The loss of our stillborn son Jonathan, not much in my life seemed good. Many times instead of cheering madly when Byron, Jr. scored a goal in soccer, I was assaulted with the realization that I would never see Jonathan put on cleats and do the same. When my little boy knocked the baseball off the tee, my rooting him on stopped abruptly when I remembered that he would never be able to teach his little brother how to hit the ball like him.

Without realizing it, I cheated myself of completely cherishing all of my living son’s milestones because I was dwelling on my dead son. Instead of being thankful for what I did have, I lived in sorrow for what I did not have. The apostle Paul instructs us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16 to give thanks in all circumstances. Note he does not tell us to be thankful for everything but in everything. In other words, we are not required to thank God that our babies died, but we are to thank Him in our time of sorrow. I had to learn to praise him for what I did have, despite what I had lost.

If you find yourself in the same despair as my friend and I during our time of suffering, as we enter this holiday season of thanks and joy, I encourage you to take some time and list all the blessings you have been given. If, like my friend, you honestly cannot come up with any, ask the Lord to help you. After you have written them down, commit to giving Him thanks and praise and I promise you, your heart will begin to heal.

Rebekah Mitchell
Thanksgiving means different things to different people. For some, “Thanksgiving” is synonymous with “football.” For others, Thanksgiving means family togetherness. And, of course, there are those for whom it’s all about the turkey! While all of these things are enjoyable aspects of the holiday, most of us would agree that Thanksgiving is primarily a time to meditate upon the good things in our life and to give thanks to God for those blessings.

At this time last year, I had trouble seeing any of the good things in my life. Yes, I had supportive friends and a wonderful family, but I wanted my son. Yes, I lived in a beautiful house, but the nursery was empty. Yes, I had food on my table, but I was too depressed to eat. I had always been thankful for my many blessings, but I found myself bargaining with God that He could take all those things away if I could just have the one good thing that I desired – my son in my arms.

Of course, our idea of a “good thing” may be different than what God knows is good for us. This is something with which I’ve struggled tremendously in the last year. God promises to work out all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes. But as hard as I’ve tried (and oh, how hard I’ve tried!), I can’t even begin to imagine how the death of my son, David, is working out for good. I know that David’s life had a positive effect on many people, but surely he would have done many more wonderful things for the Lord had he been given the opportunity.

I have prayed fervently that God would reveal His purposes to me, or even give me a glimpse of David in heaven. But God has not answered my requests. Instead, He asks me to trust in His purposes – even if I don’t understand them. He asks us to believe that David is now in heaven - even if I can’t see Him there with my own eyes. In short, He asks me to have faith.

It’s important to remember that our faith cannot be based upon our feelings. Feelings are fleeting; faith must be unwavering. My feelings tell me that if God loved me, my son would be alive and healthy in my arms this Thanksgiving. But my faith reminds me that God’s purposes are so great that I cannot begin to fathom His beautiful plan. So this Thanksgiving, I will look at my blessings and I will be thankful – for all of them.

As the Holidays Near

By Kahlilia Woodlon, MIRA’s mommy

This is a special time of year for many There are presents and songs and cheer aplenty
Be gentle with her this time of year
Death has invaded, her cries please hear

Dazzling colors so bright and new Holiday festivities sharing family and friendship so true
Her heart is broken, shedding sorrow and tears
It will be this way for the rest of her years
Remember her child, as she surely will
The feelings she has, time could never kill

Although for one there is pain and sorrow Not knowing how she will feel tomorrow So light a candle to show you care
Buy a gift her child could share
During this time you should just be kind
She appreciates you kept her in mind

In memory of MIRA
July 23, 2003, Prematurity
© MIRA’s Mommy Kahlilia
Another Christmas in Heaven
by Samantha Iliff,
in memory of Logan David, 5/5/00
Written December 2001

