



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

Music Therapy

The Lord definitely did not gift me with any sort of musical ability or a singing voice that stays on key, but I love music. The radio or a CD is always playing in my car as I drive. I listen to “my music” while getting ready in the mornings, and my iTunes app is forever on in my office as I work. I know most every word to my favorites, but I would never want anyone to hear me bellow them out. I’ve learned over the years just how powerful songs are. Music sets or changes our mood. I enjoy spa music when relaxing, but prefer something faster in my ears when I work out at the gym. And assuredly, certain songs remind me of seasons in my life, places, and even specific people.

I am not exactly sure why, but I dreaded going back to church after my baby Jonathan was stillborn 21 years ago. At that time, my church, like most churches, held Sunday night services. I decided returning to the congregation during an evening service would be easier than a full Sunday morning crowd and seeing so many people at once for the first time after my loss. We purposely arrived a few minutes late so we would not have to make small talk with anyone before the service began. We slipped in and seated ourselves on the back row of our large sanctuary, hoping to be unnoticed. As we settled in our pew, I realized the choir was singing a special song. Oh no! Oh yes, a song about heaven of all things! They were singing the then popular song that probably every church choir and Christian soloist in America sang in the 80s and 90s: “I Bowed on My Knees and Cried Holy.” It’s a hymn about someone dreaming of entering heaven, describing what and who he saw...getting to see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and talking with Mark and Timothy, but all he wanted to see was Jesus - the One who died for him. As I sat

there about to hyperventilate, I wanted to scream out, “Well, the only one I want to see is my baby!” My grief was so raw at that time, I was angrily convinced the choir director chose the special music that night just to torture me. I didn’t want to hear or sing anything that had to do with heaven. I knew my baby was there, and I was furious about it! And when I did think about heaven, I most definitely did not have grandiose visions of seeing Jesus. I only dreamed of seeing my Jonathan.

As the years have passed, I now love singing of and thinking of heaven. Heaven is where two of my children reside, and I am excited to meet them there one day. I no longer resent where they are, and hearing songs that describe heaven based on Scripture gives me a sense of longing for our eternal home. I have lots of songs on my playlist that not only speak of heaven, but also of the Lord’s joy, strength and healing that bring me comfort. And yes, “I Bowed on My Knees and Cried Holy” is in the lineup. That song has a whole new meaning to me now. I can truly say when I get to heaven, I am confident I will first want to bow to the Holy One before seeing my children and other loved ones who have gone before me. In the meantime, I will depend on music to help me imagine what heaven will be like, and give me peace when I’m having a hard day or going through a difficult season in my life.

*“He has given me a new song to sing,
a hymn of praise to our God.”*

Psalm 40:3

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

“Worship will get you through
the roughest times of your life,
because it shifts your focus
from the problem to the problem solver!”
Anonymous

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

M.E.N.D. is a Christian nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to reach out to those who have lost a child to miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death and offer a way to share experiences and information through monthly meetings, this newsletter, and our website at www.mend.org.

For inquiries, subscription requests, deletions, and submissions to the newsletter, contact us at

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Donations make the printing and distribution of this newsletter possible. Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated and should be sent to the address listed above. If your gift is made in memory of a baby, please include that baby's name (if named), date of birth and/or date of death, the parents' names, and the name of the benefactor. You may also include the cause of death (if known).

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M.E.N.D. is a member of

First Candle/SIDS Alliance

International Stillbirth Alliance

Be Part of the Garden of Hope Unveiling!

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



How can you be involved?

To contribute:

Become a Donor

- Friends of the Garden - \$100-\$999 – Your name placed on a “Friends of the Garden of Hope” plaque
- Major Contributors - \$1,000+ – Your name, along with the name of the person being remembered, placed on a “Major Contributors” plaque

Join us for the unveiling!

The Garden of Hope and the Hope Monument will be unveiled and dedicated in conjunction with the 20th Walk to Remember on Saturday, October 1, 2016. More details are on page 3, and registration to attend will be available in August.

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

Hope Song

(Psalms 70 – 71)

Words by Terri Nymeyer / Music by Jonathan Nymeyer

©2016

VERSE 1:

Yeshua, Rescue Me, In You I find my Refuge
Be For me, a sheltering Rock, Yeshua don't delay
Turn Your ear, Hear my cry, Deliver Me
El Adon, Prince of Peace, My Hope Song

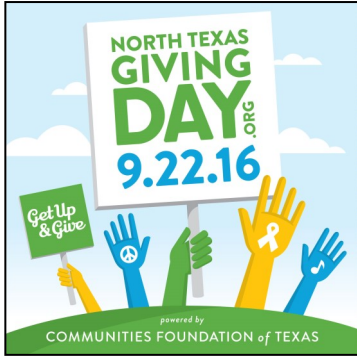
CHORUS:

And I, I Will Hope and Praise You forevermore
And I, I will Sing and Dance before Your throne
And I, I will Seek You and find my Joy
Yeshua, My Redeemer, My Hope Song

VERSE 2:

Yeshua, Comfort Me, Holy One of Yisrael
As for me, I will sing praise, For Your faithfulness
My God, My King, Yeshua, El Yakar
Revive me again, My Hope Song

Mark Your Calendars!



Be ready to support M.E.N.D. on the North Texas Giving Day on September 22, 2016!
Donations can be given from anywhere across the country or the world, and will provide bonus funds.
Watch for more details!

A Walk to Remember

In 1988, former President Ronald Reagan declared the month of October as National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness month. To commemorate this declaration, many infant loss organizations such as M.E.N.D. host what's called "A Walk to Remember." The Walk to Remember is not a "walk-a-thon" or a fundraiser; instead, it is a beautiful ceremony to remember our sweet babies in heaven. Although the ceremony does include a very short walk from the check-in point to the ceremony site, the main aspects of the event are acknowledging every baby represented, an inspirational speaker, special music and an unforgettable balloon release. This year, the Dallas/Fort Worth ceremony will also include the Garden of Hope unveiling.

M.E.N.D. will host two Walk to Remember ceremonies. Registration for both ceremonies will begin the middle of August, using the registration form on our website at www.mend.org. Please be sure to carefully choose which ceremony (DFW or Houston) you plan to attend.

Dallas/Fort Worth

Saturday, October 1, 2016
Check-in begins at 12:00
Ceremony begins at 1:00
Calvary Church
4401 N State Hwy 161
Irving, TX 75038

Houston

Saturday, October 15, 2016
Check-in begins at 12:00
Ceremony begins at 1:00
Bammel Road Church of Christ
2700 FM 1960 W
Houston, TX 77068

M.E.N.D. - SW Missouri Memorial Bench and Dedication Ceremony

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri is excited to announce we are in the process of purchasing a Memorial Bench on a plot at the Eastlawn Cemetery owned by Klinger-Cope Funeral Home. This Memorial Bench will provide a place for families who may not have a grave to visit or the grave is too far away, or just need a place of peace to visit and remember a loved one. The bench will include the M.E.N.D. angel, chapter name, dedication date and the quote, "Here for a moment, in our hearts forever."

