Holidays

From Sorrow to Thankfulness and Joy

Romans 8:28 was the scripture people seemed to love to quote to me following my losses. I guess they thought it would be an instant fix to my sorrow. I bet someone wrote me or said that verse to me every day for months after Jonathan was stillborn. The scripture says, “And we know in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” I somehow managed to politely smile and nod my head when it was said to my face, but in private, I remember many times raising my fist in the air and shouting to God, “How could good possibly come from this? My baby is dead! Then You show me the good!”

Over time, I saw and continue to see a lot of good that has resulted from Jonathan’s death, and later from the miscarriage I suffered. I learned to focus more on the good things, which eventually led to thankfulness and joy. I am incredibly thankful for M.E.N.D. and the ways the Lord used my losses to create such a beautiful ministry. I love my M.E.N.D. family beyond words. Byron and I have forged friendships that otherwise would have never transpired. And I have witnessed the development of numerous other special friendships among fellow M.E.N.D. families. I am thankful that God has entrusted me with the privilege and responsibility of “shepherding” so many hurting families. I am thankful for the opportunities to visit freshly grieving families in the hospital, attend their babies’ funerals, and be with these families during the darkest hours of their lives. I am thankful for the dream that came to fruition of multiple speaking engagements every year to area hospitals to educate and teach medical personnel about the heartache and reality of what we as families endure after the death of a baby. And, I am thankful for what the Lord has in store for the future of M.E.N.D.

Through the Lord, in the midst of my grieving, I have found great joy. The prophet Nehemiah tells us in the Bible, “…the joy of the Lord is your strength.” There is no doubt in my mind that without His gift of joy, I would not be who I am today. Surely, I would be a solemn, bitter, boring woman, very likely without the required strength to do what I do every day with M.E.N.D. As crazy as it sounds, we, the leaders of M.E.N.D. have a ton of fun together at our board of directors meetings, annual leadership conference, committee meetings, and preparations for big ceremonies. Many of us have traveled together over the years, visiting M.E.N.D. chapters where we have had the joy of going to places we may not have been able to travel otherwise. We have laughed together about almost running out of gas on long road trips (really not funny), getting stranded on bike rides together because of torrential rain and having to be rescued by my husband, and even a Big Foot sighting! We have had the honor of twice visiting the Amish farm of one of our M.E.N.D. families in Missouri, and getting acquainted with their absolutely fascinating way of life. I have joyfully loved the privilege of meeting and spending time with amazingly strong women in the infant loss world, such as author Nancy Guthrie and recording artist Nicol Sponberg. I have laughed with hosts and hostesses of radio and television shows where I have had the honor of being their guest. And I have joyfully told my story to a number of reporters over the years, and then delighted to see my baby’s precious picture attached to our story in various newspapers and magazine articles. All this brings me joy beyond measure.

As this holiday season approaches, whether this is your first holiday since your loss, or you have endured many years, know that, indeed, God does work all things together for our good. It may not seem that way at first, or even for a long time, but I promise you, He will. It is up to us, through the Lord, to develop a spirit of thankfulness and an attitude of joy. Will yourself to be thankful for just one thing. Make yourself laugh at something today. Then wait and see what God will do!

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

A wave of light was sent around the world as moms, dads, siblings, and other family and friends lit candles in remembrance of babies in heaven on October 15, Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. Throughout the newsletter you will see pictures shared through our Facebook pages of candles lit in remembrance of our little ones.
The Heart of the Leader

My name is Sarah Fukasawa, and I am the director of the M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls chapter. My husband and I were expecting our second child in February 2010. Our pregnancy with Jacob was uneventful until the end. Everything was going as planned, and we were expecting what looked like a healthy baby boy. One morning I woke up with a bad feeling and no movement. I was scheduled to see my doctor that morning, so I waited until my appointment. We were completely blindsided when we were told at the doctor’s appointment that our baby boy no longer had a heartbeat. We were never given a reason for his death. Jacob was stillborn on February 8, 2010, at 36 weeks gestation.

I felt completely alone. I was surrounded by so many supportive friends and family members, but I didn’t feel like anyone quite understood my pain. Through the grace of God, I met a friend who had gone through the same experience only days after we did. We quickly leaned on one another for support. I found comfort in sharing my pain with her. It was God’s way of telling me I wasn’t alone.

After something like this happens to you, people share their stories. As time went on, I realized there were so many others in our community that had experienced pregnancy and infant loss as well. I knew we needed a chapter in Wichita Falls. Sharing my story has brought peace to my heart. I wanted to pass that on to others who were suffering. When we are grief stricken, it’s hard to think what God has planned for our future. It’s hard to imagine that our pain could possibly serve purpose down the road. It was important for me and my healing to serve a purpose. Being a leader of a support group was never a role I saw myself in or something I would have wanted, but this is the path the Lord has chosen for me, and I am grateful to be a part of this ministry.

♥ Sarah Fukasawa, Mommy to Jacob
M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls

Decorating for Our Babies

With the holidays fast approaching, a very common concern is how to include our sweet angels who are celebrating in heaven. This is what I do for the holidays around my house.

I love decorating for each and every holiday. When it comes time for the major holidays in the fall, I even decorate the yard as well. We always have some sort of figurines in front of the house with our names on them, sometimes only our last name. We changed things after our angel was born. We decided for Christmas to get a small angel cut out with his name so he wouldn’t be left out. After we received ours, we started talking to my parents, and they decided to add his name to their decorations also. We even hang a stocking with his name right next to ours. Since he cannot open his presents, I write him a letter every year and read it out loud on Christmas morning.

♥ Courtney Dobbins, Mommy to Westin
M.E.N.D.—Houston
**Help! My Baby Has Died**
By Reggie Weems

Although small in size and short in length, this booklet has a lot to offer hurting parents. Weems and his wife experienced three losses in three years: a first-trimester loss and two second-trimester losses, one of which was an ectopic pregnancy. Weems’s words would resonate with parents experiencing a loss at any stage of pregnancy or in early infancy. Though neither was raised in what the author calls “overly religious homes,” in the wake of their losses the Weems family turned to God and the Bible with open hearts, seeking answers to their difficult questions. This is the story of their journey, and this booklet is a great starting place for those seeking similar answers. Readers who consider themselves close to the Lord and very familiar with the Bible will still find some new thoughts about the loss of a baby and about life with God in general. Although it is a quick, easy read and not complicated, it is full of substance. It exceeded my expectations, and I came away with some new thoughts to consider.

♥ Reviewed by Kathleen Moore
Mommy to Lily Joy
M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

M.E.N.D. has a complete list of books, Web sites, organizations, and music resources available online at www.mend.org.

If you would like to submit a review of books, music, Web sites or other resources dealing with infant loss, please email them to our newsletter editor Jennifer Harrison at jennifer@mend.org.