'Twas the night before Christmas, I'm asleep in my bed
When a long, white feather floats softly on my head
I awake to discover it's Christmas morn
And I see my baby boy, all cuddly and warm
He's smiling so sweet, he reaches out for me
I rush to his side, hugging and kissing him with glee
He takes my hand and guides me to the most glorious of sights
Another Christmas up in Heaven, complete with Heavenly lights
Halls are decked with boughs of holly
Boys playing with trucks, girls dressing up dollies
The most beautiful Christmas tree is shining so bright
For all the baby angels' holiday delight
Christmas bells are ringing, it's such a joyful day
I'm singing with my baby, and watching him play
He's playing with other babies, beautiful boys and girls
It must be Heaven, I think. There's nothing like it in this world
Stockings line the fireplace, filled with candy and toys
And moms hold their babies, hearts lifted up with joy
As children dance and sing and play around the Christmas tree
A special visitor comes by to visit, and to talk with me
It's Jesus our Lord, He wants to speak of things yet to be
He tells me that one day all too soon this will be reality
But for now my place is here on Earth without my precious son
And with that, I'm awake, I sit up in bed, my Christmas dream is done
Another Christmas in Heaven, without a doubt
Is a glorious sight to see
The most perfect Christmas imaginable
With my Lord, my son, and me

Samantha's poem is a sequel to a poem she wrote December 2000,
originally printed in our November/December 2004 issue.
You can access it at www.mend.org/newsletters/2004nov-dec.pdf.
Tributes to Our Special Babies

Happy First Birthday, My Son Kevin Paul

Oh how I love and miss my little boy, Kevin Paul! How proud I am to have such an adorable son! Ever since I heard you were coming into our world, I dreamed of so many things we would do: basketball, teaching you to ride your tricycle, going to church, hugs, kisses, lots of ice cream and so much more. Now you are our eternal angel and we keep you so close to our hearts.

Kevin Paul, I pray to God to do for you on this, your first birthday and always, the things I yearn to do.

Our Love Is Forever
Forever Your Mommy
xxx000

P.S. Kevin Paul please watch over your sister, Cassandra, she loves and misses you too.

Kevin Paul Denuel
Stillborn December 14, 2004
Cord Accident
Mother: Kathy Denuel
Sister: Cassandra

Happy Birthday, Celeste!

It’s been a year since you came into our lives,
And touched our hearts.
We will be thinking of you on your birthday,
Just as much as every day we spend without you.

You taught us so much
In the short time you were in our lives.
And you continue to teach us,
Because your memory remains.

We wish we were watching you take your first steps,
And hearing you speak your first words.
Mommy wishes she could smother you with kisses,
And Daddy wishes he could see that big smile on your face.

We wish you the best birthday ever
And send many hugs and kisses to you.
Though you are not in our arms,
You will always be in our hearts!!!

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

Celeste Kimberly Reid
December 7 – 8, 2004
Neonatal Hemochromatosis
Parents: Skip Reid and Andie Boston

Happy 4th Birthday Catherine Mary

Four years old is what you would be,
running barefoot in the grass and gazing at trees.

I imagine your sweet face filled with delight
and I imagine God hugging you ever so tight.

We miss you and love you my darling, my dear.
We send you this special birthday kiss
as we honor another year.
Happy birthday sweet angel.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and little brother Alex

In Loving Memory of Catherine Mary Martin
Stillborn December 15, 2001
Trisomy 18
Parents: Nancy and Glenn Martin

Happy 1st Birthday to Our Precious Babies,
Cole, Kaylyn, and Hannah!

We cannot believe a year has gone by. Our family still feels the void with each passing day. We wish this year had been different and you were home with us to stay. The angels took you quietly, but our memories will last a lifetime. You will be in our hearts forever and thought of each and every day. On this anniversary we again say, “We love you, we miss you, and happy birthday!”

All our love,
Mom, Dad, and big sister Ally

Cole Michael Busker,
Kaylyn Rial Busker,
and Hannah Elizabeth Busker
Stillborn December 10, 2004
Ecoli Infection
Parents: Mike and Kim Busker
Big sister: Ally

Happy Birthday Andrew!!

