

SUMMER 2011

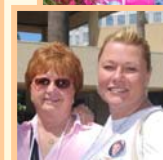


Umbrella Ministries

Helping Moms who have lost a child.

We may not be able to make the sun shine for you ... but we can hold the Umbrella.

WEST COAST JOURNEY OF THE HEART CONFERENCE - 2011



A WEEKEND FILLED WITH LOVE, HOPE,
COMFORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT!



LORD I'LL GO! SEND ME!



*"WHOM SHALL I SEND AS A MESSENGER TO MY PEOPLE? WHO WILL GO FOR US?"
LORD, I'LL GO! SEND ME! AND GOD SAID "YES, GO!" ISAIAH 6:8*



We answer God's call, we follow His instructions, and the results are up to Him. We are thankful for those in leadership of Umbrella Ministries who are willing to say "Lord, I'll go! Send me!" And then we see God's blessings beyond measure.

This, our fourteenth *Journey of the Heart* conference was amazing...the definition of amazing is: "Something that is so wonderful, it is hard to find the words to match. Something that makes your heart beat faster or your heart's melt." That defines our weekend conference.

Moms came to the conference from all across the United States. The setting was beautiful at a hotel overlooking a lake in Costa Mesa, California. From the time these precious women cross the threshold of the hotel you can sense the immediate bonding taking place. It is unexplainable, and yet needs no explanation. We see mothers being drawn closer to God, their faith restored and hope renewed. It is a sight to behold. There were hugs, tears, laughter, sharing, caring, special speakers, workshops, morning walks of hope, and music that touched their hearts. They created treasured memories with their children's pictures on bookmarks and their child's names on bracelets. They celebrated their children with a beautiful candle lighting program where each mom was wrapped in love with a hand knit prayer shawl, knit especially for her, as she lit her candle and shared her child's name. The weekend ended with a Heaven-bound dove release. After the dove release there were photos, hugs, goodbyes, arms waving and "see you next year!" (You may view the dove release at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEuXHbWLhM0>).

THANK YOU for your support of Umbrella Ministries! Without you this *Journey of the Heart* conference would not have been possible. Without your support and prayers we would be unable to say "LORD, I'LL GO! SEND ME!"

We are so grateful and pray God's richest blessings on each of you.

Daisy and Donna



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"Thoughts Under the Umbrella" devotional following the 2011 Journey of the Heart Conference ...

After I lost my daughter Katie, I felt like a stranger in my own body. I was surrounded by family and friends, but no one had walked through this journey I now found myself on. They tried to comfort me and support me, and I love them so much for all they did, but I never felt so out of place everywhere I went. It wasn't until I walked into a room with other moms who too had lost their precious child, did I feel understood. I was met by a room full of women, who even though they had not lost my child, they had some of the same feelings I had. I soon discovered I was not crazy; I was just grieving. We were all grieving the most precious gift a mother has been given, and I soon learned it would not be something I would ever "get over." What I did learn is that it would soon become a part of me; I would incorporate it into my life just as I had done in her birth. It changed every part of my life; no stone was unturned.

Our conference this weekend brought together moms who probably walked through the door wondering if anyone else could understand the pain they were dealing with, and how anything good could be accomplished by spending the weekend with brokenhearted mothers. We are instructed to comfort others as we have been comforted and that is exactly what this conference was all about. We saw mothers who came to be encouraged and comforted, reaching out and offering comfort and encouragement to women they had never met. God was showing us how we can carry one another's burdens, and what a beautiful thing to see.

Lord, we have so much to offer each other as we walk on this journey of grief, but more than anything, let us be an encouragement and a safe place to land, to each mom we come in contact with.

– Michele

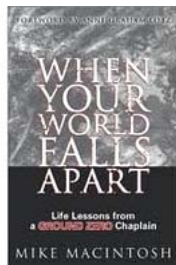
Special Request for Airline Award Miles

To help mothers, who have experienced the loss of a child; attend the East Coast "Journey of the Heart" conference in Avalon, New Jersey the weekend of October 7-9, 2011.

The airports closest to Avalon are Atlantic City & Philadelphia International Airports. If you would like to help a mom attend the conference with your airline award miles please contact:

Donna Luke
rdluke@centurytel.net
(406) 862-4244

Thank you and God Bless You!



Daisy opened the *Journey of the Heart* conference Friday evening from the book *When Your World Falls Apart – Life Lessons from Ground Zero* written by Chaplain Mike Macintosh. When our world falls apart, it seems like nothing can put it back together again. Daisy shared how God can bring peace, comfort, and joy out of our Ground Zero experience.

Janette Henning from the Umbrella Ministries San Diego Chapter wrote a study guide to go with *When Your World Falls Apart*. Some of the chapters are: Make or Break, Bitter or Better, Hopelessness to Hopefulness, and Helplessness to Faith! This is an incredible study guide that helps and encourages mothers who have experienced the loss of a child. You can download this study guide free from the San Diego web site: <http://www.umbrellaministriessd.com>

Words of Encouragement

As an outreach of encouragement, Umbrella Ministries is e-mailing a weekly devotional "Thoughts Under the Umbrella".

This devotional ministry addresses numerous aspects of the believer's walk with God, a walk that is intended to nurture us on a personal level while we pursue the "new normal" God has for us.

Umbrella Ministries is a non-denominational, biblically based ministry with the sole mission of offering comfort, hope, and encouragement to mothers who have suffered the loss of a child.

If you wish to receive this weekly devotional please e-mail Bev at bleckie@sbcglobal.net, and specifically ask for the Umbrella Ministries weekly devotional.

From the Heart of a mom who attended the Conference ...

Perfectly said and taken from my very thoughts, Michele. This past weekend saved my life, I truly believe this. I arrived with high anxiety, thinking I would not be able to get through it, not even able to speak to a group of strangers about the loss of my beloved, Kodi. I soon realized that my grief was also their grief, my thoughts, desperation, anxiety, short-term memory loss, fear of leaving my home was shared by so many other Mothers. I was not alone any longer.

The "light bulb" went on, when I heard a Mother say out loud that she no longer wanted to live after the loss of her son. I gasped, because she said what I have been thinking for the past 13 months and hearing it made me realize that I was looking at her as if she was my mirror. I wanted to stand up, run over to her and save her from these thoughts when in fact, I was saving myself from them. I later had a wonderful conversation with this Mother at the end of the conference. Thank God and thank all of you, neither of us felt that desperate or self destructive any longer.

All of you responsible for that amazing weekend, I thank from the bottom of my heart. You have touched my heart and soul with so much kindness, understanding, generosity and love. I will forever be grateful. The speaker's were also very healing. What amazing strong women they are. God Bless you all. I am already looking forward to next year. I am praying that I can bring with me the many Mother's in my small town that have lost children in the past few years, so they also will be wrapped in all your love and healing.

The bracelet is such a wonderful gift you gave. Each time I look at my wrist, I smile and think of the weekend. I have smiled more in the past 3 days than I have smiled in 13 months. Thank you for that also. I just adore each of you! Thank you again for the opportunity, kindness and love you gave.

– Kelli