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**Thanksgiving Grace**
By Alicia M. Sims ~ From her book, Am I Still a Sister?
For Austin

I’m supposed to say Thanksgiving grace today at the table,
but I don’t feel very thanksgiving…
What are we supposed to be thankful for? God took our baby away and we’re supposed to still believe in HIM?
The table is set, the turkey smells good and everyone is gathering around…everyone, that is, except my baby brother.
WHY didn’t HE let Austin live? WHY didn’t HE help him get better so he could grow up with me?
I don’t want to be alone. I want to be a sister.
I don’t want two turkey legs!
Hey God, I’m talking to You! Can You hear me? WHY don’t You answer???
Or do You, and sometimes I just can’t hear? Well anyway, I guess I’m thankful for the little while Big A was here.
We did have some fun sometimes.
So, thanks God, for that little while.

Retrieved October 10, 2012
www.irisremembers.com

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**January/February Topic**
When Your Loss is Your Last
Deadline: November 30, 2012

**March/April Topic**
Holding on to Spiritual Truths
Deadline: January 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.

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<td>November 31</td>
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<td>January 31</td>
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<td>May/June</td>
<td>March 31</td>
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<td>July/August</td>
<td>May 31</td>
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<td>July 31</td>
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<td>November/December</td>
<td>September 31</td>
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Retrieved October 10, 2012
www.irisremembers.com
**Happy 2nd Birthday, Elizabeth!**
**Happy 1st Birthday, Eric or Margaret!**
We think about all three of our children daily who have celebrated 1 year, 2 years and 5.5 years in heaven. We miss you so much!

We know heaven has to be an exciting place to hold your first birthday, Eric or Margaret. I am sure your siblings showed you around heaven as you arrived there in time for Elizabeth’s first birthday last year. Happy second birthday in heaven, Elizabeth. We miss celebrating with all of you, and we love you so much!

Elizabeth Ruth Daubert  
Stillborn October 25, 2010, full-term  
Unknown cause

Eric Wesley Daubert or Margaret Helen Daubert  
Miscarried September 19, 2011, 12 weeks  
Baby stopped growing in the 9th week  
Also remembering  
Joseph Charles Daubert or Victoria Ruth Daubert  
Miscarried March 24, 2007, 5 weeks  
Parents: Tom and Lynne Daubert  
Sister: Naomi Fern

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**Happy 3rd Birthday, Talon!**

Happy third birthday, my little angel. Mommy and Daddy love and miss you! Thank you for sending your little brother safely to us! We loved you then, we love you now and we will love you always!

Talon Aguirre  
December 11, 2009  
Cord accident  
Parents: John and Christina Aguirre  
Brother: Stetson

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**Happy 1st Birthday, Abby!**

We think about you every day, and we miss you so much. This has been a long year, and we just hope you know how much you are truly missed. I talk to you every day, and I just know what you are with me. We love you so much. Happy birthday, our angel!

Abby Denise Wallace  
Stillborn December 27, 2011, at 35 weeks  
Parents: Jonathan and Erica Wallace

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**Happy 3rd Birthday, Trenton!**

We miss you and think of you every day. You have a new little brother now, and I know you are watching over him and keeping him safe. I hope you have a grand birthday celebration in heaven, and we look forward to being with you again someday!

We all love you so much,  
Mommy, Daddy, Liam and your whole family

Trenton Kohl Woody  
December 3, 2009 - May 30, 2010  
Hypoplastic left heart syndrome  
Parents: Jared Woody and Marissa Martin  
Brother: Liam

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**Happy 7th Birthday, Abigail!**

Missing you all the time, my angel.  
You will never be forgotten until I hold you in my arms.  
Love you!

Abigail Renee Burkhard  
November 4, 2005  
Unknown cause  
Parents: Joshua and Michelle Burkhard  
Siblings: Josiah, Hannah and Eliana

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**Happy 1st Birthday, Aria!**

Although I never had the chance to tell you both how much you meant to me, I know you both rest in my heart. Loving you has been the cherry on top of my life. Nothing can compare to such beauty I have seen and felt. You are forever missed. Not a day goes by where I look into the sky and I don’t feel you looking back. My babies are in the arms of Jesus, and I couldn’t ask for more. I love you with all my heart, and as long as I have a soul I will never stop. I will see you again. So wait patiently for us at the gates of heaven, my angels.

Your loving parents,  
Tiffany and Zachary Zambrano

Aria Jace Zambrano  
October 18, 2011  
Incompetent cervix  
Also remembering  
Angel Zambrano  
Miscarried June 14, 2011  
Unknown cause  
Parents: Zachary and Tiffany Zambrano  
Sister: Violet Rayne
Happy 6th Birthday, Chloe!

My sweet angel, six years has passed since I looked upon your sweet face. Not a day goes by that I don’t think about what you would be doing now. This year would have been the year you would have started school, but I am so thankful you are celebrating your birthday with the greatest teacher of all, our Lord!

Have a wonderful day. We love and miss you!

XOXOXOXOX!

Mom, Dad and Lily

Chloe Madison Kring  
September 29, 2006  
Umbilical cord accident  
Parents: Greg and Sherri Kring  
Sister: Lily

Happy 5th Birthday, Kenneth!

Happy birthday to my little bookie bear on your fifth birthday! Today I sit here thinking about you with a very heavy heart. I didn’t have any idea what to expect or how I would handle this great loss. After five years, I still don’t have the answer. Mommy and Daddy are very blessed for the time we had with you and will hold onto those memories until we are together again. You are the greatest love of my life, and I want to wish you a very happy heavenly birthday. We will be celebrating your birthday and sending you lots of birthday wishes, hugs and kisses!

We love you,

Mommy and Daddy

Kenneth Bernard Weddington, Jr.  
November 7, 2007  
Unknown cause  
Parents: Kenneth Weddington and Louisa Garza

Happy 1st Birthday, Maximus!

Our PEACE of Heaven. We love you so very much and are happy to reunite with you when God calls our names!

Maximus Frederick Samples  
Stillborn December 7, 2011  
Parents: Nicholas and Deborah Samples  
Sibling: Alex

Happy 1st Birthday, Grace!

Grace is our angel. We only had her with us for a few short weeks, but she has our hearts forever.

Grace Walsh  
Miscarried November 1, 2011  
Parents: Kevin Walsh and Mary Coleman-Walsh

Happy 2nd Birthday, Ainslee!

Our dear sweet Ainslee, happy second birthday to you! We miss you beyond belief and can’t believe you are turning 2 years old. We are missing out on so much with you. It is so wonderful to see your beautiful face in your sister and brother. We all love you so much and wish more than anything you were here to celebrate with us. We pray you are watching over us daily, keeping us safe and giving us hope. We love you, sweet girl, and can’t wait for the day to have you back in our arms.