Today, November 11, 2005, would have been your fifth birthday, and I would have been planning a special birthday party for you. Andrew, I miss you dearly and I think of you daily and wonder how big you might be. The Lord has a plan for your life there in heaven, and some day I will join you, but until then I share the love I have for you with other children I baby-sit for. Remember, Andrew, you are always in my heart and soul.

I love you so much! Until then, love, your mother

Andrew Joseph Jack, stillborn November 11, 2000, heart attack during labor
Mother: Patty Jack

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All our love,
Mom, Dad, and big sister Ally

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Kaylyn Rial Busker,
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I love you so much! Until then, love, your mother

Andrew Joseph Jack, stillborn November 11, 2000, heart attack during labor
Mother: Patty Jack
Joshua and Jeromy,

My goodness how life has changed for your dad and I over the last nine years! Most of the changes have been for the better. For example, the addition of four more boys into our home has been a blessing. Your dad and brothers have converted me into a sports fan! This is a huge change! We now have a greater appreciation for life. That, of course, is a positive change. There are changes however that I struggle with on a daily basis. Like the fact that there is a hole in my heart that will never fill no matter how many other children I have. When you died a piece of me died with you. I sometimes miss the old me. The one who had faith and who was fearless. The one who saw good in everything. I have changed into a person who is scared, not trusting and often negative. The hardest change for me is that I cannot change the changes. I cannot fix everything. I don't have all of the solutions. I have had to come to terms with the fact that there are things out of my control!

No matter how many years pass I will never forget the greatest change in my life. Joshua and Jeromy, you two boys made me a mommy. I will cherish this change forever.

I love you so much.
Mom

Joshua and Jeromy Barsanti
Stillborn November 21, 1996, Anencephaly
Parents: Randy and DaLana Barsanti
Siblings: Taylor Wesley, Collin, Harrison, and Riley

Our Precious Caleb,

Our first-born child...that’s you! It’s hard to believe you'd be turning two. Some days it seems like only yesterday that we anticipated your arrival. Other days we remember the last time...the only time...we held you close and then had to let you go. But every day, we think of you and miss you more than words can say. We know you're being a great big brother to August, and we love you both very much. We long to be together again and pray that you know how much we love you.

Happy Birthday, Baby.
Love,
Mommy & Daddy

Caleb Barsanti
Stillborn November 21, 1996, Anencephaly
Parents: Randy and DaLana Barsanti
Siblings: Taylor Wesley, Collin, Harrison, and Riley

Happy Birthday Lucas!
You are two years old. We all miss you very much.
Seems like just yesterday, I held you in my arms. Your dad and I often wonder what you’d be like today. Lucas, you are always in our hearts. Have a great birthday.

Love you,
Dad, Mom, Dillon and Dalton

Lucas Burleson
December 9, 2004, Cord accident
Parents: Celina and Bradley Burleson
Siblings: Dillon and Dalton

Remembering Our Sweet Baby Charlie
For four years we have lived with our broken hearts
And not a day goes by that we don’t think of you.

We miss you, Son.

Love,
Mom, Dad, big sister Jenny, and little brother Tommy

Charlie Donald
November 10, 2001, Unknown cause
Parents: Mark & Amy Donald Siblings: Jenny and Tommy

Happy Birthday Kassandra

In memory of Kassandra Voulis
Stillborn November 11, 1992, Cord Accident
Parents: Gary and Michelle McHone Siblings: Ryan and Eryn
Remembering Baby McHone
Miscarried September 19, 2002

Happy Birthday Kassandra

Love, Mommy, Daddy, Ryan, Eryn
and your little sibling in heaven

In loving memory of
Kassandra Voulis
December 11, 1992
Cord Accident
Parents: Gary and Michelle McHone Siblings: Ryan and Eryn
Remembering Baby McHone
Miscarried September 19, 2002

In loving memory of
Caleb Scott Fann
December 1, 2003
Premature Rupture of Waters
Also lovingly remembering
Baby August
August 13, 2005
Miscarried at 8 weeks

For Jameson

To our little man,
Four years ago, you left us behind as you were heaven bound. Although we miss you so very much, we see your soul in the clouds ... your smile in the sunshine ... and your handsomeness in the stars above. We carry our love for you in our hearts along with all the memories that will never be erased.

