One of the biggest fears we face as parents who have lost a baby is that people will forget our babies. Regularly I remind those who attend our support groups that it is up to us to ensure this does not happen. Your baby who died is not a deep, dark secret that you must hide from others. Yet many families find openly including their deceased children as part of the family uncomfortable. I believe we must make room for our heavenly child in our families as we see fit and not worry what those around us may think or say. It has been ten years since my baby Jonathan was stillborn, and thankfully his name is still commonly brought up in conversations among my immediate and extended family. No one squirms or holds their breath when the name Jonathan is mentioned. I attribute this to my husband Byron and I never being private about our loss and initiating talk about our son during the early days of grief, thereby giving our family and friends permission to do so as well.

So exactly how do you keep your baby’s memory alive? As I’ve already mentioned, don’t be intimidated to share your baby with those with whom you are close. However, sometimes this is easier said than done. Sadly, I hear parents tell our support group members that no one in their circle of friends nor their relatives want to talk about their loss. Some clearly attempt to change the subject when the heartbroken couple tries to share their emotions. If this is the case, you may need to sit down and have a heart-to-heart talk with your loved ones. Explain that your baby, although dead, is still your child and will always be a part of you. If your relationship with them is to remain close, then they need to accept the “new you” and allow you to open up and express yourself. Hopefully this will cause them to reconsider their insensitivity and be willing to share in your sorrow.

Further, don’t be afraid to display photographs of your child in your home or carry them in your wallet as you would pictures of a living child. You can be as subtle or as open as you like with the display of these treasures. I know a family who hung an 8x10 of their baby above their mantle, while there are those of us who have our babies’ photos strategically placed on our bedside tables and other parts of our homes. If you were not given a photograph of your baby, feel free to exhibit anything that reminds you of your child, even if you are the only one who is privy to the item’s significance.

Another way to keep your baby’s memory alive is to remind others that you have not forgotten, no matter how many years have passed. This can be achieved by telling of your loss in your annual Christmas letter the year of the baby’s death, then subsequent years by printing a symbol such as an angel next to your name. Or soon after your loss, send a bereavement notice to those whom you would have sent a birth announcement. Send an email to family and friends on the anniversary date of your baby’s birth or death date reminding them that this is a bittersweet day for you and that you welcome their talking to you about it as well as their prayers.

Whichever way you choose to acknowledge your little one, don’t be hindered by fearfully thinking you will offend someone. Your baby was real, beautifully knit together in your womb, and deserves to be honored and remembered. ♥
Victoria  

by Yelena Kulick

The day you were born, between your parents’ birthdays,  
Colors of autumn just started touching leaves,  
Sunshine filled the room with light and magic beauty  
And angels gathered all around you on their knees.  
The moment I held you in my arms and felt your warmth  
Our souls were at peace.  
Your eyes were closed but a tender smile curled your scarlet lips.  
I will always remember how beautiful you were, my Victoria.  
I sang you songs just one last time, when there were just two of us -  
The same songs I sang for your sister every night  
And you inside me, you who couldn’t wait to be born,  
Moved to the sound of my voice. Do you remember?  
There are so many more songs I wanted to sing,  
So many times I wanted to be near you but, my angel,  
You will not hear me and you will never know the sweet warmth of the drink  
Your sister called banana-strawberry ice-cream.  
When the telephone rang in the dark hospital room with double doors  
You were sleeping by my side.  
I grabbed it fast so it wouldn’t wake you up  
But nothing, Victoria, could wake you from the eternal dream.  
I will never know the color of your eyes or the sound of your voice  
But I always will remember the power of your touch.  
We brought you home for the last goodbye, put you in the crib  
Your big sister smiled and didn’t understand you will forever sleep  
And the flames of the candles were shaking with sadness  
And the lilies were lowering their heads.  
We walked outside holding you gently, the warm sun on your face.  
A Christian blessing, a little white casket, white lilies, a last kiss.  
I close my eyes in the river of tears that a gentle warm breeze tries to dry.  
Our guardian angel, our special daughter!  
We thank you for making us wiser and stronger, more loving and thankful for life,  
Even as we try to imagine where you are now.  
It must be a beautiful place, full of love and peace  
Because it is home for an angel like you.  
I feel Victoria is here and whispering to me,  
“Mommy, don’t cry. I always will be here inside your heart.”

Written in loving memory of Victoria Kulick  
Stillborn October 4, 2004  
Unknown Cause  
Parents: David and Yelena Kulick  
Big sister: Nicole
Never Forgotten
by Sharlene Libby

"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me." - Isaiah 49:15-16

There comes a time after losing a child when the world seems to forget what a devastating experience you've had.

