



Umbrella Ministries

Helping mothers who have lost a child.

SPRING 2009

COME AND BE ENCOURAGED

The image of spring is one of refreshment and renewal and that's what you'll find at the "Journey of the Heart" women's conference the weekend following Mother's Day, May 15-17th.

What a blessing our last conference was. It is always such a joy to hear the Moms say: "this conference was the best one yet." Some of you may be asking "How could any conference for moms who have lost a child be described as "best" any thing? How could it be described in any way other than pain, sorrow and tears? What could possibly be uplifting, good, or "best" about a group of moms getting together and sharing the loss of their child? How could these moms, when asked "What did the weekend mean to you?" Be able to say? "Everything! I loved all the workshops and speaker variety." "This weekend put hope back in my life and blessed me beyond what I could possibly try to express here." "It was the overall combination...everything and everyone!" "The privilege of coming to the conference was not only a spiritual spa for my broken heart, but it was also a turning point in my journey of grief over the home-going of my son." "The joy hope and unity I witnessed was touching and uplifting. I have made some wonderful friends this weekend." These words are from moms who have attended our conferences...moms who came with pain, tears, sorrow, and broken hearts. They left with hope, less pain, less sorrow and the feeling that it was "the best

...
1 Peter 1:6 says "There is wonderful joy ahead; even though it is necessary for you to endure many trials." The Life publications Study Bible introduction to 1 Peter begins "Crushed, overwhelmed, and devastated, these waves of feelings wash over those who suffer, obliterating hope and threatening to destroy them." The words crushed overwhelmed, and devastated, are like a recording, playing over and over in our minds as we plan every event for Umbrella Ministries. We know that those attending are in the throes of these very words. The desire of Umbrella Ministries is to demonstrate that an abundant life is possible even after such a devastating, incapacitating, and overwhelming loss. We want each mom to leave with hope, courage, peace, and for many a new found faith. We want them to leave the conference with the resolve to reach out and touch someone else as someone has reached out and touched them. As one mom put it "I pray that someday I would be able to touch someone's life the way you have touched mine."

What an experience to witness mourning turned to joy, to hear laughter amongst the tears and see faces lighting up at the sound of their child's name. One mom said that you didn't just attend the conference you "experienced it." I think that pretty well sums it up. It is truly an experience. It is God doing things as only He can, and allowing us the privilege to stand on the side lines and see His incredible love, comfort and compassion at work in the heart of every mom there.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, OF UMBRELLA MINISTRIES FOR MAKING THIS HAPPEN. WITHOUT YOUR PRAYERS, SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL GIFTS THERE WOULD NOT BE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THESE MOMS TO COME TOGETHER, WHERE MOURNING IS TURNED TO JOY, WHERE THERE'S LAUGHTER AMONGST THE TEARS AND FACES REFLECTING THE GLORY OF THE LORD. WITH YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT EACH YEAR CAN BE "THE BEST ONE YET."

Daisy and the Umbrella Ministries Conference Committee

UMBRELLA MINISTRIES

P.O. Box 4906
Palm Springs, CA 92263

760-328-7142

www.umbrellaministries.org

Daisy Catchings, *Chairman*

DCatchings@aol.com

*The Lord is close to
the brokenhearted.*

Psalms 34:18



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

FROM THE HEART OF A MOM

We came from the far north and from the deep south. Some were only a short drive away and others flew in. We came in singly, in pairs or in small groups. We came with some trepidation.

We all had one thing in common, the loss of a child. We were at different levels of healing. There will always be a scar, but the wound does heal. Many, in the earliest stages of healing, what I call the "raw pain" period, came to do serious grief work. They did not come expecting to find joy and laughter. Some may feel it is disrespectful to laugh when we think of our loved one. And it's true, when think of our loss, we can't laugh. Yet if we train our focus not on our loss, and the justifiable self pity, but rather on our loving and pleasant memories, then laughter is as natural as the first kiss you planted on that tiny child.

After a few months of polite tolerance, our friends just want us to stop moping and get back to normal. The retreat would provide a safe place to share our memories and our sorrows. But it would be so much more than that. It would be filled with upbeat music, sharing, laughter, and ways to take better care of ourselves, lots of TLC, and most importantly, hope.

Every mother would know clearly that she didn't have to go through this alone. God is always doing great things. All we have to do is notice, and join him there. He was completely in charge of the retreat, giving hope and comfort to all.

Paul's mom Joyce



THIS HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT YEAR FINANCIALLY FOR UMBRELLA MINISTRIES AND ALSO FOR SO MANY OF OUR MOMS. OUR GREATEST PRAYER IS TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE PRECIOUS MOMS WHO WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE WITHOUT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. THANK YOU FOR ANY AMOUNT YOU ARE ABLE TO GIVE.

