

**THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**  
Post Office Box 583 Taylors, South Carolina 29687  
(864) 288-8342  
[www.tcfogreenvillesc.org](http://www.tcfogreenvillesc.org)

**JUNE 2003**

**Father's Day**

I just watched another TV commercial for cologne, which is the first sign of the approach of Father's Day. Like other fathers, I know the gift I'd like to get this Father's Day, just as I know there is no way that it will happen – my son's life, an opportunity not to hurt when I see boys who are his age, a chance to dream those dreams for that little boy again. But that's not going to happen. Instead I will get up on that day, having called my own father the night before to wish him a happy Father's Day, and I will go to the cemetery to place flowers on my son's grave. I will stand alone and cry for a time and then return home to my wife and new infant son. This year we will have a greater measure of peace because of the birth of our son, but I shall always have a hole in my soul, a longing that I know I will have until I die.

Like many bereaved fathers, I have felt misunderstood about how a father should mourn and for how society can have such a belief in the strength of maternal love and of such a good job ignoring the intensity of paternal love. From the people whose only question at my son's memorial service was how was my wife dealing with this tragedy, to the long-time friend who didn't understand my choking up after watching a Hallmark commercial, it seems that many around us have difficulty understanding a father's grief.

So, support and love is needed and needed badly. Of course, we have Compassionate Friends, but something more personal and closer to home is needed. I hope that bereaved fathers will not be forgotten on Father's Day. It is often said that we don't talk of our emotional needs and are reluctant to show our pain, but we too need love when we hurt. Please remember us on Father's Day and remember that the cute little commercials that hurt mothers in May - take their toll on fathers in June.

*Doug Hughes  
TCF, Las Vegas, NV*

**To My Dad On Father's Day**

I came to mom in a vision the other night' I sent a message and asked her if a letter she'd write. There are so many things I intended to say- I know you felt the same, in your own way.

I heard that you wished you'd hugged me the night I left; just hearing your wish gave me warmth in my chest. Though you never said, "I love you" aloud and in the open, I always knew it, though the words were not spoken.

I'm as guilty as you for not expressing my feelings- In our hearts and minds, we knew about such dealings. We were so much alike, that you cannot deny, which could be the reason we didn't always see eye to eye.

Though I'm no longer with you physically, I wanted Mom to tell you what you really meant to me.

Don't feel guilty or sad for things you could have done- You taught me to enjoy life and have so much fun.

Thank you for the times we spent hunting and fishing, There was nothing greater on earth, no matter the wishing. So much we shared on weekends, when we'd all go jeeping; it was exciting and a memory worth keeping.

You taught me to love and respect Mother Nature, and do no harm to land or creature. Your love gave me all of these things, add them all up and see what happiness it brings.

I left for another life without saying goodbye- That's something we couldn't have done, no matter where or why. Just remember I'm with you every hour of every day, Remember our love grows stronger in things we do and say.

Some day we'll be together as a family again- I can assure you of that because I know we can. I needed Mom to tell you in her special way, that's why I asked her to write what I had to say.

I'll tell you now, because I didn't while on Earth, I loved, admired and respected you from my birth. We'll keep our love alive and won't be sad, because you will always be my Dad.

*Carol Sharp, Springfield, Missouri*

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**OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED**

Paige Lesley Pepper 1/7/91 – 6/16/99  
Trent Chapman 1/10/80 – 6/27/94  
Allan Dobson 6/10/75 – 9/2/00  
Alyson Duncan 6/18/84 – 10/16/84  
Baron Garrett 10/26/67 – 6/21/78  
Mark Jones 4/20/67 – 6/27/99  
Jeremy Knoke 6/4/79 – 7/5/91  
Terrance Lomax 10/30/86 – 6/14/99  
Michael Moyd 6/24/95 – 3/29/96  
Schuyler Raiford 6/15/97 – 5/8/99  
David Rush 3/13/75 – 6/21/93  
Joshua Bryant 3/27/80 – 6/18/01  
Clayton Spencer 5/24/90 – 6/13/02  
Joey Williamson 9/13/69 – 6/20/89  
Christine McCaroll 6/12/91 – 5/1/96

**LOVE GIFTS**

*Mr. & Mrs. Michael Brackett in  
memory of Ashley*



**Graduation Time**

It's graduation time again. Your child would have been among those wearing the cap and gown, walking down the aisle to "Pomp and Circumstance." Now there will be a vacant spot in the line. Should you attend? Can you stand the pain? Will people think you're strange? As always, you must follow your heart. So, go if you'd like to, and don't hide your tears. It's quite all right to miss your own child while celebrating the achievement of others.

**BOOK REVIEW**



**Chicken Soup for the Grieving Soul.**

This latest entry in the Chicken Soup series is targeted at the newly brokenhearted: those who've recently experienced the death of a beloved friend or family member and are still reeling from the experience. It's a collection of stories by authors who have lost loved ones, and in their stories, they detail the particular death, the aftermath, and how they dealt with their overwhelming grief and found the courage to live again.

**Help Your Marriage Survive the Death of a Child**

*By Paul C. Rosenblatt*

Many parents who have experienced the death of a child struggle with painful and at times overwhelming marital distance, and it can magnify those problems that existed before the child's death. Grieving parents often fear that divorce is a real possibility. This book can help.

**MONTHLY MEETING**

June's meeting will be led by Norm and Alice Raiford.. The topic will be: **"Ways to celebrate our child's birthdays, and ways to deal with the anniversary of our child's death."**

Please come and share your ideas about helpful ways we can remember our children on these important dates.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at Pelham Road Baptist Church, 1108 Pelham Road.

**NOTICE**

Any submissions for our newsletter should be sent to The Compassionate Friends, P.O. Box 583, Taylors, SC 29687. These need to be received by the end of the month in order to appear in the next months' newsletter.

26<sup>TH</sup> TCF National Conference  
Atlanta, Georgia  
July 4-6, 2003  
[www.tcfatlanta.org/2003Conference](http://www.tcfatlanta.org/2003Conference)



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