For me, the big fear wasn't doing things on my own after all that support dwindled away. Meals stopped coming to my door, but I felt ready to try to cook again. Calls and cards slowly trickled down to one or two a week, then none, but that was okay, too. I knew it was time to move ahead. No, I wasn't so afraid of trying to live life again. My fear was that my sweet son, whom I loved so completely, was going to be forgotten. "Life goes on," and since Joseph wasn't a part of everyone else's life, I feared that no one would remember him.

The verse above says "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne?" Our first reaction is "No! I'll never forget my child!" It's true, Joseph is always in my heart, and he's often on my mind. But there are plenty of times during the day when the demands of life push his memory back, and I don't think of him as I make up beds or fold laundry. There are times that I do think of him during these tasks, but not always. And that's how it's supposed to be. We ARE supposed to move ahead, take care of our responsibilities, and keep our love for our children in our hearts, if not always first in our minds.

But God says, "Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me." The names of the tribes of Israel were engraved on stones and fastened to the garment of the high priest as a memorial before the Lord. They didn't want God to forget them. They wanted their names ever before His eyes. God Himself has written down our children's names, permanently, on his own hand! When no one else remembers them, He does. And, our names are written there, too, as children of God.

In God's eyes, our children are infinitely precious. Others may not see their value as we do, but God sees, even more than we are capable of seeing. No, they weren't able to climb mountains, build monuments, make names for themselves here on earth. But their lives have such worth that God knows their names and engraves them on his own hand.

"I will not forget you." When the world around seems to have forgotten you and your babies, know that we are never truly forgotten. The One who really counts, the One we climb mountains, build monuments, make names for themselves here on earth. But their we do, but God sees, even more than we are capable of seeing. No, they weren't able to climb mountains, build monuments, make names for themselves here on earth. But their lives have such worth that God knows their names and engraves them on his own hand.

"I will not forget you." When the world around seems to have forgotten you and your babies, know that we are never truly forgotten. The One who really counts, the One we want most to remember, never forgets.
Tributes to Our Special Babies

My Dearest Laiken,

It seems like only yesterday that we were planning your arrival. We were so very excited that you were coming—our little princess! I can’t believe it has been three years since I felt you kick inside my belly, three years since I held you in my arms and kissed your sweet face, and three years since I told you goodbye... There is not a day that goes by that you are not missed and thought of. We pray that you have a blessed third birthday in Heaven surrounded by your angel friends. Blow out your three candles, my sweet girl, and know that we are loving you every second of every day. We will be sending you up balloons at the cemetery filled with all of our love. Someday we will all be reunited, and then we will never, ever let you go.

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy,
Arianna, Jarod, and Gavin

Laiken Riley Madison Kale
September 15, 2002
HELLP Syndrome and severe prematurity
Parents: Rick and Alysha Kale
Siblings: Arianna, Jarod, and Gavin

My Precious Mercedes,

Because of you I give thanks....

for the opportunity to teach children your age God’s Word every Sunday;
for all the times in the last ten years, even recently, I’ve been able to encourage someone who has lost a child;
for the ten-year-old girl who will not go without Christmas this year;
for the love that wells in my heart for your three little brothers because of the profound understanding of the gifts I’ve been given;
for the confident assurance and reminder that God is in control and that He blesses those who trust in and depend on Him despite circumstances;
for being a part of praying for and seeing the sorrows of families I’ve known through M.E.N.D. turn into pure JOY;
for a perspective that is NOT of this world that has changed the way I live, and breathe, and exist;

for who I am because I have been touched by your life!

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever."

I GIVE THANKS FOR YOU, MERCEDES,
ON YOUR 10TH BIRTHDAY!!!

Always remembering,
MOM

In loving memory of Mercedes Ruth Spigener
Stillborn September 21, 1995
Intramembranous Insertion of Umbilical Cord
Parents: Jana and Grant Spigener
Brothers: Wyatt, Ford, and Porter
Also remembering Twin Blossoms Spigener, miscarried July 1996/August 1996,
and Baby Spigener, miscarried February 2004

Victoria,

We love you and miss you very much.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, and Nicole

In loving memory of Victoria Kulick
Stillborn October 4, 2004, unknown cause
Parents: David and Yelena Kulick and big sister Nicole

Dear Riley,

Happy 4th birthday, our precious boy. You are a special boy, with a special purpose for your life given to you by God. We still don't fully understand God's plan for you, but we do know that He is good, and through your life and death we've seen how He can turn the worst circumstances around and make good come from them. We've had a year full of changes, which always makes us so sad that you're not a part of them: moving back to Texas and adding a little sister to our family. We know that we'll get to see your beautiful face again some day. We're holding onto this hope!