Klinger-Cope Funeral Home will also be holding a Dedication Ceremony for the Memorial Bench on October 15, 2016, at 1:00 PM. This will be in place of the annual balloon release. More details will be available soon.

If you would like to donate to help our chapter raise funds for this Memorial Bench, please send your payment to M.E.N.D., PO Box 881, Republic, MO 65738, and include the name of your baby, heavenly birthday and cause of death.

September/October Topic

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

Deadline: July 31, 2016

November/December Topic

Holidays

Deadline: September 30, 2016

Stories, poems, thoughts, and/or feelings regarding these topics are welcome. 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.

Birthay 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.

<u>Heavenly Birthday</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
January/February	November 30
March/April	January 31
May/June	March 31
July/August	May 31
September/October	July 31
November/December	September 30



Birthday Tributes

Happy 15th Birthday, Mercedes!

Happy 15th angelversary! We can't believe it has been 15 years since I lost you! Not a day goes by I don't think about you and who you would be right now! Mommy loves you forever! You have changed me forever! Love you so much!

Love always,
Your mommy and step-daddy Steven
and stepbrothers Micheal and Matthew

Mercedes Kay Fisher
July 4, 2001
Cord accident
Also remembering
Logan Smith

Miscarried November 4, 2014
Parents: Steven and Jennifer Smith
Stepbrothers: Micheal and Matthew



Happy 4th Birthday, Kennedy!

Happy 4th birthday, baby girl! I miss you so much. I think about you every day! I know you're up high watching over us. I can't wait until I get to hold you in my arms again. My love for you is endless. Happy birthday!

Love,
Mommy



Kennedy Breann Neff
August 8, 2012
Unknown cause
Mommy: Allysia Neff
Sisters: Madison and Malia

Happy 3rd Birthday, Ariel and Angel!

My sweet babies, happy 3rd birthday in heaven! I miss you a lot each and every day, but know that I love you even more. I thank God for the blessings your lives brought to us, making it clear one day we will be celebrating your lives together in heaven.

With love,
Mommy and brother



Ariel and Angel Wong-Eguiarte
June 26, 2013
Twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome
Mommy: Emyllin Wong
Brother: Andre Eduardo

Happy 1st Birthday, Jael Jose!

To my beloved son, Jael Jose, I miss you so very much. You are so special to me, and you will forever remain in my heart. There isn't one day goes by without Mommy thinking about you. I wish I could hold you in my arms, and I wish we could be celebrating your very first birthday with you here accompanied by Daddy, your sister, family and friends. I could only imagine what it would have been like to see you play, see you laugh, see you blowing your first candle and playing with your balloons. I love you! Happy birthday, angel!

Jael Jose Rodriguez Cruz
Stillborn August 4, 2015
Parents: Jose Luis Rodriguez and Ashley Cruz
Sister: Alanis Gonzalez



Happy 1st Birthday, Kolt!

We love you so much! Not a second goes by we don't think about you. Your spirit keeps us going. We love you, Papa!

Kolt Kelley
July 2—August 17, 2015
Liver disease
Parents: Kevin and Anna Kelley
Siblings: Jayla Medina and Jeramiah



Happy 1st Birthday, Cielito!

You will always be our first love and our last.
Mommy and Daddy love you forever!

Sky Cielito Mondragon
Miscarried August 4, 2015
Parents: Rene and Rosa Mondragon



Happy 2nd Birthday, Mordecai!

Happy heavenly birthday, my love! Your mommy misses you every day. I can't believe you have been in Jesus's arms for two years. I could only imagine the huge celebration in heaven, of the angels singing you "Happy Birthday." I know your Grandma is happy to be with you on this special day. I want you to know we are celebrating your life here, too.

As a parent, I thought I would teach you so many things. Instead you changed my life for the best, and I thank the Lord for you. On your heavenly birthday, I will be sending kisses to heaven. Mommy loves you.

Mordecai Kingston Thomas
Miscarried May 6, 2014
Mommy: Christina Thomas



Happy 1st Birthday, Faith!

In loving memory of our beautiful daughter, Faith Noelle. We love and miss you, our dear angel.

Faith Noelle Garcia
Stillborn August 19, 2015
Cord accident
Parents: Joe and Lisa Garcia



Happy 6th Birthday, Kalki!

I love and miss you so much. Since the day I had to say "Good-bye," there is not one day I don't think of you. I pray you are beside God and hope one day I will be by your side to hold you and enjoy everything I wanted to do with you. Kalki, I know your dad and I aren't together anymore, and I know you are hurting. But he loves you so much and misses you dearly. In honor of you, we will always celebrate your birthday, and I hope you enjoy the balloons we send you. Nana sends you many hugs and kisses, and she thinks about you dearly. I love you, Kalki.

Kalki Jadir Ibarra-Curruchich
Stillborn July 7, 2010
Parents: Jose and Ana Curruchich



Happy 1st Birthday, Charlotte!

I can't believe it's been a year since we held you, our sweet daughter! Not a day goes by we don't think of you and miss you. While we wish you were here with us, we are amazed at how God continues to use your short life here on earth in our lives and in others' lives. Our faith has been strengthened because of you, and we can't wait for the day we will see you and hold you again. We love you so much!

Charlotte Elise Nelson
August 20, 2015
Unknown cause
Parents: Dustin and Caroline Nelson
Siblings: Norah and Wyatt



Happy 1st Birthday, Clara Joy!

Clara Joy, you are loved so much. I can't wait to meet you and hold you in my arms! Daddy loves you so much, and so do your grandparents, aunt and uncles. We talk about you often! You're going to be a big sister. Your sister, Ariel Noel, is coming around October 2. I can't wait to see her because maybe we will get a sneak peak of what you look like. We love you so much, sweet girl! Give all of our loved ones hugs for us, especially your great-grandparents and your uncle Daniel! We can't wait to see you all again! We love you with all our hearts!

Clara Joy Brown
Miscarried July 13, 2015
Parents: Matthew and Shaunna Brown
Sister: Ariel Noel (due October 2)



Happy 12th Birthday, Jordyn!

We thank God for the short time we shared with you. You will forever and always be in our hearts. We love you and miss you dearly.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Jada and Bruce

Jordyn Lynae Johnson
July 13-16, 2004
Cord accident
Parents: Bruce and Debra Johnson
Siblings: Jada (Jordyn's twin) and Bruce Jr.