Love you always,

Mommy, Daddy,  
big brother Adrian and little sister Hadlee Hope

Ainslee Ryan Soppe  
October 29, 2010 - February 8, 2011  
SIDS  
Parents: Travis and Channan Soppe  
Siblings: Adrian and Hadlee Hope

Happy 9th Birthday, Caleb!

Sweet Caleb, I can’t believe we are celebrating your last “single-digit” heavenly birthday. With each year we miss you so much. Watching Maddie, we often wonder about you and what a great big brother you’d have been to her. She’s awfully mouthy, and I’m sure you two would be quite funny to watch interact. I know you would have loved and protected her fiercely. We love you and miss you!

Happy ninth heavenly birthday, Honey!

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, and Maddie

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

Happy 2nd Birthday, Blake!

Happy birthday, baby boy! We love and miss you always! Hugs and kisses!

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy and little sister

Blake Wendell McCullah  
December 20, 2010  
Stillbirth due to Factor V clotting disorder  
Parents: Daniel and Jennifer McCullah  
Little sister: Adalynn
Happy 6th Birthday, Rachel!
Dearest Rachel, as your birthday is drawing near we find ourselves looking at little girls who are turning 6 to try and imagine what stages you would be in. Our hearts ache to hold and kiss you, and the absence of “girly” things around our house is so painfully present. We’re working hard in your name to help other angel moms through their losses, and that brings some measure of comfort. You are making a difference here on earth as we’re sure you are making in heaven. Until we meet again and can celebrate together as a family, happy birthday, sweet baby girl.

Rachel Stephanie Blaney
December 6, 2006
Blunt force trauma as a result of automobile accident
Parents: Sam and Lori Beth Blaney
Siblings: Jake and Shane

Happy 4th Birthday, Ella!
Happy fourth birthday to our sweet baby girl! We hope you are having a wonderful birthday in heaven with Jesus. Not a day goes by that we don’t miss you or think about you. You left a huge impact on our hearts, and we will never stop missing you. Look for four pink balloons on your birthday! We love and miss you so much!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and Brody

Ella Grace Ketch
December 15 - 16, 2008
Preeclampsia/prematurity
Also remembering Baby Ketch
Miscarried March 2008
Parents: Robbie and Celise Ketch
Sibling: Brody

Happy 5th Birthday, Teighton!
Precious little one, we had you in our lives such a very short time, but we’ll hold you in our hearts forever. It seemed like only a fleeting moment, but it was long enough to see you, touch you, hold you and love you. It was long enough to know that your life was indeed a gift—no matter how brief, no matter how fragile. We’ll hold you in our hearts forever. Happy fifth birthday, our sweet angel!

Love,
Daddy, Mommy and little brother Drayke

Teighton William Hoffart
Stillborn December 9, 2007
Eclampsia
Parents: Matthew and Kimberly Hoffart
Little Brother: Drayke Presten

Happy 2nd Birthday, Khloe!
Mommy and Daddy love and miss you so much! You will always be in our hearts and never forgotten. We love you way past FOREVER!

Khloe Peyton Calderon
December 21, 2010
Potters Syndrome
Parents: Erik and Angie Calderon

Happy 1st Birthday, Sam!
Wow, Daddy and I can’t believe you’re 1 already. It seems like just yesterday I was telling Daddy you were coming to join our family. But God had other plans for you and took you back home where I know Auntie Brianne is taking care of you. I hope you’re having fun playing with Lucky; he was a great dog. Thank you for answering Daddy’s prayers and sending us your little brother or sister. We can’t wait to say, “Sammie hand picked you for us.” We miss you so much, and there isn’t a day that goes by we don’t love you. Have a great first birthday, our sweet baby.

Mommy and Daddy love you!

Sam Makowski
Miscarried November 4, 2011
Parents: Steven and Sundae Makowski
Little brother: Liam, due March 13, 2013

Happy 5th Birthday, Hannah!
Dear Hannah, I can’t believe it has been five years since I held you in my arms and kissed your precious face for the last time. School shopping for sissy and the boys was so hard this year. I wondered what kind of backpack and clothes you would be excited to get for preschool, and it made me so sad. I think about you all the time. Every day that I survive is one day closer till I hold you in heaven. I can’t wait for that day. Happy birthday, my little butterfly. I miss you more than you will ever know.

Love,
Mommy

Hannah Marie Tolman
Stillborn November 13, 2007
Preeclampsia
Parents: Todd and Teresa Tolman
Siblings: Ashley, Zackary and Jacob

Happy 6th Birthday, Baby Bass!
To our special blessing, may God keep you safe in His arms until we are reunited. We love and miss you.

Baby Bass
Miscarried December 26, 2006
Parents: Travis and Heather Bass
Siblings: Rachel and Braden
Happy 4\textsuperscript{th} Birthday, Anna!
To our sweet Anna, happy fourth birthday! We miss you so much each and every day. Words cannot describe our heartache and the emptiness we feel without you here. As we watch your baby brother grow up and learn to walk and talk, we realize we have missed all of these milestones with you. We imagine you and Elliot playing together and laughing and chasing one another, and that puts a smile on our faces. We love you so very much Anna!

Always,
Mommy, Daddy and brother Elliot

Anna Jacqueline Radack
November 1, 2008
HELLP Syndrome and severe preeclampsia due to Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome
Also remembering Baby Radack (Elliot’s twin)
September 1, 2009
Unknown cause
Parents: Jeff and Jill Radack
Brother: Elliot

Happy 3\textsuperscript{rd} Birthday, Kavya!
Happy birthday to our sweet, precious baby Kavya. It is so hard to believe that three years have gone by. We, your Mor, Achen, brother Jacob and sister Kyra, along with your grandparents and family from Denmark and India, send our love and kisses to heaven for you. We know you are celebrating with Jesus, your great-grandparents and Uncle Dev. Your Mor lights a candle for you every day. I am so grateful and privileged to have met you, even if it was for a very short time.

Love you and miss you,
Betty Amamma

Kavya Marie Kurishingal
December 17 - 31, 2009
Complications from omphalocele
Parents: Pravin and Tina Kurishingal
Siblings: Jacob, Kyra and doggies Appu and Daisey

Happy 1\textsuperscript{st} Birthday, Gelurance!
Although you are not here physically, we feel your presence daily. We love you and miss you so much, but God loved you the most. We know you are enjoying heaven. We pray that we will see you in heaven!

