

# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Post Office Box 25573 Greenville, South Carolina 29616

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## Monthly Meeting

June 14, 2007

*Always the second Thursday of the month*

### Topic:

**“Father’s Day & Grieving”**

### Facilitated by:

Dick Renner

### Meeting Time & Location

7:30 P.M.

Pelham Rd. Baptist Church,  
Family Life Center  
1108 Pelham Rd., Greenville, SC

We acknowledge “Love Gifts” with appreciation in memory of:

- **Jason Nicholas Smith** ~ *by his family*

## When Fathers Weep at Graves

I see them weep, the fathers at the stones, taking off the brave armor they are forced to wear in the work place; clearing away the debris with gentle fingers. Inhaling the sorrow diminished by anguish, their hearts desiring what they cannot have ~~ to walk hand in hand with children no longer held ~~

To all the fathers who leave a part of their hearts at the stones – may breezes underneath tree of time, ease your pain, as they receive healing tears...the gift the children give.

*Alice J. Wisler*



## Daddies Hurt Too

Daddies hurt too, we don’t always see. Just how much – the pain is so deep.

They are supposed to be strong and carry on, while we may show our heartache all the day long.

People care, but do not seem as concerned about how Daddy’s doing – since he learned... That his child he loved and had vowed to protect, died in the early morn, complications from an auto wreck.

He is just as crushed and devastated too. Why don’t people recognize that daddies hurt too?

Allow him to be human and to show his grief. Be understanding...may he get some relief!

Sometimes daddies feel as left out as can be. Like a fifth wheel, he feels this deep pain too can’t you see?

Be a support to daddies when they lose lassies or laddies. Just because he’s off working never forget his love and loss.

Deep down inside, behind that strong man, is a loving daddy who hurts so, that he can barely stand.

Remember please, just how important he is. For he has a big load to carry to raise all the other kids.

So show your love, appreciation and grace. For this daddy, who has tried to keep his children safe.

Daddy carries this heavy burden, feeling failure at best, because he could not keep his child from his final rest.

So love him, encourage and lift him up. So he’ll know we’re here for him as he drinks from this bitter cup.

*~By Linda Camper TCF, Oklahoma City, OK*



## June is Graduation Month!

Many of you would have had a child to “march down the aisle” had they lived. This will be a difficult time for you and the way you handle this is important for your healing. Should I go to the graduation ceremonies? Will everyone think I’m crazy if I do? Can I handle it emotionally? Many parents have found that participation in graduation ceremonies can be helpful. Don’t be too concerned about what others will think. Do what you feel is needed for you. And don’t be afraid of tears. Remember, our children HAVE graduated to a much better life than we can know or comprehend.

*TCF – Jackson, MS*

## Father’s Day

As this day approaches I wonder how I will react. Am I still a father? I will sit quietly never allowing family and friends to see how I feel. I will miss my son, but I can’t allow myself to “break”. I must remain strong and always be the “rock”. I wish I could just let someone know how much I miss my little angel. How much I cry and how much I miss hearing “Dad I love you.” I am a father, but I wonder, will I just pretend, as usual, that it doesn’t bother me? Remember me, for I hurt too, on this special day.

*TCF – Tampa, FL*



If your child’s name has not been listed in “Our Children Remembered” column, it may be that we do not have a signed consent form on file which we are required to have in order to publish your child’s information. You can complete a consent form on line at [www.tcfogreenvillesc.org](http://www.tcfogreenvillesc.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**The June newsletter is dedicated to the memory of all our children...gone too soon.**

#### **Our Children Remembered:**

Erika Leann Brock – 1/11/93 ~ 6/2/04  
Josh Bryant – 3/27/80 ~ 6/18/01  
Trent Chapman – 1/10/80 ~ 6/27/94  
Candy Cota – 6/4/87 ~ 2/24/04  
Allan Dobson – 6/10/75 ~ 9/2/00  
Alyson Duncan – 6/18/84 ~ 10/16/84  
Randall Eller – 5/4/84 ~ 6/19/02  
Sarah Ellis – 6/28/01 4/23/04  
Baron Garret – 10/26/67 ~ 6/21/78  
E.J. Gonzalez – 6/16/80 ~ 9/23/00  
Charlie Guthrie – 6/27/97 ~ 4/16/02  
Quinn Hall – 7/7/82 ~ 6/20/03  
Stacy Harris – 6/17/80 ~ 6/5/03  
Christopher Howard 6/15/73~12/19/97  
Jennifer Hower – 6/23/75 ~ 12/27/04  
Mark A. Jones – 4/20/67 ~ 6/27/99  
Jeremy Knoke – 6/4/79 ~ 7/5/91  
Hannah M. Linder – 6/9/82 ~ 6/9/82  
Brian Martin – 12/13/78 ~ 6/26/01  
McCall, Sam Jr. – 12/16/71 ~ 6/23/05  
Mark Miller, Jr. – 10/4/86 ~ 6/18/98  
Keith Poole – 6/2/59 ~ 1/19/98  
Schuyler Raiford – 6/15/97 ~ 5/8/99  
Randall Rainey – 6/29/59 ~ 12/7/03  
David Rush – 3/13/75 ~ 6/21/93  
Patrick Whitehurst-6/11/83 ~ 8/19/99  
Joey Williamson – 9/13/69 ~ 6/20/89



#### **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*

#### **Proud**

I was rather proud of an answer to a sticky question that we all have discussed. After telling a friend that my youngest had been killed three years ago, he said, "Then you have two children left?" "No, I have three children. One of them is dead." Unkind? Maybe, but I don't feel so, for the next time it comes up to him, he will know better how to handle such a question. I figure I just made it easier for the next guy.

*TCF – Bluegrass Chapter, Lexington, KY*

One of the many mixed feelings a father will have on Father's Day will be one of failure – failure as a protector of his child who has died. The roles of protector and father are synonymous. The father's duty is both to love and to protect that child from harm. A man may intellectually know he did his best, but the child, his charge, is still painfully absent on this Father's Day.

*Dick Moen, TCF – Indianapolis, IN*



#### **Having a Good Day**

How pleasant it was, this sunny day, to laugh at happy moments that came our way. The sky was blue and a gentle breeze made a sighing sound through the trees.

Its times like this we are in disbelief that we aren't doubled over in our grief. It means we've moved forward since then, and soon we'll be with our little girl again.

*Dan Gardner – TDF-Nashville, TN*