Happy 1st Birthday, Shane!

It seems like it was only yesterday when we held you in our arms, when Daddy made a frame with your hands and footprints and when I sang "Grace Flows Down" to you with tears in my eyes. We can't believe it's already been a year since we were together as a family. Happy 1st heavenly birthday, baby boy. I'm sure you're celebrating with Jesus in ways we can't even imagine! We love and miss you every day and can't wait to see you again. P.S. You're a big brother now, Shane, but you already knew that.

Loving you always,
Mommy and Daddy

Shane Craig
August 19, 2015
Anencephaly
Parents: Colin and Juliet Craig
Little sister: Selah Grace



Happy 5th Birthday, Aubree!

My precious girl, I cannot believe you are 5 years old! Such a big girl! I've honestly been dreading this birthday for the past year. You are supposed to be getting ready for kindergarten. Mommy was going to have you starting elementary on the same day Sissy will start middle school and Bubba starting high school. I wish I could say each year is getting easier, but it just isn't true. Each day, month, and year continually reminds me of all the moments we've lost. We all love you so much, Aubree Faith! Until we meet again.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Ryan and Breean

Aubree Faith Carmichall
August 18, 2011
Uterine rupture
Parents: Jeremy and Kelly Carmichall
Siblings: Ryan and Breean



Happy 3rd Birthday, Margot!

Happy birthday, precious girl. We miss you every day as we navigate this life without you here with us. You are always on our hearts, and we long for the day we can kiss your sweet face again. Your sisters and brother will always know you as the special piece of our family. When Adeline talks about our family, she says "and Margot, who lives in heaven." We will continue to miss you and love you always, our cherished second child.

Love,
Daddy and Mommy
How softly you tiptoed into our world.
Silently, only a moment you stayed,
but what an imprint your footprints
have left upon our hearts.

Margot Lily Perry
June 10, 2013
Cord accident
Parents: Brandon and Marisa Perry
Siblings: Adeline, Bennett and Noelle (due in August)



Happy 6th Birthday, Caelan!

Dear Caelan, Finlea would like to know if you're having cupcakes for your birthday. What color are they-yellow? She asked if you would save some for us. Finlea drew a heart today, and said it's for you. She'd like to know how Oakley is and if you're taking care of him, too.

We talk about you and think about you often. We so wish you were here to play with us. What fun we would have! We love you so much! Happy birthday, Caelan.

Mom, Dad, Finlea and Kallie the dog

Caelan Matthew Wallace
July 30—August 3, 2010
Pre-term birth
Also remembering
Oakley Jaden Wallace
Miscarried February 22, 2016
Parents: Andy and Dana Wallace
Sister: Finlea Rose



Happy 4th Birthday, Emilynn!

Happy 4th birthday, beautiful girl! It is hard to believe it is has been four years since we held you and saw your pretty little face. Until we see you again, we will hold you in our hearts for a lifetime. We love and miss you every day and forever!

Emilynn Larren Schrader
June 19, 2012
Cord accident
Parents: Daniel and Kellie Schrader
Siblings: Nolan, Mary Britton and Beatrice



Happy 1st Birthday, Rebekah!

Our Rebekah Tikvah, it has been one year since we last saw your precious face and held your little body in our arms. Yet the memory of you is as strong as if we had held you yesterday. Mama and Daddy love you and think of you constantly. Your brother and sisters talk about you all the time. We will sing praises to Adonai on your birthday, and we hope you will be able to hear and sing with us. Enjoy all of the hugs and kisses from Yeshua and the angels, dear one. Know that we are loving on you, too. Happy 1st birthday, sweet Rebekah. We will hold you again soon.

Psalm 71:14

Love,
 Mama and Daddy

Rebekah Tikvah Nymeyer
July 16, 2015
Extreme prematurity
Also Remembering
Baby Nymeyer
October 2010
Baby Nymeyer
July 2012
Parents: Jonathan and Terri Nymeyer
Siblings: Isaac, Abby, Esther
and Baby Nymeyer (due in December)



Happy 10th Birthday, Livi!

Livi, we cannot believe 10 years have gone by. What would you be like at 10? What would we be like with a 10-year-old? I really think we would not be the people we are today if you were here. Although your leaving us was not our plan, we know now God had a greater plan for your parents that could not have come forth if you had stayed. It hurts to not have you here, but your little life taught us God is good in all circumstances and His love never leaves us. We hope your 10th birthday party is heavenly and know Mommy, Daddy, Jaxson and Lauryn love you. Happy birthday, sweet girl!

Alivia Elizabeth-Grace Walker
July 24, 2006
Incompetent cervix
Parents: Robert and Liz Walker
Siblings: Jaxson and Lauryn



Happy 3rd Birthday, Abigail!

Dear Abigail, happy heavenly birthday, beautiful daughter and little sis. Three years later and not a day goes by without thinking of you. We often wonder how you would look, act, giggle and play with your big brother. He asks about you and always kisses your picture inside my necklace locket. He doesn't quite understand why you are not here with us, but knows you live in our hearts always. We are so thankful for you and cherish the memories you have given us. We will release pink birthday balloons, and eat cupcakes, as we continue our family tradition to celebrate your life. We love you!

Abigail Renee O'Donnell
August 16, 2013
Placental abruption
Parents: Matt and Diane O'Donnell
Big brother: Gabriel



Happy 1st Birthday, Ella!

To our sweet Ella Lynne, happy 1st heavenly birthday, sweet baby girl! Not a second goes by we don't think of you. We so wish we could be celebrating this special day with you, but we are comforted in knowing you are wrapped in so much love in heaven. Until the day we are reunited, we will live our lives in your memory. Thank you for opening our hearts to a bigger love than we ever could have imagined. We love and miss you so very much.

Love,

Mommy and Daddy
 "That was her gift.

She filled you with words you didn't know were there."
 -Atticus

Ella Lynne Gonyea
Stillborn August 24, 2015
Preeclampsia
Parents: David and Sable Gonyea



Happy 9th Birthday, Gabby!

Does it ever get easier? This past Easter it dawned on me how much I miss you. I could barely breathe when I spoke your name aloud. I cringed at the thought of just wanting to know why. My heart raced and for a second the only thing I could hear was the sound of my teardrops hitting the floor. Daddy and I miss you and love you so much, and can't wait until we see each other again one day. Take care of your little sister. Happy birthday, baby girl! We love you to the moon and back!

Gabriella Grace Garcia
 Miscarried July 3, 2007
 Also remembering
Abigail Sophia Garcia
 Miscarried June 17, 2011
 Parents: Adam and Alex Garcia
 Siblings: Kylie, Adayna and Aj

**Happy 10th Birthday, Theo!**

Geri always took care of these tributes, so beautifully. It is comforting to think they are together, each providing joy to the other. Two souls together, linked in the closest possible way. But I know Theo and Geri were never really apart, just like I'll never be apart from her or Theo or Ysabel. We will never stop being a family together, because love is real and powerful.