Happy 4th birthday, Jameson!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy,
Julianna, Jared, and Janelle

In loving memory of Jameson Cole Ripple
December 14—21, 2001
Campomelic Dysplasia
Parents: Dawn and Kevin Ripple Siblings: Julianna, Jared and Janelle

In loving memory of Jameson Cole Ripple
December 14—21, 2001
Campomelic Dysplasia
Parents: Dawn and Kevin Ripple Siblings: Julianna, Jared and Janelle

M.E.N.D. would like to recognize the following people and businesses for their part in making this year's Walk to Remember a reality. We are truly grateful for your support.

Committee Members
Rebekah and Byron Mitchell
Joseph and Samantha Iliff
Lori DeLaTorre
Lynn and Mary Steen
Craig and Melanie Boyd
Art and Denise Wozniak
Jaimie Crump
Marie Stockdale
Shannon Outen
DaLana Barsanti
David and Brittney Fish
Marilyn Brown
Angeliqne Sohn
Sam and April Moreton
Yvette Grau

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Tofel Construction, Tucson, AZ
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Sterling Sales and Solutions
Oh! For Keepsake
Traditions
Inspired Creations by CEO
Dentistry of Las Colinas
Irving Chiropractic and Wellness
Frito Lay
Calvary Church of Irving
Joe and Samantha Iliff
Hobby Lobby/ Arlington
Craig and Melanie Boyd
Little Beads and Macaroni & Cheese

Photos of this year's Walk to Remember can be viewed at www.mend.org.

"A woman who loses a husband is called a widow. A child who loses parents, an orphan. There is not name for a parent who loses a child, because there is no word to describe the pain."

~ New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg
at a memorial service held on September 11, 2004

Canton in the City Benefits M.E.N.D.
If you have plans to shop at the Canton in the City holiday gift show in Grapevine, Texas, on Thanksgiving weekend, please complete the following coupon and present it at the door. For every coupon received bearing M.E.N.D.'s information, Canton in the City will donate $1 to M.E.N.D.

Present completed coupon upon admission to CANTON IN THE CITY “Holiday Gifts & More” shows and your Charity will receive a $1 DONATION, per SHOPPER, per SHOW with every paid $3 Adult admission. Shop CANTON IN THE CITY at the Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 South Main Street, Grapevine, TX 76051; Sat/Sun OCTOBER 15-16, 2005 and Sat/Sun NOVEMBER 26-27, 2005 (Thanksgiving weekend). Shop Saturday and Sunday 10-5. Parking is FREE!

Charity Name M.E.N.D. (Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death)
Charity Contact Rebekah Mitchell Charity Telephone (972) 506-9000
Charity Address P.O. Box 1007, Coppell, TX 75019

Coupon MUST be completed in its entirety to receive DONATION (No exceptions). Incomplete coupons will be honored only as a $1 DISCOUNT.
Thank you for shopping CANTON IN THE CITY “Holiday Gifts & More” shows, PO Box 754, Coppell, TX 75019 - Telephone (972) 471-0601
WWW.CANTONINTHECITY.COM / E-mail: CANTONINTHECITY@HOTMAIL.COM

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Understanding the Causes of Neonatal Loss
by Michelle McHone, BBA

In the past two issues of the M.E.N.D. newsletter (available at www.mend.org), Michelle has explained her reasons for researching causes of neonatal death. It is clear that many of us who have experienced the death of a newborn desire a better understanding of the physical anomalies that caused the demise of our children. In her final installment of this series, Michelle outlines a number of disorders or physiological causes of "fetal demise". They are listed alphabetically.