With all our love,
Mommy and Daddy

Gelurance David Wilson
December 15 - 17, 2011
Placenta abruption
Parents: Tyson and Tiera Wilson
Siblings: Curtis, Andre’ and Tyson II

Happy 2\textsuperscript{nd} Birthday, Samuel!
My sweet little angel Samuel, what life would be like if you were here? Your Momma and I think of you all the time. I know that through your baby brother, Isaiah, we will get to know you in some way. He will surely know he has a big brother watching over him. I’m not sure if it’s selfish of us to want you here even though we know you’re in the arms of our loving Father, but we miss you so much! Life is beautiful and hard at the same time, but you were spared life for a blissful land of paradise in heaven. We will see you again, my son! Don’t forget to make a wish! We love you!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and Little Isaiah

Samuel Adan Contreras
November 11, 2010
Cord accident
Parents: Alfredo and Mercedes Contreras
Brother: Isaiah Adan

Happy 3\textsuperscript{rd} Birthday, Jake!
We celebrate you and the time we had together!
Always remembered, always loved!
XOXOXO
Mommy, Daddy, Ethan and ZoZo

Jacob Edward Grell
November 21 - December 1, 2009
Prematurity/infection
Parents: Geoff and Kate Grell
Siblings: Twin brother Ethan and Zoe

Happy 1\textsuperscript{st} Birthday, Parker!
Happy first birthday to our angel son, Parker! Mommy and Daddy love you and miss you so much!

We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday and the day before that too.

We think of you in silence and often say your name. But all we have are memories, and your picture in a frame. Your memory is our keepsake, with which we’ll never part. God has you in His keeping. We have you in our heart.

Parker Houston Mitchell
Stillborn November 26, 2011, at 39 weeks
Unknown cause
Also remembering Baby Mitchell
Miscarried August 2010
Baby Mitchell II
Miscarried May 2012
Parents: Kris and Beth Mitchell
Happy 1st Birthday, Grace!
You are on our minds and in our hearts every day! As we celebrate your birthday we look forward to the day we will be reunited in heaven!
We love and miss you,
Mom, Dad and Miles

Grace Mae Mieri Miller
November 25, 2011
Potters Syndrome
Also remembering
Baby Miller
Miscarried May 2007
Baby Miller II
Miscarried August 2007
Parents: Jarrett and Jennie Miller
Brother: Miles

Happy 7th Birthday, Aidan!
Seven years have passed and many tears have been shed, but this year is a celebration of your life and legacy. Your short life touched the hearts of so many people and led to innumerable blessings. I am so proud to be your mommy! I love you so much! Happy seventh birthday, my sweet boy!

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

Happy 7th Birthday, Hope!
Happy birthday to you! Happy birthday to you!
Happy birthday, dear Hopie! Happy birthday to you!
I can hardly believe it was seven years ago that I held you, my little pink bundle, in my arms. I love you so much and look forward to holding you again in heaven.
Lots of love, hugs and kisses,
Mama

It’s hard to believe our Little Pink (Grand) Bundle would be 7 and in first grade. Where did the time go? I bet you’re keeping Pop-Pop and Grandma busy up in heaven! We love and miss you!

Love,
Grammy, Teepa, GrandMimi,
Uncle Ryan and Aunt Kasey
xoxoxo

Hope Kirkpatrick
November 5 - 8, 2005
Amniotic Band Syndrome
Parents: Kirk and Aly Kirkpatrick
Little siblings: Ian and Jamie

Happy 3rd Birthday, Merrick!
“A thousand words can’t bring you back,
I know because I tried
And neither can a million tears
I know because I cried.”
~Author Unknown

Wishing you were here with us!
Daddy, Mommy, Jazzy, Sahana and King

Merrick Lloyd Evans Jr.
December 30, 2009
Preterm birth/unknown cause
Parents: Merrick Evans and Eugené Rhodes
Siblings: Jahzara, Sahana, King and Baby Evans (on the way)

Happy 2nd Birthday, Adelaide Elizabeth!
We love and miss you every second of every day!
Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Evangeline, Asher and Jacob

Adelaide Elizabeth Curless
December 22, 2010 - April 7, 2011
SIDS
Also remembering
Baby Curless
Miscarried 2004
Baby Curless
Ectopic pregnancy 2007
Baby Curlesses
Failed IVF 2008
Baby Curless
Failed IVF 2009
Baby Curlesses
Failed Embryo transfer 2010
Parents: Jared and Kim Curless
Siblings: Evangeline, Asher and Jacob (Adelaide’s twin)

Happy 4th Birthday, Gabriel!
We can hardly believe that it has been four years since we held you in our arms. There isn’t a day that goes by that we don’t think about you. We miss you so very much. We’re thankful for the promise that we will be reunited with you and that we’ll be able to hold you in our arms once again, but this time it will be for all of eternity! We love you and miss you more than words can say.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, your little brother Isaac and your baby sister (due February 2013)

Gabriel Laws
December 17, 2008
Hydrops fetalis - unknown cause
Parents: Joe and Regina Laws
Siblings: Isaac and Baby Sister (Due Feb. 2013)
Happy 3rd Birthday, Serenity!
As I watch your little brother grow and reach all the milestones, I cannot help but wonder what it would have been like watching you reach all the milestones. Then I wonder what you would be doing today, playing with whatever you can reach in the house, playing in the garage with Dad, riding your pedal cars and all the other fun things three-year-olds do. As much as I want you here with me, there is not a better place that you could be than where you are now—in heaven with Jesus. You are protected from all the evilness in this old world, and I know some day I will get to join you. In the meantime, I know there are a lot of new babies that have joined you in heaven, so sing to them often in the sweet songs that Jesus has taught you.

With all our love to our blessing above,
Mama, Daddy and Levi

Serenity Harrison
Miscarried December 3, 2009
Parents: Curtis and Jennifer Harrison
Little brother: Levi

Happy 7th Birthday, Rylie Grace!
Sweet baby girl, seven years have come and gone since we last saw your little face, but not a day has gone by that you have not filled our hearts and minds. We miss you so terribly, precious girl. I hope you know how much we love and treasure you. It never gets easier being without you. My only comfort is the hope of seeing you again one day. And when that day comes, I won’t ever let you go again, I promise. We will cherish you in our hearts forever and ever. Have a wonderful seventh birthday celebrating with Jesus!

Loving you always,
Momma, Daddy, Blake and Landry

Rylie Grace Addison
Stillborn November 21, 2005
Also remembering
Baby Addison
Miscarried December 22, 2004
Parents: Blaine and Shannon Addison
Siblings: Blake and Landry

Happy 1st Birthday, Jamison!
With every breath we take, with every beat of our hearts, every minute of every day, we miss you. We love you baby boy; we will love you forever.

Jamison Jude Blanton
October 7 - November 4, 2011
Critical aortic valve stenosis
Parents: Joel and Rochelle Blanton
Siblings: Liam and Gavin

Happy 3rd Birthday, Madilynn!
Sweet angel, we can’t believe three years have gone by since we held you in our arms and had to say goodbye. We still think about you every day and how beautiful you were. We imagine how you would look now if you were here with us and how much fun we would have together, precious girl. We are sending birthday hugs and kisses to heaven for you! We love you always and forever!

Mommy and Daddy

Madilynn Isabell Kelley
Stillborn December 3, 2009
Cord accident
Parents: Jeremiah and Cherish Kelley

Happy 1st Birthday, Sam and Ben!
You two are the greatest blessing of my life. It is an honor to be your mother and live out the legacy of your sudden impact; I am a better woman thanks to you. May I make you proud till the day we meet again.