We love you and we'll always remember,
Mommy and Daddy
Big Brothers Reid, Tyler and Cameron
Little Sister Caroline

Riley Marshall Sharpless
September 3, 2001
Placental abruption
Parents: Ken and Lisa Sharpless
Big brothers: Reid, Tyler and Cameron
Little sister: Caroline

Happy 6th Birthday, Ashley Renee

We love you and miss you always.

Mom, Dad, and Laura

Ashley Renee Dedear
October 29—November 1, 1999
Extreme prematurity
Parents: Tim and Cindy Dedear
Twin sister: Laura

For our little Gracie on her 2nd birthday

We miss you and hope you enjoy your birthday party.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and little brother Joseph

Patricia Grace Henry
October 23, 2003
Extreme prematurity
Parents: Lloyd and Tricia Henry
Little brother: Joseph

Happy 6th Birthday, Ashley Renee

We love you and miss you always.

Mom, Dad, and Laura

Ashley Renee Dedear
October 29—November 1, 1999
Extreme prematurity
Parents: Tim and Cindy Dedear
Twin sister: Laura

Dear Riley,

Happy 4th birthday, our precious boy. You are a special boy, with a special purpose for your life given to you by God. We still don't fully understand God's plan for you, but we do know that He is good, and through your life and death we've seen how He can turn the worst circumstances around and make good come from them. We've had a year full of changes, which always makes us so sad that you're not a part of them: moving back to Texas and adding a little sister to our family. We know that we'll get to see your beautiful face again some day. We're holding onto this hope!

We love you and we'll always remember,
Mommy and Daddy
Big Brothers Reid, Tyler and Cameron
Little Sister Caroline

Riley Marshall Sharpless
September 3, 2001
Placental abruption
Parents: Ken and Lisa Sharpless
Big brothers: Reid, Tyler and Cameron
Little sister: Caroline

For our little Gracie on her 2nd birthday

We miss you and hope you enjoy your birthday party.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and little brother Joseph

Patricia Grace Henry
October 23, 2003
Extreme prematurity
Parents: Lloyd and Tricia Henry
Little brother: Joseph

Victoria,

We love you and miss you very much.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, and Nicole

In loving memory of Victoria Kulick
Stillborn October 4, 2004, unknown cause
Parents: David and Yelena Kulick and big sister Nicole
Happy 8th birthday to our sweet Schuyler
We love you and miss you so much.

—Love,
Daddy, Mommy,
Ashton, Alexa & Benjamin

Timothy “Schuyler” Morren II
September 28—December 23, 1997
SIDS
Parents: Tim and Pam Morren
Siblings: Ashton, Alexa, and Benjamin

Dear Aiden,
You are getting to be such a big boy now. Mommy and Daddy can’t believe you are three years old already. We miss you each and every day. You are always in our hearts, dear one. Happy third birthday, sweet one!

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

Aiden Xavier Sohn
Stillborn October 13, 2002
HELLP Syndrome
Parents: Doug and Angelique Sohn
Big Brother: Joshua
Little Brother: Sebastian

David Atkins Stephens
Our sweet little boy, Can it really be true?
We can hardly believe You would be turning two!

We love you so dearly And miss you so much.
If only you could have Had more time with us.
Instead you’re with Jesus; And for that we are glad.
Though our hearts are broken, You will never be sad.

So today we will think of you With tears of joy.
We love you, Sweet David.
Happy Birthday, our boy.

You are always and forever here in our hearts. We miss you so very much and can hardly wait for the day when we will see you again. Happy birthday, little David. We love you.

Always,
Mom and Dad

David Atkins Stephens
October 23, 2003
Omphalocele
Parents: Rob and Melissa Stephens

Dear Jordan,
We miss you so much, and can’t believe you would be two years old! We thank God every day for your brief life. You have taught us the true meaning of life, love, family and friendship. We know that you have been watching over your little sister Lauren and taking care of her every day. I can’t wait to tell her all about you and how you have changed all of our lives. She is so lucky to have you as her special guardian angel. We will love you forever and never forget you.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy,
Bailie and Lauren

In memory of Jordan Claire James
September 29, 2003 - October 15, 2003
Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome
Parents: John and Julie James
Big sister: Bailie
Little sister: Lauren

Happy Birthday Garrett!
We love you and miss you very much. It is hard to believe that you will be 6 YEARS OLD!