**Spina Bifida**- Spina bifida is the most common of all neural tube defects and happens in the first month of pregnancy when the spinal column doesn’t close completely. Can be detected by AFP testing. (April 28, 2005 www.sbaa.com)

**Tetralogy of Fallot**- A large ventricular septal defect (VSD - hole in the wall separating the right and left ventricles), and Pulmonary stenosis (obstructed blood flow to the lungs). The pulmonary arteries may be small as well. This is caused by "blue blood," low in oxygen, from the right ventricle passing through the VSD directly into the aorta and then to the body. Less than normal amounts of blood go to the lungs because of the obstruction from the pulmonary stenosis and smaller size of the pulmonary artery. The stress of pumping against the narrow pulmonary artery causes the right ventricle to enlarge and thicken.(April 28, 2005 www.siumed.edu/peds/teaching/Cardiology/tetralogy.htm)

**Triploidy**- Triploid Syndrome is an extremely rare chromosomal disorder. Individuals with triploid syndrome have three of every chromosome for a total of sixty-nine rather than the normal forty-six chromosomes. Babies with Triploid Syndrome usually are lost through early miscarriage. However, some infants have been born and survived as long as five months. Affected infants are usually small and have multiple birth defects. Those that survive are usually mosaic, meaning that some cells have the normal number of 46 chromosomes and some cells have a complete extra set of chromosomes. (May 4, 2005 http://my.webmd.com/hw/raising_a_family/nord710.asp)

**Trisomy**- 13 -Infants born with Trisomy 13 have a recognizable pattern of physical features that often allow the health professional to make the diagnosis of the syndrome. Notable physical birth defects and, sometimes, anatomic changes of internal organs are present. Findings of significance include small head size (microcephaly); small eyes (microphthalmia) or sometimes absent eye or faulty development of the retina. Cleft lip or cleft palate or both occur in about 60% of children. In addition, there are a number of less medically significant physical findings that are helpful in diagnosis. These include variations of ear shape, changes on the palm of the hand, and extra fingers and toes. Changes in foot development, including changes to the heel, the so-called rocker bottom foot, can occur. Almost 80% of those with Trisomy 13 will have a congenital heart defect. (April 28, 2005 http://www.trisomy.org/html/trisomy_13_facts.htm)

**Trisomy**- 18 -Infants born with Trisomy 18 usually have small size at birth. There is a recognizable pattern of physical features that often allow the health professional to make the diagnosis of the syndrome. These physical findings are not medically significant but provide clues. They include: prominence to the back part of the head, short eyelid fissures, small mouth and jaw, external ear variations, clenched fist with index finger overlapping the third and 5th finger overlapping the 4th, small fingernails, underdeveloped or altered thumbs, short sternum (breastbone), club feet and redundant skin at the back of the neck. (April 28, 2005 http://www.trisomy.org/html/trisomy_18_facts.htm)

**21**-Commonly called Down syndrome, one of the more notable aspects is the wide variety of features and characteristics of people with Trisomy 21: There is a wide range of mental retardation and developmental delay noted among children with Down syndrome. Heart defects are common. (Len Leshin, M.D. “Trisomy 21: The Story of Down Syndrome” par 6, April 28, 2005 www.ds-health.com/trisomy.htm)

**Twin-Twin Transfusion Syndrome**- Twin-Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS) is a rare disorder that sometimes occurs when women are pregnant with identical (monozygotic) twins. It is a rare disease of the placenta, the organ that joins the mother to her offspring and provides nourishment to the developing babies. During the development of identical twins, there are often blood vessels in the babies' shared placenta that connect their blood circulations (placental anastomoses). In most cases, the blood flows properly through these vessels. However, in Twin-Twin Transfusion Syndrome, the blood begins to flow unevenly, with one fetal twin receiving too much blood (recipient) and one receiving too little (donor). The recipient twin may experience heart failure due to continual strain on its heart and blood vessels (cardiovascular system). The donor twin, on the other hand, may experience life-threatening anemia due to its inadequate supply of blood. Such an imbalance in blood flow (i.e., twin-twin transfusion) can occur at any time during the pregnancy, including during delivery. (May 4, 2005 http://my.webmd.com/hw/being_pregnant/nord1025.asp)

**Unknown Causes**- I felt it crucial to include this "condition" in the definitions. There are many parents grieving a loss who do not have the medical details to support what happened to their baby. The results of testing may have been inconclusive, or the baby may have been too small to determine the exact cause; it’s important to consider these parents suffering the “unknown” upon the loss of their babies. When no diagnosis can be given, the loss is classified as “unknown cause.”