Theo Fleurima Shannon
 August 10, 2006
 Stroke
 Also remembering
Geri Fleurima Shannon (mother)
 May 21, 1970—June 11, 2015
 Sudden illness
 Daddy: Theodore G. Shannon
 Sister/Daughter: Ysabel

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Trinity!**

Happy 2nd birthday, sweet girl. Today as you celebrate in heaven we celebrate on earth. Your birthday is a bittersweet day for us as we never imagined we would have to celebrate without you. Daddy and I can't believe you are 2 years old already. We often wonder what you would be like today and dream of the day we get to hug and kiss you again. Hope you have a wonderful and happy heavenly birthday. We love you and miss you, our beautiful blue-eyed angel.

Love,
 Daddy, Mommy,
 big sister Emma and baby brother Brentley

Trinity Ann Faram
 August 1, 2014
 Placental abruption
 Parents: Brad and Elizabeth Faram
 Siblings: Emma and Brentley



Where words fail, music speaks.

Hans Christian Anderson

Happy 6th Birthday, Jason!

Six years have now passed since we last heard your heart beat. Six years, yet it is still no easier to write these words than the first time. Our hearts still ache thinking of who you would have been. But God had bigger plans for you, eternal plans beyond our understanding, and we're the lucky ones to be chosen to be your parents to fulfill God's purpose. We will never fully know your legacy, but we will never forget you nor cease to tell others. We praise God in the good times, we praise Him in the bad, and we know we will see you again one day. We love you!

Jason Michael Murphy
 Stillborn July 29, 2010
 Unknown cause
 Parents: Michael and Diana Murphy
 Brother: Trevor

**Happy 4th Birthday, Catherine!**

Sweet girl, I can't believe you would be 4! Where has time gone? Mommy has been busy living this life that has been laid out since your death. I'll graduate in December like I promised you. I wish you were here to see it! I've been serving in M.E.N.D. helping other families in your honor. I love getting to talk about you and using your life to provide hope and comfort to other families. God has certainly used your life to show others the truth in His Word, and I promise you we will always use your life to show such faith and hope. Catherine, you are loved and missed beyond measure, always.

Catherine Grace Wilkerson
 August 10-12, 2012
 Extreme prematurity due to H.E.L.L.P. Syndrome
 Parents: Charles and Kara Wilkerson

**Happy 8th Birthday, CJ!
Happy 7th Birthday, Marina!**

It's hard to believe you've been gone for 8 and 7 years. We still miss you and think of you often. I hope you look down on us and are proud of what we're doing to honor your memories. Until we meet again...

Love,
 Daddy, Mommy and Emily

CJ Gold
 Miscarried August 12, 2008
Marina Gold
 Miscarried July 14, 2009
 Parents: Greg and Kathryn Gold
 Big Sister: Emily

**Happy 6th Birthday, Elliana!**

It's been six years since you went to be with Jesus. I often wonder what you'd be like if you were still here. Can't wait to meet you in heaven, sweet girl! I love you!

Elliana Grace Kundomal
 Miscarried July 2010
 Mommy: Kali Kundomal



Before My Son Died, Music Mattered More than Medicine

Written by Jennifer Canvasser

My kids were playing on the floor, while I made dinner and listened to music. Then, his song began to play. It was the song that I sang to my son, Micah, the day before he died. Suddenly, I was swept away by the music and back in Micah's hospital room. Micah died years ago, but as Micah's song played, my mind, body and soul journeyed back to that moment with Micah. I stopped cooking, as tears rolled down my cheeks, uncontrollably. Micah's twin brother, Zachary, looked at me and instinctively knew why I was crying. He smiled and said, "Mama, it's a Micah song!" I smiled back.

Music is powerful. Micah was hospitalized for months before he died, and oftentimes, he found music to be more healing than medicine. Here's why:

1. **Music connected us:** Music brought our family together during extraordinarily difficult times. As music filled Micah's hospital room, the songs nurtured our relationships. We bonded over music because it gave us a shared experience that wasn't about the next medical procedure.
2. **Music is accessible:** The comfort of a song can reach the most fragile of infants and the most elderly of adults. During much of Micah's hospitalization, he literally could not move his body. Music defied this profound barrier. Even when Micah could not move, he still loved to listen to music.
3. **Music nurtured us:** Music weaves itself into whatever it is that we're experiencing and makes it better. When we were physically and emotionally exhausted, overwhelmed, and terrified, music comforted us. When we were overjoyed and optimistic, music celebrated with us.
4. **Music travels through time:** Songs write their own stories into our life. We shared songs with Micah that we enjoyed when we were children. We learned songs in Micah's hospital room that will remain with us, always. Music takes us back, and keeps us present.
5. **Music is fun:** Some of my most treasured memories with Micah happened through music. We danced, sang, and rocked in a chair, just listening, together. Music allowed us to escape the chaos of the hospital by giving us a sense of normalcy. Micah loved music, and we loved sharing music with Micah.



After Micah died on December 11, 2012, we wanted to find that *one* thing that brought Micah joy, and give it to other families. Music was it. We created the Micah Smiles Fund to expand the Music Therapy Program at our children's hospital.

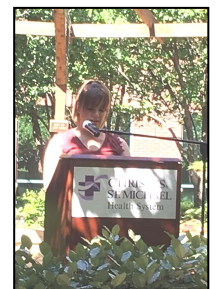


The Micah Smiles Fund initiated a Music Therapy Fellowship Program, where an established music therapist mentors a recently credentialed music therapist, while providing the healing sound of music to pediatric patients and their families. The result is pure music magic.

We've been lucky enough to meet some of the families who've been touched by the Music Therapy Program, including teenagers with chronic, life-threatening conditions, young children who are hospitalized and too frail to play outside, and babies in the neonatal intensive care unit who are alone in an isolette and desperate for loving interactions. Giving music to pediatric patients and their families, in honor of Micah, provides us with a great sense of peace.

Published on HuffPost Parents on February 29, 2016. Retrieved March 29, 2016 from www.huffingtonpost.com.

M.E.N.D. - Texarkana Life to Remember



Thy Will Be Done

Most of my life, music has spoken to me in a significant way. Music has always calmed the chaos in my mind, soothed an aching heart and brought a smile to my face. But when I lost my baby, music became the only way to express my pain out loud - a way to release the bottled emotions when I couldn't find the right words. Loss causes an inner pain you want to get out, but your words are so jumbled together in your mind, you can't even make them make sense. I look back at the words I wrote in my journal those first few months after losing Livi, and I really have to try and figure out what I was trying to say.