Love,
Mom, Dad
and Little Sister Samantha

Garrett Anthony Mayer
October 12—December 18, 1999
Tetralogy of Fallot
Parents: Tony and April Mayer
Little sister: Samantha

Happy 3rd Birthday Logan!!!!
Not a day goes by that I don’t think of you and wish you were here with us. Sometimes the grief I feel is unbearable, but other times, I feel so incredibly privileged to have a son waiting for us in Heaven. You are loved and you are missed.

—Mommy and Daddy
along with big brother Landry and little brother Hudson

Logan Wayne Fish
September 17, 2002—September 17, 2002,
Thanatophoric Dwarfism
Parents: David & Brittney Fish and brothers Landry & Hudson
“The Lord’s loved ones are precious to him; it grieves him when they die.” Psalm 116:15

There are places I go in the depth of my soul, that I find so difficult to ponder, I retreat from that place almost as quickly as I entered. I believe everyone has those compartments within us that actually help us cope when life has delivered a blow too hard for us to process, so in God’s grace and infinite mercy, He allows us to store it for a while. Then when we are more equipped, He may ask us to go there again, not alone, but in Him to work through what ends up to be, after all the layers are peeled back, His sovereignty.

In my humble opinion, parents should never have to suffer the loss of a child. But they do. The first parents ever created, Adam and Eve suffered the heartache of one child’s loss of life and the heartache of knowing their other child took that life.

It is the hardest thing for my heart to wrestle with God over. I, personally, have never suffered a loss of this magnitude, but was privileged to walk that road with my sister-in-law Kim, a little over a year ago. I feel I entered a secret club held only for those who have ever ushered a little one into the arms of the angels as they pass from this life into heaven. The sound of Kim’s cries over her dead son lying in the arms of the nurse who saw his death only three days, still haunts my heart. The overwhelming pain of the loss still echoes in the depth of my soul. I still long to hold little John and wish he had lived more than three days. But God had His sovereignty, His sovereign plan, and although it was only three days, it was a lifetime. A lifetime, pre-ordained before the dawn of time, to be just three days.

Romans 8:26-28 says “the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

I take great comfort in knowing my relationship with Christ secures my prayers that I am not even able to put into words. The groans of my grief are miraculously interpreted by the Holy Spirit and prayed on my behalf in accordance with God’s will. And we know that all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose.

I have a little wooden box in my desk at home. This box holds a tissue I saved the saddest tears I have ever cried on when little John died. Psalm 56:8 says “You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each on in your book.” We never grieve alone. God grieves every tear with us.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). I wouldn’t have done it, but I am so glad He did.

By Michelle Henderson
Written in memory of John Lyndell Greenlee, son of Kim and John Greenlee
December 5—8, 2003
Understanding the Causes of Neonatal Loss
by Michelle McHone, BBA

In our July/August issue (http://www.mend.org/newsletters/2005jul-aug.pdf), Michelle explained her reasons for researching causes of death commonly listed in our newsletter, so that we may all have a better understanding of the anomalies that left us all here, together, left behind. In Part Two of her three-part article, Michelle outlines some of the causes that lead to fetal demise. Disorders are listed alphabetically.

**Anencephaly**– A neural tube defect involving incomplete development of the brain, spinal cord, and/or their protective coverings. Anencephaly occurs when the “cephalic” or head end of the neural tube fails to close, resulting in an absence of a major portion of the brain skull and scalp. Commonly occurs during the third or fourth week of fetal development. The AFP test can indicate this condition. (April 28, 2005 www.mywebmd.com/hw/health_guide_atoz)

**Antiphospholipid Antibodies**– Although it is unknown exactly how the antiphospholipid antibody syndrome adversely affects pregnancy, one theory is that it may cause blood clots. These blood clots, which can be microscopic, may occur in the blood vessels of the placenta. The placenta provides nourishment to the baby and any interruption in this process can be harmful to the pregnancy. The antiphospholipid syndrome may increase the risk of miscarriage, poor fetal growth, pre-eclampsia (high blood pressure during pregnancy), and stillbirth. (Sara Marder, M.D. “The Antiphospholipid Syndrome” Vol. 1 No. 4, April 28, 2005 www.hygeia.com)

**Blighted Ovum**– A blighted ovum is considered to be a form of spontaneous miscarriage and is characterized through ultrasound by the absence of an embryo (anembryonic pregnancy). Blighted ovum, like other first trimester miscarriages, are associated with a high incidence of chromosomal abnormalities. In this case, the embryo fails to form. (April 28, 2005 www.health-nexus.com/blighted_ovum.htm)