Many of us continue to search for a reason why we lost our children. In my case, the explanations made sense, yet the spiritual “whys” still linger. I’ve finished the research of many of the causes of loss that have been listed in our newsletter, and it is my hope that we can better understand the medical reasons behind the various conditions to continue to support each other. We are all members of this exclusive club: parents who have lost their precious children. It’s not a membership we desired, yet it ties us all together with such empathy and compassion. Matthew 18:20 reads, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.” Let us take comfort in the fact that God, too, lost a Child that we might be here to support each other during our time of need. ♥
M.E.N.D.

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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!

Alexis and Nicole Rudeen
Stillborn March 11, 2002
Unknown Cause
Given by parents Randy and Sherri Rudeen and siblings Julie, Sara, Jordyn, and Sydney

David Atkins Stephens
October 23, 2003
Omphalocele
Given by parents Rob and Melissa Stephens and little brother C.J.

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell
Stillborn June 24, 1995
Cord Accident

Baby Mitchell
Miscarried December 2001
Parents: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
Big Brother: Byron, Jr.
Given by grandparents Dennis and Sue Brewer

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell
Stillborn June 24, 1995
Cord Accident

Baby Mitchell
Miscarried December 2001
Parents: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
Big Brother: Byron, Jr.
Given by Dentistry of Las Colinas

Rianne Elissa Scrivner
March 4 - 7, 1997
Hydrocephaly
Parents: Rae and Bill Scrivner
Little sisters: Chanie, Casidy, and Canlie
Given by Pinnacle Mergers & Acquisitions II

Erika Brianne Grau
July 9 - August 3, 1997
Anoxic Brain Injury due to Ruptured Uterus
Given by parents Ray and Yvette Grau and siblings Nikryan and Nataly

Kyle Charles Walton
November 19, 1998
Group B Strep
Parents: Jason and Kristen Walton
Siblings: Jessica, Laura, and Joshua
Given by Moxie Pest Control of Georgia

Maria Kettrey
May 10, 2001
Complications of Amniocentesis
Given by parents Claudia and Billy Kettrey and siblings Dalila and Aiden

Timothy "Schuyler" Morren
September 28 - December 23, 1997
SIDS
Parents: Pam and Tim Morren
Little siblings: Ashton, Alexa, and Benjamin
Given by aunt Linda Lester

Ryland Michael Dixon
August 12, 2005
Infection
Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by Ed and Dale Tadelman

Ryland Michael Dixon
August 12, 2005
Infection
Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by Robert and Lois Olsen

Ryland Michael Dixon
August 12, 2005
Infection
Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by Robert and Nancy Scott

Ryland Michael Dixon
Stillborn August 12, 2005
Infection
Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by Anna Smith

Ryland Michael Dixon
Stillborn August 12, 2005
Infection
Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by Tracey Carter

Ryland Michael Dixon
Stillborn August 12, 2005
Infection
Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by Julia Maywald

Ryland Michael Dixon
Stillborn August 12, 2005
Infection
Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by Julie Stith

Ryland Michael Dixon
Stillborn August 12, 2005
Infection
Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by Albert and Josephine Dale

Ryland Michael Dixon
Stillborn August 12, 2005
Infection
Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by work friends of his uncle Ron

Garrett Anthony Mayer
October 12 - December 18, 1999
Tetralogy of Fallot
Parents: April and Tony Mayer
Little sister: Samantha
Given by Darlene and Mike Whitten

Kevin Paul Denuel
Stillborn December 14, 2004
Cord Accident

Twin Babies
Miscarried December 31, 1992
Given by mommy Kathy Denuel and sister Cassandra