I feel God gives songwriters words that speak to our hearts and minds. Words we wanted to say but did not know how to say. I still take the lyrics to songs and put them into my circumstance. For example, lyrics from a song that is on the radio by Lauren Daigle called "Trust in You" speaks to my heart when I think of the losses I have suffered in my life. She wrote this song after the passing of her beloved grandfather, who was her best friend. Although her loss is not the same as ours, the words she wrote in the chorus can relate to all losses.

When You don't move the mountains I'm needing You to move
When You don't part the waters I wish I could walk through
When You don't give the answers as I cry out to You
I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in You!

At the time of my loss, I wanted God to remove the nightmare of losing Livi and make it not true, but He did not. I wanted Him to part the waters of my infertility and incompetent cervix, but He did not. He did not give me the answer I wanted when they said my baby would not live through delivery. I finally had to say "I have to and will trust in You to turn this nightmare into whatever You want it to be." I had to realize I did not create the imperfections in my body. God did, and He never makes a mistake; I am His masterpiece, and He loves me just the way I am.

The cries of our hearts are petitioned to God on our behalf by the words that are in songs. He may have given the words to songwriters to create songs, but He wants us to hear the words to cry out to Him when we don't know what to say. Words written so He can give us HOPE.

I say HOPE because when I had to say goodbye to my firstborn, I had none. I had been diagnosed with a condition that no one could guarantee the outcomes of my pregnancy called "incompetent cervix." It was a miracle I had even become pregnant with her because of infertility issues to which the doctors had no answers for the cause. After our loss, people were saying "you are young, you can have another; there's still hope." However, the odds were stacked against me. I felt I had no hope. Music renewed me and gave me a new hope. It gave one step, one day, one month at a time of reaching the HOPE in God I needed to believe I could get pregnant again and would have a baby in my arms to love. I had no idea when or how it would happen, but it would come in His time.

At my second M.E.N.D. meeting I was given a CD by a lady that she said "helped me so much." The people who sang these songs had walked the road I was on at some point, and they made it. Music can help you get through those moments where you feel like you can't go on anymore. God can speak ever so clearly to you in song. He can use the words of a song to let us know He never leaves us, even when we may not understand why He chose to take the one we wanted and loved with all our hearts. He catches every tear that falls, and He hears every prayer we pray. He puts our crumbled hearts together, never to be the same again, but with a new hope gluing the pieces together. When we think there is silence, He is orchestrating our next steps. Our names are written on His music sheet and each chord, each note is how He moves us to become anew.

Hillary Scott has recently written a song "Thy Will." It is an open letter to God where Hillary asks God for a sign and explanation. He has a plan for her despite her troubles and pain. How many of us screamed this and still are, when we lost our babies? I will admit to you the lyrics are hard, but they are what you have to hear and get it deep in your heart to make it through. It took me about five times before I could make it through the song. It brought my pain from almost 10 years ago back. The questions I struggled with because I was so confused and my broken heart was a part of His plan. My baby was gone so I certainly had heard Him loud and clear! I knew He was good, but it did not feel good at that moment. He wanted me to count this pain as joy? Remembering He was God - and I wasn't - had to become the truth of this new testimony He had given. I knew He saw, heard and loved me; I just had to believe His plans were good for me. I had to say "Thy Will Be Done, Thy Will Be Done, Thy Will Be Done." I let that be all that would come out of me. It was not overnight; it was not even after a year that my heart was able to say this. It was when I reached the point I had no more of me to keep fighting for me; I had to let God completely make me over. I was flawed and tainted, but I was His and His will would have to be done to make me anew.

Never will we be the same after such tragedy, but we have to be open to hearing God's peace, love and hope through songs. Take the time to listen to the words of the songs and look at the lyrics to make sure you are hearing them right. The words God gave the songwriters are specific for us. He sends His love like that even now, 10 years later, to me, and I so love Him more and more because of that.

♥ Liz Walker,
Mommy to Alivia Elizabeth-Grace
M.E.N.D.—Advisory Board

Praise in the Midst of the Storm: The Counselor's Corner

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

While I am writing this month’s column, Spring is in full bloom. Flowers are coloring the landscape, and brown grass is returning to a lively, lush green. It’s that time of the year in Texas when we wear short sleeves, but light jackets aren’t too far away quite yet.

However, as you read this column, most of you are experiencing your version of summer. Here in Texas, we have two summer temperatures: hot and hotter! It is a lethargic heat that causes you to want to stay indoors or seek shady shelter outdoors. This scenario reminds me of grief – anything to escape from life’s changing seasons and wanting to hide indoors or find shelter from the fallout from our grieving hearts.

It’s difficult to find peace in the midst of the storm of grief. Our broken hearts can’t find shelter or escape. We often feel so alone. However, in Matthew 14:25-27 we find a small fragment of a stormy sea and the fear the disciples experienced when they saw Jesus. It is in the midst of the storm Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”

When we experience fear, God often uses music to speak through the chaos of our stormy life. Written words do not make sense. Family and friends speak words of what is intended to comfort, but it often is just a cacophony of noise. Life may appear as a blur with no clear direction or intelligent answers.

Clients often come to my office searching for the “why” of grief. I gently guide them to understand this is the wrong question to be asking because there is no why. The right questions are what can I learn and how can I heal. No simple answers or solutions, but healing can occur – in time.

Music has proven to be helpful to numerous clients struggling with a variety of grief situations. Sometimes it is spiritual music; sometimes it is secular music. When my dad died in 1997, I played a song that had a resonating phrase in it. “I fell on my knees and cried, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy.’ I clapped my hands and sang ‘Glory; Glory to the Son of God.’” I didn’t quite understand why that song kept coming to mind or why it brought me comfort as I listened to it over and over, but I accepted the message of the song. Finally, I came to understand it was what my dad was doing, and I was able to celebrate his life. My dad introduced me to Jesus, and that song still brings a smile to my face because it is linked with precious memories of my dad.

I was blessed by a different song when my mom died in 2003. I discovered this song on an inexpensive CD about five weeks before her death. The resonating phrase words gave me “permission” to cry. “She went to sleep one night never more to awaken... Serenaded by angels up to the throne... singing praises to the King.” As I traveled almost six hours one way in the car every weekend, I cried and mourned the loss that was inevitable. I was amazed she died just like the song indicated. Her death caused me to experience one of life’s tailspin moments that caught me off guard. I got “stuck” in my grief and ended up in my own personal counseling for nine months. I listened to this song over and over during that nine months and cried frequently, but eventually my broken heart was healed, and I could face life out on my own again.

