

Someday when I'm old
 and someone asks if I'm looking
 forward to heaven
 I'll say I'm eager to see my Jesus
 but there's someone else I want to see too.
 I'll say it's been thirty or forty years
 since I've seen her
 and the time we spent together was all too brief-
 an hour or two, that's all,
 and she was so tiny and frail
 she spent that time just trying to breathe.
 I never had a chance to find out who she was
 or what she was like- what she could have done,
 what she could have been, but she was my child,
 flesh of my flesh, my own,
 and I love her with limitless love.
 My other children grew up
 and grew older with me
 but this one- the one I'm longing to see
 stayed the same through the years
 her face fixed in my memory
 like a faded snapshot,
 its corners worn from too much handling.
 Through the years, the good and bad times,
 I've dreamed of that distant reunion
 and imagined the moment I could look her in
 the eyes and say,
 Darling, your mother's missed you
 but we'll never be apart again.

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Help from God's Word

- "God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort!" *Matthew 5:4 (CEV)*
- "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." *1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)*
- "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life." *John 3:16 (KJV)*
- "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" *Heb. 13:5-6*
- "We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us" *Romans 5:2-5(NIV)*
- "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior . . ." *Isaiah 43:2-3a (NIV)*

Denman Avenue Baptist Church
"Leading People To God Through Jesus Christ"

Worship Times

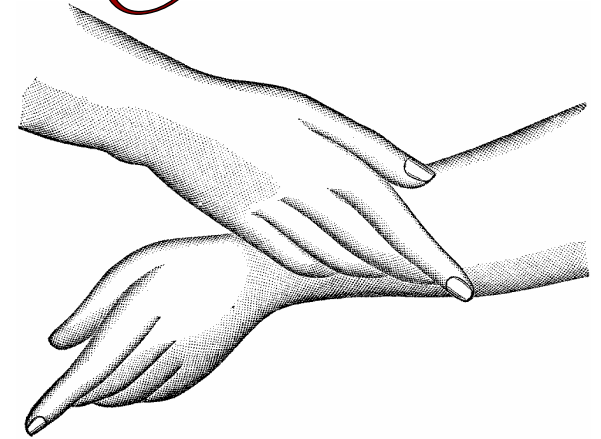
Sunday

Morning Worship
 10:30

Sunday School
 9:15

Evening Worship
 6:00

Empty Arms



"God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort!"

Matthew 5:4 (CEV)

A ministry of

Denman Avenue Baptist Church

1807 E. Denman Avenue
 Lufkin, TX 75901
 (936) 634-6691

Charles M. Roberts, *Pastor*
 Jill Gerland, *Empty Arms Coordinator*

Empty Arms . . .

One of the most earthshaking events a family can experience is the loss of a child. For many this loss occurs as a result of a miscarriage, stillbirth, or early infant death. The Empty Arms Ministry is specifically designed to offer comfort and assistance to families who are experiencing this type of loss.

Mission Statement

To reach out to those who have suffered the loss of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth, or early infant death.



Jill Gerland serves as the coordinator for the Empty Arms Ministry. In June 2004, Jill, husband Jonny and son Joseph said an early goodbye to their 6 1/2 week old daughter, Gracie Beth, who passed away as a result of Trisomy 18. They've subsequently endured three early miscarriages as well. Out of these tragedies, the Lord began to instill in Jill a passion to make a difference to other families who may be facing similar difficult circumstances.

How We Can Help

Care Baskets/ Early Loss Packages

These bereavement support items will most often be our initial contact. The Empty Arms Ministry Team assemble and deliver baskets full of items that will aid in the re-

covery process. Included in the baskets are items such as a Memory Journal—"Forever In Our Hearts", a copy of Dr. Jack Hayford's book "I'll Hold You In Heaven" and other materials that we pray will be helpful in the difficult days ahead.

Grief Partners

Nothing can be more valuable than a warm, caring individual who has been down the same or similar road. Our Grief Partners will be available to lend assistance as needed and offer a listening ear on those tough days that undoubtedly will come along. Each of these grief partners have experienced the loss of a child as well, and can offer an empathetic heart.



Prayer Chain

Each member of our ministry team will be a vital link in the prayer chain. This prayer chain will diligently lift you and your family up in prayer at any appropriate time. This includes critical times during a complicated pregnancy as well as during the bereavement period.

Resource Materials

From our own members' experiences we have developed a list of resources that can be utilized at any point in this process. This will include:

- Grief Counseling
- Assistance in making the necessary final arrangements.
- Advocacy with the local hospitals and funeral homes to help obtain any needed information that may be desired.



Candlelight Service Candlelight Memorial Service

This will be a special time of remembrance as we recognize the lives of our precious little ones. In this service, family members and extended family members are invited to join our ministry team where each child will be remembered with a lighted candle in their honor. Time and date will be published and you are invited to make this a part of your yearly calendar.

How do I get involved?

If you or someone you know is going through a poor or difficult prenatal diagnosis or they have recently experienced the death of a pre-born or infant child please contact our Empty Arms Ministry Coordinator, Jill Gerland or Denman Avenue Baptist Church at the numbers listed below. All information is kept confidential — our only desire is to share the love of Christ with you and your family.

Jill Gerland
Empty Arms Ministry Coordinator
(936) 634-3175

Denman Avenue Baptist Church
Charles M. Roberts, Pastor
(936) 634-6691