**Complete Placental Abruption**– Placental abruption is defined as separation of the maternal surface of the placenta from the uterus before delivery of the baby. Many times a blood clot will form behind or under the placenta causing separation. Unfortunately, placental abruption often occurs without advance notice. The most common symptom of abruption is painful vaginal bleeding. Some of the bleeding of placental abruption usually escapes through the cervix, resulting in recognizable external hemorrhage. Less commonly, the blood does not escape externally but is retained between the detached maternal surface of the placenta and the uterus, resulting in a concealed hemorrhage, commonly referred to as “Complete Placental Abruption.” (David M. Lima, M.D. “Placental Causes of Fetal Loss” Vol. 1 No. 7, April 28, 2005 www.hygeia.com(April 28, 2005 www.folsomeobgyn.com)

**Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia**– CDH is a birth defect in which the diaphragm does not completely form, allowing some of the contents of the abdomen to protrude into the chest and hinder the normal growth of lung tissue. (April 28, 2005 www.shands.org)

**Cord Accidents**

**Vasa previa** is an uncommon cord abnormality. This complication occurs when the umbilical cord inserts abnormally in the fetal membranes of the placenta instead of in the center of the placenta. The abnormal cord placement results in fetal blood vessels that run through the membranes being unprotected by the umbilical cord. Vasa previa occurs when these unprotected fetal blood vessels cross the cervix, sometimes rupturing when the membranes do, causing life-threatening bleeding in the baby. Even if the fetal blood vessels don't rupture, the baby may suffer from lack of oxygen due to pressure on the blood vessel. (April 28, 2005 www.marchofdimes.com)

**Cord Knots** are defined as when a baby is born with one or more knots in the umbilical cord. Some knots form during delivery when a baby with a nuchal loop is pulled through the loop. Others form during pregnancy when the baby moves around. Knots occur most often when the umbilical cord is too long, and in identical-twin pregnancies that share a single amnionic sac, when the babies’ cords become entangled. (April 28, 2005 www.marchofdimes.com)

**Coiled Cord** occurs when the baby moves around in a way that causes the cord to become too tightly coiled, reducing blood flow or causing asphyxiation. This is sometimes referred to as a “cord accident.” Sometimes babies with tightly coiled cords begin to move less. (April 28, 2005 www.marchofdimes.com)

**True Knot**– Results when the umbilical cord is tied in a complete, true, knot. Tight knots affect circulation and can compress umbilical vessels or cause hemorrhaging on the fetal side of the knot (April 28, 2005 www.marchofdimes.com)

**Velamentous Cord Insertion**– This is when the cord inserts into the membranes and not the placental disk. The vessels travel unprotected through the membranes to the placenta. Velamentous insertion means that these veins travel across the amniotic membranes before they come together into the umbilical cord. This puts the baby at risk because compression or tearing of the vessels can disrupt blood flow to and from the baby. (April 28, 2005 http://medlib.med.utah.edu/reprogen/Pathology/vela_cord_insertion.html)

**Dysplasia**

**Campomelic Dysplasia**– Campomelic syndrome is a rare congenital disorder in which multiple anomalies are present. It is characterized by bowing and angular shape of the long bones of the legs, especially the tibia; multiple minor anomalies of the face; cleft palate; other skeletal anomalies such as abnormalities of the shoulder and pelvic area and eleven pairs of ribs instead of the usual twelve; underdevelopment of the trachea; developmental delay in some cases and incomplete development of genitalia in males such that they appear to be females. (April 28, 2005 www.bchealthguide.org)

**Skeletal Dysplasia**– Dwarfism is a commonly used term for disproportionately short stature, although a more medically appropriate term for this disorder is skeletal dysplasia. Short stature is defined as height that is 3 or more standard deviations below the mean height for age. If short stature is proportional, the condition may be due to endocrine or metabolic disorders or chromosomal or non-skeletal dysplasia genetic defects. In general, patients with disproportionately short stature have skeletal dysplasia (osteochondrodysplasia). Skeletal dysplasias are characterized by abnormalities of cartilage and bone growth resulting in abnormal shape and size of the skeleton and disproportion of the long bones, spine, and head. (Harold Chen, M.D. “Skeletal Dysplasia Article” par. 1 April 28, 2005 www.emedicine.com/ped/topic625.htm)

**Thanatophoric Dysplasia**– Infants with this condition have disproportionately short arms and legs with extra folds of skin. Other signs of the disorder include a narrow chest, small ribs, underdeveloped lungs, and an enlarged head with a large forehead and prominent, wide-spaced eyes. Infants with type 1 thanatophoric dysplasia also have curved thigh bones and flattened bones of the spine (platyspondyl). An unusual head shape called a cloverleaf skull is seen with type 2 thanatophoric dysplasia. (April 22, 2005 http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov)
Understanding the Causes … (continued from page 7)