My husband and I are celebrating our 50th anniversary in May (another one of those times that will be a memory when you are reading this). We are so excited about the upcoming celebration! We’ve spent hours selecting the “perfect” music because we are unfolding our love story through music. The selected songs all have a story to tell of a specific time in our life or an ongoing period of our life, but each has special memories associated with the song.

Music can provide the opportunity to remember... remember through tears or smiles, or both. The notes can create pockets of precious memories – whether sad or happy ones. Instead of book recommendations for this article, I have included some special songs and the youtube videos of them. I hope they bless your heart and give you guidance to find your own special songs (spiritual or secular) that will link your precious memories with your loved one that is not physically a part of your daily life. Some have a background introduction to talk about the origin of song, and some just the song. May they bless your heart in a special way!

Music Recommendations:

“The Anchor Holds” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxnQzwrF4OU>

“I bowed on my knees and cried, Holy” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2gj_N4i77s

“Serenaded By Angels” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3OzDBviY-Q>

“The God on the Mountain” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCTI4tUYIAg>

“Through It All” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CvIxc90BEI&nohtml5=False>

Minnesota is 5th state to pass tax credit for families of stillborn children

In our July/August 2015 newsletter, we shared an article of Missouri becoming the second state to provide a tax exemption/credit for stillbirth. In the past year, three other states have joined in providing a tax credit or exemption for stillbirth. The five states are Arizona, Indiana, Missouri, Alaska and Minnesota.

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. - Minnesota has now become the fifth state in the nation to pass a bill that provides a one-time tax credit to families of stillborn children. The legislation, which was part of the supplemental budget bill, was signed into law June 1, by Governor Mark Dayton. Stillbirth is defined as unintended fetal death occurring after 20 weeks of pregnancy. Approximately 400 Minnesota babies are lost to stillbirth each year, and 26,000 nationally.

“We are incredibly grateful for the support, compassion and leadership shown by state lawmakers to pass this bill which will help Minnesota families pick up the pieces after losing a child,” said Lindsey Wimmer, executive director of the Star Legacy Foundation. “We would like to specifically thank our chief authors, Senator Ann Rest and Representative Roz Peterson, for their partnership and dedication.”

Parents of stillborn children accept the burden of many financial costs, including preparing for the arrival of the child, funeral services, time away from work, and counseling. Additionally, stillborn children are not typically covered by health insurance, so families wanting answers must pay out of pocket for autopsy costs. For some families, the total costs associated with the loss of a stillborn child can reach as high as \$15,000.

“This bill is about more than dollars and cents. It’s about recognizing the hundreds of Minnesota families that suffer in silence each year,” added Wimmer.

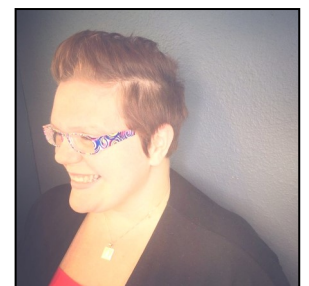
Effective January 1, 2016, a family who has a stillborn baby is eligible for a one-time, \$2000 tax credit. Star Legacy Foundation Board members Chris Duffy and Dale Fuller brought this initiative to the attention of the state legislators. Along with their wives, Amanda and Carrie, they were successful in securing strong bipartisan support in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. We are grateful for the many legislators who supported this effort. Their leadership will make a tangible difference for families experiencing this heartache.

To receive the tax credit, families must request a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth and provide it to their tax professional when preparing the year’s taxes.

Published on Star Legacy Foundation on June 1, 2016, at <http://starlegacyfoundation.org/take-action/>

M.E.N.D.-Houston Fundraisers

M.E.N.D.—Houston spent a busy month in May raising funds for the chapter. It was the 3rd Annual Crawfish Boil for the Arie Witt Foundation. This event raised \$3,600. Stormy Mitchell, Chapter Director, agreed to a Fauxhawk for M.E.N.D. if the chapter raised \$3,000. 48 people donated to the cause, raising over \$3,400! Thank you to everyone who supported M.E.N.D.!



M.E.N.D.

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

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

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

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

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

Subsequent pregnancy group meets
every other month

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

Daddy's group meets quarterly
on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,

led by Greg Miller (stephaniem@mend.org)

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana

Meets the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehab Hospital

2400 St. Michael Drive
Texarkana, Texas 75503

Director: Monica Davis
monica@mend.org, (903) 490-1210

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington

Meets the 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Harrison Medical Center/Iris Room
1800 Myhre Rd.

Silverdale, Washington 98383

Gig Harbor Meeting

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

11567 Canterwood Blvd NW,
Gig Harbor, Washington 98332

Director: Stacy McGhee
stacym@mend.org, (360) 662-6161

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

Meets the 1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Project H.O.P.E.

1419 S. Enterprise

Springfield, Missouri 65804

Director: Kathryn Gold
kathryn@mend.org, (417) 770-0600

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

M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls held our 2nd Annual Mother's Day event in May, A Life to Remember. We were blessed with beautiful weather and so honored to have Amber Zuckerman and DaLana Barsanti, members of the Board of Directors, share their hearts and gifts with us. This event continues to grow, and we look forward to next year.

We remember all of our families and their babies, and hope parents continue to join us at our monthly meeting as they grieve.

Sarah Fukasawa

Houston

M.E.N.D.—Houston has been very blessed these last couple months. We have had some successful fundraising events! Our "Fauxhawk for M.E.N.D." fundraiser raised \$3,400! We have a fun fundraiser planned for July so watch our Facebook page.

Also, we are in the thick of planning for our Walk to Remember. If you would like to volunteer to help at our Walk, email me at stormym@mend.org. The Walk to Remember is at Bammel Church of Christ on October 15, at 1:00 PM. Please watch our Facebook page and your email for more information on this event.

And, as always, we are honored and blessed to be leading our monthly support groups for our families all over the Houston area.

Stormy Mitchell

Texarkana

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana held its 3rd annual Life to Remember on May 7 at the Serenity Garden at CHRISTUS St. Michael. Through this very special event, M.E.N.D.—Texarkana reached out to hurting families in the Texarkana area. Thank you to Antionette Peters and the staff of CHRISTUS St. Michael, Martha Sherman for sharing her testimony, and to Stephanie Desjarlais for taking pictures.

Painting with a Purpose will be held July 28, at Painting with a Twist in Texarkana. Watch for more details on our Facebook page and in your email.

Our monthly meetings are the third Thursday of every month. Please contact Monica Davis at monica@mend.org for more information or join us on our Facebook page.

Monica Davis

NW Washington

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington continues to reach out to families in our community through our meetings and fundraisers in Silverdale and Gig Harbor. Thank you to all who participated in our garage sale to benefit our fundraiser for a cuddle cot.