Catherine Mary Martin
Stillborn December 15, 2001

Baby Martin I
Miscarried June 14, 2002

Baby Martin II
Miscarried September, 2002
Blighted Ovum
Parents: Nancy and Glenn Martin
Little brother: Alexander
Given by Barron Vending

Baby Laws
Given by Stephanie Simpson

Gift of Love
Given by Fontaine Laughlin

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Cord Accident
Given by parents
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Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by Robert and Nancy Scott

Ryland Michael Dixon
Stillborn August 12, 2005
Infection
Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by Anna Smith

Ryland Michael Dixon
Stillborn August 12, 2005
Infection
Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by Tracey Carter

Ryland Michael Dixon
Stillborn August 12, 2005
Infection
Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by Julia Maywald

Ryland Michael Dixon
Stillborn August 12, 2005
Infection
Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by Julie Stith

Ryland Michael Dixon
Stillborn August 12, 2005
Infection
Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by Albert and Josephine Dale

Ryland Michael Dixon
Stillborn August 12, 2005
Infection
Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon
Big sister: Leighanne
Given by work friends of his uncle Ron
would like to recognize McDonough Christian Church for their help in establishing a new Georgia chapter. Thank you for your generous donation.
I am not alone at all, I thought. I was never alone at all. And that, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the word seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses.

~ Taylor Caldwell
Subsequent Births

Moses and Robin Medero, along with big sisters Megan Kathryn and Rebecca Jannette of Woodlynne, New Jersey, joyfully announce the arrival of Jacqueline Rose, born May 13, 2005. She weighed 7 lb., 5 oz. The Mederos lovingly remember Matthew, miscarried June 27, 2001, unknown cause.

Jerry and Suzanne Schramm, along with big sister Morgan of Flower Mound, Texas, joyfully announce the arrival of Garrett James, born September 6, 2005. He weighed 8 lb., 8 oz., and measured 20 1/2 inches long. The Schramm family lovingly remembers Molly René, March 10, 2004, diaphragmatic hernia.

Shane and Allyson Smith, along with big sisters Hannah and Mia of Flower Mound, Texas, are thrilled to announce the adoption of their son, Isaiah Moses, born October 2004, arrived into the Smith family at nine months old. Moses was adopted while the Smiths were in Zambia this summer. The Smiths lovingly remember Troy Carlin, Feb 19, 1999, bladder obstruction.

Gary and Mary Beth Duke, along with big sister Erin of North Richland Hills, Texas, joyfully announce the arrival of Garrett Wesley, born September 16, 2005. He weighed 7 lb., 11 oz., and was 18 inches long. The Dukes will always remember their first son, John, December 22, 2001, unknown cause.

Melissa and Rob Stephens of Flower Mound, Texas, joyfully announce the arrival of C.J., born September 29, 2005. He weighed 7 lb., 3 oz., and was 20 1/2 inches long. The Stephens family lovingly remembers David Atkins, October 23, 2003, Omphalocole.


Gary and Mary Beth Duke, along with big sister Erin of North Richland Hills, Texas, joyfully announce the arrival of Garrett Wesley, born September 16, 2005. He weighed 7 lb., 11 oz., and was 18 inches long. The Dukes will always remember their first son, John, December 22, 2001, unknown cause.

Melissa and Rob Stephens of Flower Mound, Texas, joyfully announce the arrival of C.J., born September 29, 2005. He weighed 7 lb., 3 oz., and was 20 1/2 inches long. The Stephens family lovingly remembers David Atkins, October 23, 2003, Omphalocole.


M.E.N.D. Support Group Meetings
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.

Our Daddies group meets the 2nd Thursday of March, June, September, and December from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. This is a special time for daddies to get together and discuss concerns unique 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 of each month from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. For families who are considering becoming pregnant or are currently pregnant after a loss. Led by Lori DeLaTorre (lorid@inyourfaceshirts.com).

Playgroup For families with children born prior to or subsequent to a loss. Contact DaLana Barsanti at (817) 589-0588 fivekids@ev1.net (Playgroups meet at various locations around the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.)

Mommies AND daddies are both welcome at all M.E.N.D. meetings.