I love you with all that I was, am, and ever will be.
My heart is yours,
Mom

Samuel and Benjamin Martin
November 10, 2011
Preterm labor
Mommy: Katherine Martin

Happy 8th Birthday, Cece!
You are always in our hearts...

Celeste Kimberly Reid
December 7 - 8, 2004
Neonatal Hemochromatosis
Also remembering
Connor Boston Reid
Born to heaven April 27, 2006
Trisomy 13
Parents: Andie Boston and Skip Reid
Sister: Allyson Kate

Happy 10th Birthday, Logan!
Your first double-digit birthday! I can’t believe it’s been 10 years since you were here and gone again. Some days it feels like it was yesterday...and some days I wish it had been because I miss you so. But I know that your 10th heavenly birthday was n amazing one! Your family loves you and misses you, and we cannot wait to see you again one day!

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

Aiden Marcus Balderrama
Stillborn July 2, 2011
Baby B
Miscarried June 2010
Given by parents
Monica and Adrian Balderrama

Colten Banjamin Balmer
Given by grandmother Kathleen Menough

Jordan Alexander Booker
Stillborn January 11, 2007
Cord accident
Gifts given by
Mommy Norma Jordan
Rhonda Adams
Dudley and Marcia Calhoun

Liam and Sebastian Callaway
Stillborn August 5, 2011
Unknown cause
Parents: Zach and Rori Callaway
Given by Whitney Reed

Jowell Ivan Castro
July 12, 2012
Potters Syndrome
Given by grandmother Miriam Garcia

Catherine Grace Chapman
August 10 - 12, 2012
Premature birth/HELLP
Gifts given by
Mommy Kara Chapman
Aunt Margaret McAnaly

Abigail Grace Crump
July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Gifts given by
Parents Gerald and Jaimie Crump
and little sisters Cami and Karli
Great-uncle David and
Great-aunt Robin Smith

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

Brooke Sophia Daily
Stillborn March 11, 2010
Vasa Previa
Gifts given by
Parents Jeremy and Lisa Daily
and sisters Sarah and Savannah

Sophie Jane Darnell
Stillborn May 28, 2012
Unknown cause
Gifts given by
Parents Brea and Tommy Darnell
and big brother Luke
Grandmother Tammy Darnell
Jeanie Lindsey
Danny and Helen Lynch
Jeany Martin
Steve and Michelle Skrasek
Jimmy Bridges
Joseph and Sara Averett

Riley and Parker Davis
November 14, 2006
Prematurity
Gifts given by
Parents Rob and Cheryl Davis
and little sister Annalise

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

Isaac Huff
Stillborn August 27, 2005
Preterm labor
Baby Huff I
Miscarried April 2006
Baby Huff II
Miscarried January 2007
Baby Huff III
Miscarried October 2007
Baby Huff IV
Miscarried September 2008
Baby Huff V
Miscarried December 2009
Parents: Nick and Susan Huff
Siblings: Rafael, Blythe and Nash
Gifts given by:
Grandparents Jim and Sandy Meyer
Great-grandparents
Marge and Bob Lingo
Elaine Rose
Brad and Kristy Shelton
James and Teresa Spoon

Kavya Marie Kurshingal
December 17 - 31, 2009
Complications from omphalocele
Given by parents
Pravin and Tina Kurshingal

Emma Krymkiewicz
May 5, 2009
Baby Girl Krymkiewicz
June 13, 2008
Given by parents
Ana Ayon and Hernan Krymkiewicz
and little brother Nicholas

Sophia Elise Lewis
March 25, 2009
Triploidy 69
Given by parents Eric and Janie Lewis

Avery Merae Longgood
August 2 - 3, 2007
Possible stroke
Gifts given by
parents Neil and Jamie Longgood

Andrew Mallette
March 21, 2008
CMV
Parents: Michael and Nicole Mallette
Gifts given by grandmother Kathy Rutherford

Nathaniel Thomas Michalsky
June 28, 2012
Placental insufficiency
Parents: Nick and Susan Michalsky
Gifts given by grandmother Pat Prendergast

Aerin P. Middlebrooks-Duncan
June 21, 2011
Given by mommy Janiese Middlebrooks

Gideon Zeller Mitchell
May 17, 2011
Membranous cord insertion
Avery Mitchell
Miscarried May 2008
Parents: Todd and Stormy Mitchell
Gifts given by:
Grandparents Earl and Karen Zeller
Milk and Honey Bakery

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

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

A strong woman believes that she’s strong enough to face her journey...but a woman of strength has faith that it is in this journey she will become strong.
The 16th annual Walk to Remember was by far our most memorable Walk yet. Despite the unusually cold temperatures, more than 1,000 people attended to remember more than 300 babies. We were beyond blessed with special singer and speaker, Nicol Sponberg. Nicol is a Christian recording artist, and one of the founding members of the Christian group, Selah. In 2008, the Sponbergs lost their sweet son, Luke, to SIDS. Luke’s death came just a few short weeks following the death of his cousin, Audrey Caroline, infant daughter of Angie and Todd Smith. Nicol shared her heartbreaking story of finding Luke not breathing in his crib, her journey of grief, and most importantly, how we have hope in the Lord and through Him, the assurance of seeing our babies again. Nicol also beautifully sang songs from her most recent CD, *On Our Way Home*.

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

Thank you to our sponsors for the M.E.N.D.-Dallas Walk to Remember

Joe’s Crab Shack
Leigh Melton
Liz and Robert Walker
Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie
Main Street Signs and Graphics
Mary Steen
Mavericks Sports Grill
McAlister’s Deli
Travis and Jennifer Jones
Texas Motor Speedway
On the Border
Sweets by Belinda/Belinda Rodela
Panera Bread
Precious Moments
Rachael McClelland
Ripley’s Believe It or Not
Rob and Cheryl Davis
Rudy’s BBQ Arlington
Spaghetti Warehouse
Spring Creek BBQ
Sterling Images by Brittney Fish
Steve and Becky Carter
String Bean Restaurant
Good Day Café
The Grease Monkey Burger Shop
Tina and Michael Rusert
1 Fratelli Pizza
Tommy and Brea Darnell
Brian and Melissa Webb
Pioneer Natural Resources
Jeanie Lindsey
Danny and Helen Lynch
Steve and Michelle Skrasek
The Havens Spa
Tina and Pravin Kurishingal
Amanda McCaffrey
Amber and Al Zuckerman
Anything Goes
Twisted Root Burger Company
Babe’s Chicken Arlington
Black Eye Pea
Bob’s Steak and Chop House
Chuck E. Cheese
Jeany Martin
Chuy’s
Cotton Patch Café
Cracker Barrel Old Country Store
Dallas Cowboys Stadium
Dallas Mavericks
Dallas Stars
Dallas Zoo
DeAnna Cochran Jewelry
Dr. Delphinium Florist
El Chico Café
FC Dallas
Fort Worth Zoo
Freebirds World Burritos
Genghis Grill
Golden Corral Grand Prairie
Home Depot
In-N-Out Burger Corp
Inspired Creations by CEO
Jena’s Jems Etsy Store
Jim and Larissa Wheeler
Jimmy Bridges
Norma Jordan
Rhonda Adams
Dudley and Marcia Calhoun
Joseph and Sara Averett
Forth Worth Cats Baseball
Jamberry Independent consultant Noel Giger
Tammy Darnell