Stacy McGhee

Bryan/College Station

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station had a wonderful turn out for our spirit night at the Aggeland Chick-fil-a! We are looking forward to our Painting with a Purpose night at Painting with a Twist next month. For more updates on meeting times and events, please join our Facebook group! Click the Facebook link under our chapter on www.mend.org.

Jennie Drude

Chicagoland

M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland is thankful to continue the work of ministering to hurting moms and dads in the Chicagoland area. As new families join us each month, we hurt for and with them. We are blessed to be able to use love of Jesus to walk along side them and share their burden during such difficult times.

Sara Hintz

Tulsa

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa continues to reach out to grieving families through our monthly meetings, emails, phone calls, and Facebook. We are thankful for the opportunities that God provides us by using M.E.N.D. to minister to others throughout this difficult journey.

Lisa Daily

SW Missouri

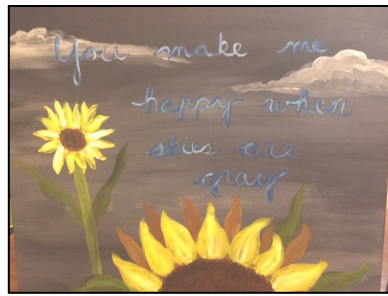
M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri continues to welcome new families and encourage our current members through our monthly support group meetings, Facebook group and emails.

We are raising funds for a memorial bench. We have raised \$2,000 of the \$4,000 total we need. If you would like to contribute, please send your payment to M.E.N.D., P.O. Box 881, Republic, MO 65738. Be sure to include the name of your baby, heavenly birthday and cause of death for the tribute portion of the newsletter. The bench will be dedicated on October 15, 2016, at 1:00 PM. Klingner-Cope Funeral Home is hosting the ceremony at their Eastlawn Cemetery. This will replace our Balloon Release ceremony.

In June, we had a great time painting together at Artivities! Thank you to all who came and supported our chapter; we raised \$120 for our operating budget.

Kathryn Gold

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri Painting Night



M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station

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

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa

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

M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls, Texas

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

M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland, Illinois

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

M.E.N.D. Support Group Meetings in the Dallas Metroplex

Join us for a time of sharing experiences.

M.E.N.D. main chapter meetings

are held the 2nd Thursday of every month from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Daddies group

meets the 2nd Thursday of March, June, Sept. and Dec., from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

A time for dads to meet together and discuss topics relevant to them as fathers. Our moms and dads meet together for introductions before dividing into two groups for discussion.

Subsequent pregnancy group

meets the 4th Tuesday from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Led by Liz Walker: liz@mend.org
For families who are considering becoming pregnant or are currently pregnant after a loss.

Food and Fellowship

are held the 4th Thursday of every month at 8:00 p.m. at the Corner Bakery in Southlake Town Center

A time to relax and meet with other M.E.N.D. parents in a social setting.

Contact Brittney Fish:
brittney@mend.org

Infertility group

meets the 3rd Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Contact Cheryl Davis for meeting location and information at Cheryl@mend.org

For families experiencing infertility after a loss.

Parenting After Loss Playgroup

Meets monthly at various locations in the Dallas / Fort Worth metroplex.

Contact Magen Kaye: Magen@mend.org or call (214) 435-3870

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

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

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

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

In Loving Memory**Baby Baker**

Parents: Trevor and Erin Baker
Given anonymously

Andrew Robert Bateman

Stillborn October 7, 2014
Unknown cause
Given by parents Tim and Laura Bateman
and siblings Leah, Hannah and Noah

Baby Bertram

Miscarried May 2012
Parents: Ryan and Erica Bertram
Siblings: Julia and Grayson
Given by grandparents Gary and Jennie Bertram

Oliver Brueck

March 10, 2016
Parents: Aaron and Lauren Brueck
Gifts given by
Jennifer Herb
David Falsone
David Seeman
Anonymous
Monica Prado
George Laurence
Christina Stewart
Patricia Mallozzi
Michelle Crawford
Allison Spangler
Sarah Rosborough

Jackson David Crowe

August 22—September 9, 1998
Congenital heart defect
Parents: David and Marie Crowe
Siblings: Hannah and Andrew
Given by Gail Bohdan

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Given by parents Gerald and Jaimie Crump
and little sisters Cami and Karli

Brooke Sophia Daily

Stillborn March 11, 2010
Vasa previa
Gifts given by parents Jeremy and Lisa Daily
and sisters Sarah and Savannah

Riley and Parker Davis

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

Grace Dell

March 17, 2008
PPROM

Rose Dell

Miscarried January 3, 2014
Given by parents Peter and Rachel Dell
and brothers Zeke, Kye and Izaiah

Caleb Scott Fann

December 1, 2003
PROM

Baby August Fann

Miscarried August 13, 2004
Given by parents Jonathan and Heather Fann
and little sister Madison Grace

Airrington Hope Fumagalli

Stillborn December 22, 2013
Unknown cause

Jakoebi Michael Fumagalli

Miscarried November 22, 2011
Ectopic pregnancy
Given by
Parents Michael and Kirsten Fumagalli
and brother Gable

Gabriel David Gimlin

Stillborn March 29, 2012
Given by parents Gary and Andrea Gimlin
and sister Athena-Rose

Lauren Paige Grimes

Stillborn March 6, 1999
Unknown cause

Baby Grimes (Raleigh's twin)

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

CJ Gold

Miscarried August 12, 2008

Marina Gold

Miscarried July 14, 2009
Gifts given by
Parents Greg and Kathryn Gold
and big sister Emily
Grandparents Jesse and LaVaune Sitzes
Grandmother Nellie Gold
Great Uncle and Aunt
Cliff and Mary Allen
Great Uncle and Great Aunt
Lloyd and Lillian Gentry
Cousin Michael Gentry
Tom and Cathy Lakowske
Bob and Bonnye Roberts
Reverend George and Jewell Wood
David and Carol Cates
Ron and Teresa Hartman
Kevin and Dr. Kristy McCall
Reverend John and Ruth Marshall

Serenity Harrison

Miscarried December 3, 2009
Given by parents Curtis and Jennifer Harrison
and siblings Levi and Ziva

Baby Leask

Miscarried January 2016
Given by Brett and Jennifer Tohlen

Laramie Clel Marvin

Stillborn November 21, 2000
IUFD
Given by parents Matthew and Crista Marvin
and siblings Shawnie and Cierra

Sophia Rose McGhee

Stillborn March 29, 2010
Unknown cause
Given by parents Matthew and Stacy McGhee
and siblings Micah and Scarlett

Matthew Joel Mifflin

Stillborn June 6, 2003
Cord accident

Little One Mifflin

Miscarried February 6, 2006

lil' rosebud Mifflin

Miscarried March 10, 2007
Given by parents Dennis and Janet Mifflin
and siblings Thomas and Michelle

