



Our Mission

Our mission is to provide support and guidance to grieving parents who have lost a child at any age, from illness, accident, miscarriage or even abortion. We want to honor the memory of your child. Our goal is to help parents and their friends and families navigate through the devastating loss of a child. Our desire is to support, guide and pray for one another as we travel on this journey.



Resources



Websites:

www.griefhaven.org

www.compassionatefriends.org

www.athealth.com/consumer/disorders/parentalgrief

www.healinghearts.org



Books:

Tear Soup by Pat Schweibert

I'll Hold You In Heaven by Jack Hayford

A Bereaved Parent by Harriet Sarnoff Schiff

A Grace Disguised by Gerald Lawson Sittser

Grieving the Loss of a Loved One by Kathe Wunnenberg

Grieving the Child I Never Knew by Kathe Wunnenberg

Safe in the Arms of Jesus by Robert P. Lightner

When Life Hurts by Philip Yancey

Butterfly Ministry



15135 NE 92nd St, Suite 240

Redmond, WA 98052

Phone: 425-457-3857

E-mail: butterfly@abchurch.org

Websites: www.butterflyministry.org

www.abchurch.org

Butterfly Ministry



Death of a Child



"It is frequently said that the grief of bereaved parents is the most intense grief known. When a child dies, parents feel that a part of them has died, that a vital and core part of them has been ripped away."

(Arnold and Gemma 1994, 40)





Death of a Child

Bereaved parents feel that the death of their child is “the ultimate deprivation.” The grief caused by their child’s death is not only painful, but profoundly disorienting – children are not supposed to die. These parents are forced to confront an extremely painful and stressful paradox: they are faced with a situation in which they must deal both with the grief caused by their child’s death and with their inherent need to continue to live their own lives as fully as possible. Thus, bereaved parents must deal with the contradictory burden of wanting to be free of this overwhelming pain and yet needing it as a reminder of the child who died.

Grieving parents need to know how important it is to express their pain to someone who will understand and acknowledge what they are feeling and saying.

*We are here to help!
The Butterfly Ministry consists of other parents who have struggled with the loss of a child -- we understand the journey you are facing. We are here to provide support for parents, friends and family, to lend an ear or a shoulder to cry on. Our desire is to pray with you and to remember and honor your child's life.*



Stories

“Our journey included both the loss of a child and the loss of dreams as we cared for our severely disabled daughter for over 10 years before she went to be with Jesus. It has been such a blessing to meet other families who have also lost children, connecting with them and sharing in a common bond. We can get so focused on our own grief and pain that we sometimes forget we are not alone.”

- Linda Richards

“My daughter Jaclyn died tragically while at day care. I was not there to say my last goodbye’s. I have found that what helps me on my up and down journey of grief is being transparent with the people around me. I know that the Lord’s plan in my life is to use my tragedy as a way to reach and help people who have lost children. I know my daughter is in a better place with our heavenly Father and one day I will see her again.”

- Michele Frank

“We were told at our 20 week ultrasound that our developing baby boy would not survive outside the womb. As devastation set in and the tears began, our 2 year old son asked, ‘Mom, why are you crying? Jesus is right next to you . . . He’s holding your hand.’ Our son Isaac was right, Jesus was holding our hand, and would see us through. God continues to give us hope and encouragement through the lives of others.”

- Kirsten Mullins



Scripture

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”

Mark 9:36-37 “He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in His arms, He said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me; and whoever welcomes Me does not welcome Me but the One who sent Me.’”

1 Peter 5:7 & 10 “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you . . . And the God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”



1 Peter 1:6-7 “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes, even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

Mark 10:14 “Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”