Thirty-one Independent Consultant Jennifer Wheelbarger
Grand Prairie Air Hogs Minor League Baseball
Origami Owl Independent Consultant Krista Saysananam
Dentistry of Las Colinas/Byron L. Mitchell, DDS
Diamond Beachbody Coach Melissa Stephens
M.E.N.D.-Houston Walk To Remember

We had a beautiful day in Houston, Texas, with more than 600 people to remember 180 babies. We want to thank Bammel Road Church of Christ, Grief Share Ministry, for their wonderful facility, generosity and hospitality; from greeters to golf carts, you made this day very special for a lot of people. Thank you to Jonathan and Heather Fann, Director of the SW Missouri chapter, who drove from Springfield, Missouri, to share what is on their hearts with grieving families of Houston. Thank you to Sharon Ledgerwood, who beautifully played the piano for us throughout the ceremony. Finally, thank you to Rebekah Maddux - El Hakam, whose beautiful voice blessed us all! The two songs she sang, “Hallelujah, I Love You” and “Your Promises,” are available on iTunes.

I want to give a very special thank you to the Houston Walk committee. Without them, this ceremony would not have been possible: Randy and Cortney Dobbins, Ana Ayon, Robyn Anderson, Leah Robilotto-Bass, Gerald Crump, Chad Smith, Ryan Massey, Rosemary Massey, Brandy Wilson, Tim and Sarah Winebrenner, Mitzi Wells, Merle Johnson, Janie Lewis, Shane Meyer, Chiara Ott, Nichole Rowan, Stephanie Estala, Greg and Stefanie Miller, Beverlyann Whigham, Stormy Mitchell, Kimberly Adams, Diana Light and Mariana Horowitz.

I want to give a very special thank you to the Houston Walk committee. Without them, this ceremony would not have been possible: Randy and Cortney Dobbins, Ana Ayon, Robyn Anderson, Leah Robilotto-Bass, Gerald Crump, Chad Smith, Ryan Massey, Rosemary Massey, Brandy Wilson, Tim and Sarah Winebrenner, Mitzi Wells, Merle Johnson, Janie Lewis, Shane Meyer, Chiara Ott, Nichole Rowan, Stephanie Estala, Greg and Stefanie Miller, Beverlyann Whigham, Stormy Mitchell, Kimberly Adams, Diana Light and Mariana Horowitz.

Thank you to our sponsors for the M.E.N.D.-Houston Walk to Remember

The Avery Grace Kargel Memorial
Bammel Road Church of Christ,
Grief Share Ministry
GW Air Services
Shane Meyer
Joseph and Janie Lewis
Adrian and Monica Balderama
Earl and Karen Zeller
Ana Ayon and Hernan Krymkiewicz
David and Robin Smith
Milk and Honey Bakery

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri Balloon Release

Our 2nd Annual Breakfast and Balloon Release for Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness was more than double last year’s attendance. Despite the wind and chilly temperatures, we had 75 people representing 36 babies in heaven release 110 balloons. Special thanks to my committee (Heather Bass, Kathryn Gold and Kathleen Moore) for their help, as well as Kathleen’s father and grandfather to Lily Joy, Ray Neely, for all his help onsite. Also, thanks to the Mitchell family for their years of service to bereaved families nationwide and for Rebekah’s message as our guest speaker. Lastly, thanks to Michelle Cramer for capturing our memories in pictures, and to Meaghan Daniels, who blessed us with her beautiful voice.

Thank you to our sponsors for the M.E.N.D.-Houston Walk to Remember

The Avery Grace Kargel Memorial
Bammel Road Church of Christ,
Grief Share Ministry
GW Air Services
Shane Meyer
Joseph and Janie Lewis
Adrian and Monica Balderama
Earl and Karen Zeller
Ana Ayon and Hernan Krymkiewicz
David and Robin Smith
Milk and Honey Bakery

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Joseph and Janie Lewis
Adrian and Monica Balderama
Earl and Karen Zeller
Ana Ayon and Hernan Krymkiewicz
David and Robin Smith
Milk and Honey Bakery
M.E.N.D. Chapter Corner

Chapter Meeting Information

**M.E.N.D. — Houston**
Meets the 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Northwest Medical and Professional Building
17117 Cali Dr, Suite 112, Houston, TX 77090
Director: Jaimie Crump
jaimie@mend.org, (281) 374-8528

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

**Daddy’s group** meets quarterly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m., led by Tim Winebrenner (swinebrenner2004@yahoo.com).

**M.E.N.D. — Texarkana**
Meets 3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m.
CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehab Hospital
2400 St. Michael Drive
Texarkana, TX 75503
Director: Monica Davis
monica@mend.org, (903) 490-1210

**M.E.N.D. — Tulsa**
Meets the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Canyon Crossing
1651 E Old North Rd.
Sand Springs, Oklahoma 74063
Director: Lisa Daily
lisa@mend.org, (918) 694-4325 (HEAL)

**M.E.N.D. — SW Missouri**
Meets the 1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Project H.O.P.E.
1419 S. Enterprise
Springfield, Missouri 65804
Director: Heather Fann
heather@mend.org, (417) 818-0489

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

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

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

**NW Washington**

We are transitioning nicely these last few months as I have taken over as Chapter Director, and I feel very welcomed by our group. I have been a part of our group from the first meeting, and feel truly blessed to see how God is working in my life because of my losses. I have a wonderful team with three new assistants, Katherine Sandoval, Rachel Lewis and Bethany Wilson. I am so glad to have such a great team of ladies helping me. The chapter celebrated its 2nd birthday in October! We are busy planning our Christmas Candlelight service, which will be on December 7.

*Stacy McGhee*

**Houston**

We are excited about the upcoming Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on Saturday, December 1, 2012. We will be holding it at Metropolitan Baptist Church in the Truth Building. Information and reservations will be up soon on www.mend.org. To receive an invitation or to ask questions, please contact Jaimie at jaimie@mend.org.

*Jaimie Crump*

**Hot Springs**

**M.E.N.D. — Hot Springs** is preparing for our first Christmas Candlelight Ceremony. The ceremony will take place December 1, 2012, at New Life Church in Hot Springs beginning at 7:00 p.m. A dessert fellowship will follow the ceremony. If you would like to help in any way or would like more information, please call Amy Humphries at (501) 276-5034.