All main chapter support group meetings are held at:
Suggs Law Firm
1522 W. Airport Freeway, Suite 200
Irving, TX 75062
(Located on the south side of the highway, between MacArthur Boulevard and Story Road)
For more information, call (972) 506-9000.

Chapter Meeting Information
M.E.N.D. - NW Arkansas
Held the 1st Tuesday of every month from 7:00—8:30 p.m. at the Jones Center for Families, Room 114, 922 East Emma Avenue, Springdale, AR 72765.
For information, call 479-524-3500 or e-mail april@mend.org.

Subsequent pregnancy group meets in the same place the 4th Tuesday, 7:00—8:30, led by Pam Morren (pam@mend.org).

M.E.N.D. - Kansas
Meets the 2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m. at Cora Miller Hall/Newman Division of Nursing, Room 1007, 1127 Chestnut, Emporia, KS 66801. Director: Stephanie Metzger, Stephanie@mend.org. (620) 343-6357

M.E.N.D. - Houston
Meets the 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at South Montgomery County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands, TX 77380. Director: Jaimie Crump, Jaimie@mend.org. (281) 374-8528

M.E.N.D. - Georgia
Meets 2nd Monday at 7:00 at McDonough Women's Club, 199 Turner St., McDonough, GA 30253. Director: Marie Stockdale, Marie@mend.org. (770) 954-1115

To find other organizations that offer support groups in your area, visit www.mend.org.
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 who have and use a Kroger Share Card back to M.E.N.D. To obtain your Share Card, contact Rebekah (Rebekah@mend.org) and let her know how many you need.

Tom Thumb also has a program in Texas that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you have a Tom Thumb Reward Card, please ask your Tom Thumb cashier to link your card with M.E.N.D. Our number is 6265. Reward cards can also be used at Randall’s and Simon David stores.

Shannon Outen, a M.E.N.D. member, operates Oh! For Keepsakes, which offers photographic keepsakes and quilts. For every order that is placed in which the purchaser mentions M.E.N.D., Shannon will donate $2 to M.E.N.D. Visit her business at www.ohforkeepsakes.com.

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, Glenn will place, stock, and service the equipment and give M.E.N.D. 35 percent of the proceeds. His business has most of its route in the Grapevine and Southlake areas and could travel further into the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex for a high traffic location. 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. Every time you complete a survey M.E.N.D. will be automatically credited. Go to the website at http://www.i.think.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. Once you have completed the sign-up survey, including a valid email address, you’ll be contacted with an Internet address and password for specific surveys for you to take part in. At the end of the survey, press the “Submit” button, and M.E.N.D. will be automatically credited as the recipient of all money you have earned.

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.

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. Every time you complete a survey M.E.N.D. will be automatically credited. Go to the website at http://www.i.think.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. Once you have completed the sign-up survey, including a valid email address, you’ll be contacted with an Internet address and password for specific surveys for you to take part in. At the end of the survey, press the “Submit” button, and M.E.N.D. will be automatically credited as the recipient of all money you have earned.

Bob Nordberg is owner of www.buildatee.com in San Antonio. BuildATee.com is dedicated to providing customers with quality customized shirts, ballcaps, athletic wear, and gift items. Ten percent of online sales at BuildATee.com will be donated to M.E.N.D.

Little Beads & Macaroni & Cheese, owned by M.E.N.D. member Marilyn Brown, offers custom jewelry. Her keepsake angel bracelets are $20 each, and ten percent of each angel bracelet sale will be donated to M.E.N.D. Marilyn can be reached at 877/996-1920 or msbrown16@hotmail.com.

Tiffany Chalk is a consultant with Arbonne International, offering pure Swiss skin care, color, nutrition and aromatherapy. Tiffany will donate twenty percent of all sales by M.E.N.D. members back to M.E.N.D. To find out more, call 302-658-3775 or visit www.arbonne.com. Use Tiffany’s consultant ID #15111516 to shop online. Tiffany can also be reached at gr8skin@hotmail.com.

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.

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