**Fetal Acrania**- Acrania is a malformation in which there is an absence of the flat skull bones covering the brain. The diagnosis of acrania can be established sonographically even in the first trimester if a large mass of brain tissue covered only by a thin membrane is detected. (Weissman, A. Diukman, R. Auslender, R. “Fetal acrania: five new cases and review of the literature” J Clin Ultrasound. 1997 Nov-Dec;25(9):511-4 www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)

**HELLP Syndrome**- HELLP syndrome is a variant of preeclampsia (toxemia) H (hemolysis, which is the breaking down of red blood cells), EL (elevated liver enzymes), and LP (low platelet count). HELLP Syndrome occurs in tandem with preeclampsia, but because HELLP Syndrome's symptoms may happen before preeclampsia's three findings (high blood pressure, protein in the urine, and swelling), they may be misdiagnosed as symptoms of gastritis, disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC), acute hepatitis, gall bladder disease, and other conditions. (April 28, 2005 www.hometown.aol.com/hielp1995/hielpmedicafacts.html)

**Hydrocephaly**- Hydrocephaly is an enlargement of the head caused by an abnormal accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid in the cranium due to an imbalance between the production and absorption of CSF. This forces the ventricles to enlarge, which in turn exerts pressure on the surrounding brain tissue, causing the brain tissue to shrink and the head to enlarge. Congenital hydrocephaly usually develops by the twentieth week of gestation. (April 28, 2005 www.tdh.state.tx.us)

**Hypoplastic Left Ventricle (or Left Heart Syndrome)**- Hypoplastic left heart syndrome refers to a combination of poorly developed structures on the left side of the heart. These include: a very small (hypoplastic) left ventricle (lower chamber which normally pumps blood out to the body)—with this syndrome it is too small to pump enough blood throughout the body; small aorta (major blood vessel from the left ventricle to the body); and aortic valve atresia (absence—this valve normally opens and closes to let blood flow from the left ventricle to the aorta). Stenosis obstructs most of the blood flow; atresia obstructs all of the blood flow. (April 28, 2005 www.thic.com/hypoleft.htm)

**Omphalocele**- An omphalocele is a congenital malformation in which variable amounts of abdominal contents protrude into the base of the umbilical cord. If the intestines fail to return into the abdomen by week 11, an omphalocele is present. There is a clear membrane through which the umbilical cord is inserted. The sac may contain a loop of bowel. If the sac ruptures the contents can base of the umbilical cord. If the intestines fail to return into the abdomen by week 11, an omphalocele is present. There is a clear membrane through which the umbilical cord is inserted. The sac may contain a loop of bowel. If the sac ruptures the contents can

We needed to hear Angel's name spoken as an acknowledgement of her life. It was healing for us more than anything else. However, many family members weren't comfortable talking about her and even suggested that it was abnormal for us to continue to mention her and "dwell" on her. Ridiculous. The truth is, one generation grieves very differently than the next. It was and is very healthy for us to speak about Angel when we feel led to, and it continues to bring me great joy when friends and family mention her name to me. To keep her memory alive, I talk to my first-born daughter about her little sister, and little brother will know about Angel when he is old enough to understand. Basically, Angel is very much a part of our family and always will be. We have her picture up with other family photos, and I had a special print framed in honor of Angel. I've decided that God guides us in ways to heal and maintain our babies' memories. If we listen to our hearts, we will do the things that are best for us in healing and keeping those memories alive. Never be afraid of what others will think. You are your child's parent, and only you know how to do what is right for you.

By Jennifer Brimmage
In memory of Angel Hope
June 8, 2002, Spina Bifida
and remembering Precious,
miscarried December 23, 2002
Parents: Ashley and Jennifer Brimmage
Siblings: Lindy and Mark

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**Subsequent Births**

**Leighton and Lisa Durham, along with Leighton and Olivia of Dallas, Texas, announce the arrival of Suzanna Marie, born June 22, 2005, weighing 6 lb., 15 oz., and measuring 19 1/2 inches long.***

The Durham family lovingly remembers Faith Elizabeth, stillborn September 25, 1999, Triploidy.