*Amy Humphries*

**Texarkana**

**M.E.N.D. — Texarkana** is looking forward to our 6th Annual Candlelight Ceremony. This very special event will be Saturday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Beech Street First Baptist Church, Family Activities Center. If you would like more information about this ceremony, please contact Monica Davis at (903) 490-1210, or email monica@mend.org.

*Monica Davis*

**Amarillo**

BUNCO for BABIES was a complete success! We cannot thank everyone enough for the support you showed. We look forward to seeing you all again.

Wrapping for **M.E.N.D.** will be Saturday, December 8, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We will be holding this at the Southwest Church of Christ, on the corner of Cornell and 45th.

*Becky Anderson*

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**Looking Ahead**

**M.E.N.D. Christmas Candlelight Ceremonies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M.E.N.D.</th>
<th>Christmas Candlelight Ceremonies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hot Springs</td>
<td>Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/1/12</td>
<td>12/1/12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact your chapter for more details on the events.
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.*

**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 grandparents) 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.*

Mommes 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

Seth and Marcie Nienhuis
of Tulsa, Oklahoma,
along with siblings Landon and Olivia,
joyfully announce the arrival of
James David,
born September 19, 2012,
measuring 8 lb., 3 oz.,
and 21.25 inches long.
The Nienhuis family lovingly remembers
Samuel James,
stillborn October 14, 2006,
Factor V Leiden

Sarah and Yoshi Fukasawa
of Wichita Falls, Texas,
along with siblings Ava and Noah,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Grace,
born September 22, 2012,
measuring 6 lb., 12 oz.,
and 19.5 inches long.
The Fukasawas lovingly remember
Jacob,
stillborn February 8, 2010,
unknown cause

Sean and Ashley Dugan
of Katy, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Addison Elizabeth,
born August 27, 2012,
measuring 5 lb., 8 oz.,
and 17.75 inches long.
The Dugans lovingly remember
Royce Haskell,
stillborn October 9, 2011,
cord accident

Willy and Carrie Earls
of Springfield, Missouri,
along with big brothers Colton and Ethan,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Simon Parker William,
born September 29, 2012,
measuring 8 lb., 3 oz.,
and 21 inches long.
The Earls lovingly remember
Lucas,
stillborn June 1, 2012,
and Caleb,
June 1 - 2, 2012,
Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome

Jeff and Kimberly Adams
of Spring, Texas,
along with siblings
Caroline, Joshua and Weston,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Colton Daniel,
born July 29, 2012,
measuring 6 lb., 14 oz.
The Adams family lovingly remembers
Anna,
miscarried August 29, 2005,
Benjamin Daniel,
stillborn February 14, 2006,
unknown cause,
Baby Adams,
miscarried July 20, 2006,
and Jonathan Daniel,
stillborn September 8, 2011

Peter and Rachel Dell
of Springfield, Missouri,
along with big brother Zeke,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Hezekiah “Kye” David,
born September 4, 2012,
measuring 10 lb., 1 oz.,
and 22 inches long.
The Dells lovingly remember
Grace Kathryn,
stillborn March 17, 2008,
PROM at 20 weeks

Perry and Michelle Webster
of Republic, Missouri,
along with siblings Hannah, Shyann,
Ethan, Simon and Brianna,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Jacob Perry,
born June 28, 2012,
measuring 7 lb., 12 oz.,
and 21 inches long.
The Websters lovingly remember
Kaylee Jo,
stillborn July 24, 2007,
cord accident

Eric and Beatrice Merrill
of Poulson, Washington,
along with siblings
Nicolina, Lionel and Jordan,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Savannah Joy,
born August 25, 2012,
measuring 8 lb., 7 oz.,
and 21 inches long.
The Merrills lovingly remember
Oliver James,
June 14, 2011,
Potters Syndrome

Light A Quiet Candle

Light a quiet candle,
Send a quiet kiss,
Say a fare-thee-well,
To the one you miss.

Light a quiet candle,
Share a loving hand,
Pray a silent prayer,
For others to understand.

Light a quiet candle,
Shed a quiet tear,
Sing a quiet lullaby,
The Christmas Star will hear.

By Sascha Wagner
Infants Remembered In Silence, Inc.
www.irisremembers.com,
Retrieved October 9, 2011
Del Dolor al agradecimiento y la alegría

A las personas parecía encantarles, citarme párrafos de las escrituras después de mis pérdidas, al mejor pensando que podrían ser una solución instantánea para mi dolor. Apostaría a que alguien me escribió o me dijo aquel verso cada día durante meses después de que Jonathan nació muerto. Las escrituras dicen: Y nosotros sabemos que en todas las cosas en que Dios trabaja son para el bien de aquellos que lo aman, quienes han sido llamados conforme a sus propósitos. De alguna manera logré educadamente sonreír y asentir mi cabeza cuando me lo decían de frente, pero en privado, recuerdo las veces que levantaba mi puño en el aire y le gritaba a Dios, “Cómo es posible que salga algo bueno de esto? Mi bebé está muerto! Entonces tú muéstrame lo bueno!”

Con el tiempo vi y continue viendo muchas cosas que resultaron después de la muerte de Jonathan, y después de nuevo con el aborto involuntario. Yo aprendí a concentrarme más en las cosas buenas, las cuales eventualmente se convertirían al agradecimiento y a la alegría. Me siento increíblemente agradecida con M.E.N.D. y de la forma que el Señor utilizó mis perdidas para crear tan bello ministerio. Amo a mi familia más allá de las palabras. Byron y yo hemos forjado amistades que de lo contrario nunca habrían sucedido. Y he sido testigo del desarrollo de otras numerosas amistades especiales entre compañeros de la familia M.E.N.D. Estoy agradecida de que Dios me ha confiado el privilegio y la responsabilidad de “pastorear” a tantas familias sufridas. Estoy agradecida por la oportunidad de visitar a las familias recién afectadas en el hospital, asistir a los funerales de su bebé y estar con ellos durante las horas más oscuras de sus vidas. Estoy agradecida por el sueño que llega como fruto de las múltiples conferencias cada año en el área de hospitales para educar y enseñar al personal médico sobre la angustia y la realidad de lo que nosotros como familias hemos soportado después de la muerte de un bebé. Y estoy agradecida por lo que el Señor tiene planificado para el futuro de M.E.N.D.