Max Novik

May 9-10, 2011
Anencephaly
Given by parents Mark and Melinda Novik
and sisters Sam (Max's twin) and Jenna

Baby Potter

Miscarried September 2015
Given by Brett and Jennifer Tohlen

Greg Joseph Roberts

September 8-18, 2011
Placental abruption
Parents: Ricky and Leslie Roberts
Given by grandparents David and Cynthia Hoobler

Mindy and Maggie Smith

Stillborn November 4, 1997
TTTS and Polyhydramnios
Given by parents Scott and Karla Smith
and siblings Travis and Julia

Baby Tohlen

Miscarried September 2011
Given by Brett and Jennifer Tohlen

Aaron Valentine**Angel Noel Torres**

December 18, 2009

Baby Torres

Miscarried March 21, 2010
Given by parents Gerald and Jennifer Torres

Baby Wilson I

Miscarried January 2007

Baby Wilson II

Miscarried June 2007

Given by parents Doug and Michele Wilson
and siblings Gabe and Sadie

Arie Ronald Witt

November 5, 2013
Unknown cause

Baby Witt

Miscarried June 2014
Parents: Mike and Candice Witt
Sister: Brinley
Given by Nick Rushing

Adrian Joseph "AJ" Zuckerman

Stillborn March 30, 2007
Cord accident
Gifts given by parents Al and Amber Zuckerman
and brothers Eli and Alex

Gifts of Support

Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
West Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, TX
Paul and Kim Peterson
Stephen and Elayne Burton
Christ Church Assembly of God, Fort Worth, TX

Subsequent Births



Sheree and Chancy Felan,
of Richard Hills, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Felix Chancy,
born May 6, 2016,
measuring 6 lb., 8 oz.
and 19 inches long.
The family lovingly remembers
Eva Rose,
May 9-10, 2014,
hydrocephaly

Jerry and Brandi Tine,
of Fort Worth, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Elijah Howard,
born April 14, 2016,
measuring 6 lb., 6 oz.,
and 17.25 inches long.
The family lovingly remembers
Zechariah,
July 14, 2014,
prematurity

Tiffany and Andre McKay,
of Irving, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Sanaa Ianthe,
born April 10, 2016,
measuring 6 lb. and 2 oz.
The family lovingly remembers
Baby McKay,
miscarried January 2010,
Adriano McKay,
November 11, 2012—January 22, 2013,
PPROM,
Baby Boy McKay,
miscarried January 2015

Música

El Señor definitivamente no me regalo cualquier tipo de habilidad musical ni una voz que se queda en clave, pero me encanta la música. El radio o un CD siempre está tocando en mi coche mientras manejo, escucho “mi música” mientras me arreglo por las mañanas y mi app de iTunes siempre está encendida en mi oficina mientras trabajo. Conozco la mayoría de las palabras a mis favoritos, pero no quisiera que nadie me escuche cantando apasionadamente. He aprendido durante los años que tan poderosos son canciones. Música establece o cambia nuestro estado de ánimo. Disfruto la música de spa al relajarse, pero prefiero algo más rápido en mis oídos cuando haciendo ejercicio en el gimnasio. Y ciertamente, algunas canciones nos recuerdan de temporadas en nuestras vidas, lugares e incluso personas específicas.

No sé por qué, pero lograba regresar a la iglesia después de que mi bebé Jonatán fue nacido muerto hace 21 años. En aquel momento, mi iglesia, como la mayoría de las iglesias, llevó a cabo servicios de domingo por la noche. Decidí regresar a la congregación durante un servicio de noche sería más fácil que regresar un domingo por la mañana cuando hubiera una multitud completa y ver a tantas personas por primera vez después de mi pérdida. A propósito, llegamos unos minutos tarde para evitar charlar con algunos de ellos antes de que comenzara el servicio. Disimuladamente nos sentamos en la fila de atrás de nuestro gran santuario, esperando ser inadvertido. Cuando nos acomodamos en nuestra banca, me di cuenta que el coro cantaba una canción especial. Oh. ¡No! Oh sí, ¡Una canción sobre el cielo! Ellos estaban cantando la canción popular de entonces que probablemente cada coro de la iglesia y solista cristiano en América cantó en los 80 y 90, “Inclinada sobre mis rodillas y grito Santo”. Es un himno de alguien entrando en el cielo, describiendo lo que veía y quién vio... pudiendo ver a Abraham, Isaac y Jacob y hablando con Marcos y Timoteo, pero todo lo que deseaba ver era Jesús - quien murió por él. Mientras estaba sentada allí a punto de hiperventilar, quería gritar hacia fuera, “Bien, ¡El único que quiero ver es mi bebé!” Mi dolor fue tan crudo en aquel momento, estaba convencida de que la directora del coro eligió la música especialmente esa noche sólo para torturarme. No quería escuchar o cantar todo lo que tenía que ver con el cielo. ¡Yo sabía que mi bebé estaba allí, y estaba furiosa sobre ello! Y cuando pensé sobre el cielo, definitivamente no tenía visiones grandiosas de ver a Jesús, sólo soñaba con ver a mi Jonathan.

Como han pasado los años, ahora me encanta cantar y pensar del cielo. El cielo es donde residen dos de mis hijos y me emociono saber que los iré ver allí algún día. Ya no me resiento en pensar donde están, y escuchar canciones que describen el cielo basado en las escrituras me da una sensación de anhelo para nuestro hogar eterno. Tengo un montón de canciones en mi lista de canciones que no sólo hablan del cielo, sino también de la alegría del Señor, fuerza y curación que me trae consuelo. Y sí, “Inclinada en mis rodillas y gritó Santo” está en la alineación de mis canciones. Esa canción tiene un significado totalmente nuevo para mí. Verdaderamente, puedo decir cuando llego al cielo, estoy segura que primero quiero inclinarme en reverencia ante El Santísimo antes de ver a mis hijos y otros seres queridos que se han ido antes que yo. Mientras tanto, dependería de la música que me ayude a imaginar cómo será el cielo y me da paz cuando estoy teniendo un día difícil o pasando una temporada difícil en mi vida.

“Que me ha dado una nueva canción a cantar un himno de alabanza a nuestro Dios.” Salmo 40:3

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

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- **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, go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and set up an account if you do not already have one. Once you receive the email after setting up your account, click on “My Account,” then go to “Edit Kroger Community Rewards” and input your Kroger Plus card number. You’ll see a screen with your information in boxes, at the bottom right, there is a box that says Community Rewards. Click that, then enter the M.E.N.D. number, which is 80513. Once that’s entered, you’ll confirm that M.E.N.D. is your charity of choice. This link will be good until the 2015-2016 program expires. You must link your card each year 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.
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