**Dawn and John Haley, together with proud siblings Amelia and David of Chicago, Illinois, joyfully announce the arrival of Rachael Ava, born May 8, 2005, weighing 9 lb., 6 oz., and measuring 21 inches long.***


**Mary and Lynn Steen of Plano, Texas, joyfully announce the arrival of their twins, John Morgan and William Gregory, born July 1, 2005.***

John weighed 7 lb., 8 oz., and measured 20 1/2 inches long.
Will weighed 6 lb., 13 oz., and measured 19 1/2 inches long.

The Steen family lovingly remembers Chrissie, miscarried May 3, 2000, ectopic pregnancy.

**Sherri and Randy Rudeen of Flower Mound, Texas, joyfully announce two more Rudeens in the world!***

Jordyn Leigh, weighing 4 lb., 6 oz., and Sydney Leigh, weighing 5 lb., 4 oz., were born June 13, 2005.

The Rudeens lovingly remember their first set of twins, Alexis Leigh and Nicole Leigh, stillborn March 11, 2002, unknown cause.

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Mark your calendars now for M.E.N.D. Christmas Candlelight Ceremony, December 6, 2005
In Loving Memory

James Jackson Henvey
Stillborn July 4, 2001
Tetralogy of Fallot
Parents: Chris and Renee Henvey
Little brother: Evan
Given by grandparents
Glenda and Larry McLeskey

Baby Basham I
Miscarried January 25, 2003

Baby Basham II
Miscarried May 2, 2003
Given by parents
Kirby and Rita Basham
and brother Bryce

Kaylyn Rial Busker
Cole Michael Busker
Hannah Elizabeth Busker
Stillborn December 10, 2004
Ecoli Infection
Given by parents
Kim and Michael Busker
and big sister Allison

Angelina Hope Connors
Stillborn September 16, 2000

Mia Gabriella Connors
April 13 - April 14, 2002
Given by mommy Patricia Connors

Mark Charles Loeffler
Stillborn 36 years ago

Baby Loeffler
Miscarried
Given by mom Margo Loeffler
and baby sister Allison

Beloved Baby
Given by grandmother
Margo Loeffler

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

Logan David Iliff
Stillborn May 3, 2000
Placental Abruption

Little Darlin'
Miscarried March 4, 2004
Given by parents Joseph and Samantha Iliff
and brother Blake

Christian Allen Scott
June 1, 2005
Renal Agenesis
Parents: Scotty and Mary Scott
Siblings: Lenny, Will, and Ariel
Given by Patrick McKenna

Jordan Cierra Wright
Stillborn November 13, 2001
Cord Accident
Given by Parents David and Reba Wright
and little sister Ariana

Jackson David Crowe
August 22 - September 9, 1998
Congenital heart defect/heart failure
Given by parents Marie and David Crowe
and siblings Hannah and Andrew

Riley Marshall Sharpless
Stillborn 3, 2001
Placental Abruption
Given by parents Lisa and Ken Sharpless
and siblings Reid, Tyler, Cameron,
and Caroline

Abigail Crump
Stillborn July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Parents: Jaimie and Gerald Crump
Little sister: Cameron
Given by Sue Steele

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Stillborn July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Parents: Jaimie and Gerald Crump
Little sister: Cameron
Given by cousin Margo Loeffler

Abigail Crump
Stillborn July 1, 2003
Parents: Jaimie and Gerald Crump
Little sister: Cameron
Given by friends Mike and Tanna Cornwell

Jessica Paul Higgs
August 7, 2004
Unknown Cause
Given by parents Carrie and John Higgs

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

Kyle Charles Walton
November 19, 1998
Group B Strep & lack of proper nourishment
from placenta
Given by parents Kristen and Jason Walton
and siblings Jessica, Laura, and Joshua

Andrew Louis Walton
March 4—April 24, 2005
Complications due to a heart defect
Parents: Sandra and Matthew Walton
Big sister: Lea
Given by Aunt Kristen and Uncle Jason Walton
and cousins Jessica, Laura, and Joshua

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 Lee
Given by Barron Vending

Ross Donoho Kennedy III
October 29, 2000
Cord Accident
Given by parents Nicole and Ross Kennedy

Baby Jordan Tschoepe
Miscarried August 11, 1989

Spencer Charles Tschoepe
Stillborn July 24, 2000
Unknown Cause
Given by parents Mandy and Ernie Tschoepe
and little sisters Clara and Kathleen

Mindy and Maggie Smith
Stillborn November 4, 1997
Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome
and Polyhydramnios
Given by parents Karla and Scott Smith
and little brothers Travis and Julia
M.A.N.D.