Por medio del Señor, en medio de mi aflicción, he encontrado mucha alegría. El profeta Nehemías nos dice en la Biblia, “...el gozo del Señor es tu fuerza.” No hay ninguna duda en mi mente que sin su regalo de alegría, no sería quien soy hoy. Sin duda, sería una mujer solemne, amargada y aburrida, muy probablemente sin la fuerza necesaria para hacer lo que hago cada día con M.E.N.D. Aunque parezca una locura, nosotros, los líderes de M.E.N.D., tenemos bastantes divergencias en nuestras Juntas de directores, reuniones anuales de la Conferencia de liderazgo, las reuniones del Comité y preparativos para ceremonias grandes. Muchos de nosotros hemos viajado juntos durante los años visitando capítulos de M.E.N.D. donde hemos tenido la alegría de ir a lugares que probablemente no hubiéramos conocido si no fuera por esta razón. Nos hemos reído juntos cuando casi nos quedarnos sin gasolina en largos caminos de viaje (realmente no fue gracioso), nos hemos quedado varados juntos en bicicleta debido a las lluvias torrenciales y tener que ser rescatadas por mi esposo y hasta un avistamiento de Pie Grande! Hemos tenido el honor de visitar dos veces la granja Amish de una de nuestras familias M.E.N.D. en Missouri y nos familiarizamos con su absolutamente fascinante forma de vida. Con alegría he amado el privilegio de reunirme y pasar tiempo con mujeres increíblemente fuertes en el mundo de pérdidas infantiles como autora Nancy Guthrie y artista de grabación Nicol Sponberg. Me he reído con anfitriones de radio y televisión donde he tenido el honor de ser su invitada. Y alegremente he contado mi historia a numerosos reporteros a través de los años y luego encantada de poder ver la fotografía de mi precioso bebé atada a nuestra historia en diversos diarios y revistas. Todo esto me trae alegría sin medida.

Mientras esta temporada navideña se acerca y si esta es su primera fiesta desde su pérdida, o si ha sufrido muchas, saben que de hecho, Dios trabaja todas las cosas juntas para nuestro bien. No parece así al principio o incluso durante mucho tiempo, pero le prometo, que él lo hará. Dependes de nosotros, por medio del Señor, desarrollar un espíritu de gratitud y una actitud de alegría. Haga el esfuerzo de ser agradecida por solo una cosa. Ríase de usted misma de algo hoy, espere y mire lo que Dios hará!

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

Joy

Joy to the world, the Lord has come,  
Is sung this time of year.  
However, losing a child and a part of myself  
Has stolen my joy, I fear.

This season is hard when the hole in my heart  
Is causing me to forget  
What You did for me when You came to earth  
To feel pain and suffer and yet…

You chose me and You saved me  
Your grace is a priceless gift  
It was undeserved because I am not worthy,  
But You gave it to me so I could live.

Please fill my heart with Your abundant joy  
So I may be a witness for You  
That even though I painfully grieve  
I know Your perfect plan is true.

Let others see Your joy in me  
Let You be the only reason  
That during this suffering and anguishing trial  
I am rejoicing during this season.

♥ Jaimie Crump,  
Mommy to Abigail Grace  
M.E.N.D.—Houston
Thanksgiving – a time of reflection of all that we are blessed with and to be thankful. Or at least that’s what Hallmark says and the media gives a small glimpse of between the Black Friday and Christmas commercials. To be honest, though, I have never enjoyed Thanksgiving. My husband and I are in the state of our lives where we must travel to everyone’s Thanksgiving dinners—not just two or three, but four, in one day, plus a fifth one on Saturday. We try to eat a sampling at every dinner to please all, then get in the car and travel to the next one. It is an exhausting holiday to us, but three years ago, we felt we were at the top of the mountain that Thanksgiving, only to come crashing off the cliff a week later.

Three years ago was supposed to be the best Thanksgiving ever, one that everyone would remember. We were announcing that we were expecting. We surprised everyone with our announcement (we had been married for eight years so I think some gave up hope). Everyone was overjoyed for us. The Friday after Thanksgiving, I began spotting. I did not think anything about it since the doctor said it was normal for women to have spotting. The following Thursday, my husband and I went to hear our little baby’s heartbeat. After searching for a heartbeat in the doctor’s office and then having an ultrasound, we were told our baby was already gone. That was the beginning of our world crashing down around us.

The next year for Thanksgiving was brutal. Instead of sharing our baby’s first Thanksgiving, we were arriving with just a casserole dish. We went to all the dinners and made it through the motions, but I really wanted to be curled up in bed, hiding under the covers. Another friend announced she was pregnant, so that just put another damper on my “oh so wonderful day” (insert sarcasm here).

Last year was a little better. We were expecting Levi to be born the following week, but even with that excitement, I still had my down moments on Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving will never be the same, and I still struggle at finding my new normal. As I try to prepare myself for the holiday this year, I have been thinking about the things that I am thankful for—to find happiness during sad times. Sometimes it is so easy to get lost in our loss, that we forget what is around us, what we have that makes continuing each day worthwhile. Here are some of the things I am thankful for, and hopefully you will find some ideas also.

♦ I am thankful for my church family. I had many that supported me through this journey, and one lady actually gave me the brochure to M.E.N.D., which brought me to the group. I can tell you from experience that church members do have their faults, and some may not be the best support, but when you find those who do raise you up, hang on to them and be there for them as they were for you.

♦ I am thankful for M.E.N.D. I was in a deep valley (and some days still travel down there), and M.E.N.D. held my hand in that valley, and slowly pulled me up the hill. We are so blessed by the friendships we have made through M.E.N.D. Now I am thankful for the opportunity to serve others through M.E.N.D. as the newsletter editor.

♦ I am thankful for the family members who truly supported me as we went through our loss. There were some who remembered me on my first Mother’s Day and would ask how we are doing (and not accept the answer of “fine”).

♦ I am thankful for my husband. He has been by my side the entire time. He is not perfect and has to be reminded of some anniversary dates, but when I was in my darkest valley, I knew he needed me just as much as I needed him. When I felt like I could not live for myself, I lived for him, as he did for me.

♦ It has taken me almost three years to be at this point, but I am thankful for my God. In the beginning I did not feel like I needed Him. In fact, I was angry with Him and did not want anything to do with Him. After some time, I began to see how much others needed Him and how they covet our prayers to Him for their own hope and healing. So while I felt like I could not pray to God for myself, I took the burdens of others to Him and laid them at His feet. At times I still struggle laying my own burdens down, but I know that I can help others by being a prayer warrior for them.

♦ I am thankful for Serenity. While I hate that I had to go through her loss and that I do not have her in my arms, her short little life has opened doors for me to share with others my story and try to be a comfort to them. I am thankful for the blessing that she has been to us and others, and to all the other little ones in heaven.

So as you prepare for Thanksgiving, take a moment to find things that you are thankful for. There were times I was grasping at anything just to have something to be thankful for, but when I found those things I could be truly thankful for, I found peace and joy. I found blessings and was soon able to be a blessing to others.

♥ Jennifer Harrison,
Mommy to Serenity

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri/Newsletter Editor
When we are fresh in our loss, we sometimes struggle with how to honor our babies at the holidays. The tree below shares how our chapter directors honor their babies at Christmas through decorations.
“... 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.