 7 lb., 2 oz.,
and 21 inches long.
The family lovingly remembers
Lidia MaryLou,
neonatal May 5, 2014,
premature birth

Kathryn and Mark Johnson
of Tulsa, Oklahoma,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Norah Grace,
born March 24, 2016,
measuring 7 lb., 14 oz.,
and 20 inches long.
The family lovingly remembers
Baby Johnson I,
April 8, 2013,
missed miscarriage,
Baby Johnson II,
miscarried November 2, 2013,
Baby Johnson III,
miscarried February 25, 2014

Día de las madres / Día de los padres

Anuncios de la televisión y tarjetas de Hallmark tienden promover el día de la madre y el día del padre como los domingos más felices del año. Me pongo a pensar si estos anunciantes son conscientes de lo difícil que son estos días para bastantes mujeres y hombres. Me atrevo a predecir que la población de personas sufriendo en estos dos días es igual, o posiblemente más, que ni los que disfrutaban de estos dos días conmemorativos.

¿Así que quien empezó todo este alboroto de todas maneras? Cuenta la historia de que el día de las madres comenzó por un dúo de madre/hija, Ann y Anna Jarvis. Antes de la Guerra Civil, Ana Reeves Jarvis creó lo que se llamó, "Clubes de trabajo de día de la madre", que eran eventos para enseñar a las mamás locales cuidar adecuadamente a sus hijos. Años más tarde, después que falleció Ana, su hija, Anna, deseo volver crear el día como un domingo para que niños de todas las edades pudieran honrar a sus madres por los sacrificios que hicieron en favor de los niños. Presidente Woodrow Wilson hizo el día de la madre un día de fiesta oficial en los Estados Unidos en 1914. El Día del padre recibió el mismo reconocimiento 58 años más tarde. Interesantemente, en 1920, Anna Jarvis fue disgustada por la manera en que los pasteleros y floristas capitalizaron en el día de la madre así que ella intentó denunciar el día festivo. Obviamente, ella perdió esa batalla. Me pregunto que, si ella también era consciente de la sal sobre la herida que se presentaba durante estos días para tantas personas que perdieron hijos, padres, o han sufrido con la infertilidad.

Sin duda, apoyo todo sobre honrar a mis padres en estos dos días, y por supuesto, aprecio el amor que recibo de mi hijo vivo en el día de la madre. Pero también soy dolorosamente consciente del dolor que evocan estos días. Como todas las otras fiestas durante todo el año, estos domingos se convierten más fácil de pasar sobre los años después de la pérdida de nuestros bebés, pero siempre permanece una porción del agujón. Aprendí en los primeros años de mi dolor que necesitaba volver a centrar mis pensamientos en el día de la madre. En lugar de enfocar en quien no estaba presente en el almuerzo del domingo ese día, y en las firmas pequeñas que no se vieron en una tarjeta hecha a mano, me alegre en aquellos que estaban aquí: mi mamá, mi suegra y mi hijo vivo. Sobre todo, aprendí a celebrar la feminidad. Estoy agradecida de que Dios me hizo mujer. Verdaderamente, a veces todavía lucho interiormente con que aparentemente mi cuerpo me falló con no poder mantener dos de mis hijos vivos y una enfermedad renal que me impidió concebir devuelta, pero me encanta quien Dios me creó para ser y estoy humildemente agradecida que él tiene gran propósito para mí - y para ti!

Entiendo que estos días pueden ser extremadamente emocionales para aquellos que están recién afligidos. Sepan que pasaran a través de ellos. Sera que no sea fácil, pero despertaran el siguiente lunes y respiraran con alivio que sobrevivieron los días - al menos por otro año. Si está un poco más adelante en su camino de dolor y todavía encuentra estos días insoportables, les suplico pensar en estos días como el domingo de ser agradecida por sus padres, que Dios le hizo ser, e incluso para la dulce vida corta que aun tiempo cargo en su vientre. Decidan celebrar esos momentos preciosos de la vida, en lugar de morar en lo que ya no es. Lo más importante, regocija en que un domingo viviremos en la eternidad con nuestros seres queridos y el Señor suprimirá estos días duros para siempre.

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



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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)

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