Carter Patrick Outen
Stillborn November 6, 2000
Unknown Cause

Baby Outen
Miscarried April 3, 2001

Baby Outen II
Miscarried October 5, 2001
Given by parents Shannon and Chris Outen and little sister Erin

Garrett Anthony Mayer
October 12 - December 18, 1999
Tetralogy of Fallot
Given by parents April and Anthony Mayer and little sister Samantha

Kelly Lynne Turner
September 22 - September 23, 1997
Autosomal Recessive Polycystic Kidney Disease
Given by parents John and Cheryl Turner and siblings Matthew and John

Sydney Lynne Brown
May 18, 2000
Cord problem and other unknown conditions

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

John Robert Haley
September 9 - September 11, 2000
Vasa Previa/Velamentous Insertion
Given by parents John and Dawn Haley and siblings Amelia, David, and Rachael

John Charles “Jack” Wolf, IV
May 5 - June 9, 2005
Brittle Bone Disease
Parents: John and Paige Wolf
Given by Russ and Rosemary Massey

Sarah Ann King
Stillborn June 22, 1995
Unknown Cause
Parents: David and Lori King
Siblings: Brooks, Kaylee and Brady
Given by David H. King Insurance Agency

Bryce Elizabeth Spaniel
September 2 - 8, 2000
Brain Bleed
Given by parents Kelly and Tommy Spaniel and twin sister Shelby and Abby and Griffin

Mercedes Ruth Spigener
Stillborn September 21, 1995
Intramembranous Insertion of Umbilical Cord

Twin Blossoms Spigener
Miscarried July 1996/August 1996

Baby Spigener
Miscarried February 2004
Parents: Jana and Grant Spigener
Brothers: Wyatt, Ford, and Porter
Given by grandparents Barry and Sheryln Spigener

Mercedes Ruth Spigener
Stillborn September 21, 1995
Intramembranous Insertion of Umbilical Cord

Twin Blossoms Spigener
Miscarried July 1996/August 1996

Baby Spigener
Miscarried February 2004
Parents: Jana and Grant Spigener
Brothers: Wyatt, Ford, and Porter
Given by Spigener Enterprises, Inc.

Michelle Grace Stockdale
August 22 - September 16, 2002
Ebstein’s Anomaly
Parents: Marie and Joe Stockdale
Little siblings: Caleb and Audrey
Given by Virtue, LLC d.b.a. Shanes Rib Shack

Garrett Anthony Mayer
October 12 - December 18, 1999
Tetralogy of Fallot
Parents: April and Anthony Mayer and little sister Samantha

Garrett Anthony Mayer
October 12 - December 18, 1999
Tetralogy of Fallot
Parents: April and Anthony Mayer
Little sister: Samantha
Given by Tofel Construction of Tucson, Arizona

Laiken Riley Madison Kale
September 15, 2002
HELLP Syndrome, Pulmonary Failure
Given by parents Rick and Alysha Kale

Laiken Riley Madison Kale
September 15, 2002
HELLP Syndrome, Pulmonary Failure
Parents: Rick and Alysha Kale
Siblings: Arianna, Jarod, and Gavin
Given by grandparents David and Patricia Hilbner

Michelle Grace Stockdale
August 22 - September 16, 2002
Ebstein’s Anomaly
Parents: Marie and Joe Stockdale
Little siblings: Caleb and Audrey
Given by Frank and Kay Haynes

Savannah Kate Stanley
January 3, 2004
Prematurity/Incompetent Cervix
Parents: Calli and Joel Stanley
Big brother: Colton
Given by LJ Stanley & Assoc. dba IB Roof Systems

Laiken Riley Madison Kale
September 15, 2002
HELLP Syndrome, Pulmonary Failure
Parents: Rick and Alysha Kale
Siblings: Arianna, Jarod, and Gavin
Given by grandparents David and Patricia Hilbner

Michelle Grace Stockdale
August 22 - September 16, 2002
Ebstein’s Anomaly
Parents: Marie and Joe Stockdale
Little siblings: Caleb and Audrey
Given by aunt and uncle Kay and Don Mixon

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Little siblings: Caleb and Audrey
Given by Frank and Kay Haynes

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Michelle Grace Stockdale
August 22 - September 16, 2002
Ebstein’s Anomaly
Parents: Marie and Joe Stockdale
Little siblings: Caleb and Audrey
Given by Frank and Kay Haynes

Shane's Rib Shack
Joe and Marie Stockdale
Don and Susan Kay Mixon
Frank and Kay Haynes

M.E.N.D. would like to recognize the following sponsors for their help in establishing M.E.N.D.’s new Georgia chapter. Thank you for your generous donations.
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Shannon Otten, 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.ithink.inc.com](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. 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](http://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.

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