PLEASE KNOW YOU MAY ALSO DONATE YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TO UMBRELLA MINISTRIES BY USING PAYPAL ON OUR WEB SITE:

www.umbrellaministries.org



My tax-deductible gift of \$ _____ to Umbrella Ministries to be used in reaching out to mothers who have experienced the loss of a child. In loving memory of _____

Name(s) _____ Telephone Number _____

Address _____

HEARTFELT THANKS

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who have given from your heart as a love gift or in loving memory of your child.

- ♥ AMICO, Alice & Frederick - *In Loving Memory of Stephen*
- ♥ ANDERSON, Helen - *Memory of the babies we never got to hold*
- ♥ BARNES, Michelle - *In Loving Memory of 'my girl' Shana*
- ♥ BAUER, Elizabeth - *In Loving Memory of Paul*
- ♥ BRANSCUM, Kayla & Charles - *Love Gift*
- ♥ BOK, Audrey - *In Loving Memory of Jonathan*
- ♥ COCKS, Dave - *In Loving Memory of Ferne*
- ♥ COMBS, Beverly - *Love Gift*
- ♥ COMBS, Marty - *In Loving Memory of Stephen*
- ♥ CZARSKA, Janet - *In Loving Memory of Nicholas*
- ♥ DEVLIN, Brenda - *In Loving Memory of Brian Pearce*
- ♥ DUNHAM, Kathy - *In Loving Memory of Ben*
- ♥ EAGLIN, Lou - *Love Gift*
- ♥ EVANS, Rosemary - *Loving Memory of Jake & Andrew Boyce*
- ♥ FRIENDSHIP CHURCH - *Love Gifts*
- ♥ GANASSIN, Mary - *Love Gift*
- ♥ GROTH, Char - *In Loving Memory of Robert & Peter*
- ♥ GROVES, Tracie & Michael - *In Loving Memory of Emery*
- ♥ HYMES, Delcie & Michael - *Love Gift*
- ♥ JACOBS, Barbara - *Love Gift*
- ♥ JOHNSON, Debbie - *In Loving Memory of Dominic Jason*
- ♥ JORGENSEN, Nina - *In Loving Memory of Caleb Nathaniel*
- ♥ JUARE, Sherri - *In Loving Memory of Ryan Layne*
- ♥ LEINWEBER, Mary - *Love Gift*
- ♥ MAJOR, Lou - *Love Gift*
- ♥ MALIKSI, Janet - *In Loving Memory of Jaymie*
- ♥ MCCARTY, Carol & Bill - *In Loving Memory of Rodney*
- ♥ NELSON, Maria - *In Loving Memory of Alexander*
- ♥ PALOUAN, Nancy - *In Loving Memory of Doug*
- ♥ PEARCE, Pat & Jim - *In Loving Memory of Brian*
- ♥ PICHLER, Allison - *Love Gift*
- ♥ QUAGLIANI, Mary - *In Loving Memory of Natalie Rose York*
- ♥ RINGEIS, Joanne - *Love Gift*
- ♥ ROBINSON, Sandra - *Love Gifts*
- ♥ ROGERS, Sandi & Jim - *In Loving Memory of David*
- ♥ ROSADO, Lisa - *In Loving Memory of Rosalie*
- ♥ SAMPSON, Theresa & Bev - *In Loving Memory of Paul Bauer*
- ♥ SARGENT, Connie - *Love Gift*
- ♥ SMITH, Karen - *In Loving Memory of Mickey Moore*
- ♥ STEVENSON, Helen - *In loving Memory of Infant Clem*
- ♥ STOLTE, Tara & Ryan - *Love Gift*
- ♥ SUND, Cheryl - *In Loving Memory of Jayvas Carson*
- ♥ TATUM, Susie - *In Loving Memory of Stan*
- ♥ THOMAS, Diane & Daryl - *Love Gift*
- ♥ WESSMAN, Stacey & Wade - *Love Gift*
- ♥ YOUNGS, James - *Love Gift*
- ♥ ZIER, Rebecca & Venie - *In Loving Memory of Priscilla*





Twelfth annual Women's Retreat and Workshops designed for
Mothers who have experienced the loss of a Child.

Journey of the Heart Conference

May 15-17, 2009

Wyndham Hotel Orange County
3350 Avenue of the Arts
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

The Conference is designed to uplift mothers physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. The speakers will share insights on grief and the tools with which to cope. The added benefit of meeting new friends who are walking on the same road and journey towards healing will be rewarding. At the conference we are able to give and receive comfort from one another. It is a time of sharing, caring, bonding and the making of lasting friendships.

Alan Pederson will open the Conference Friday evening by a *Celebrate the Children Concert* followed by a beautiful *Candle Lighting Program* honoring our children.

Award Winning Songwriter Alan Pedersen helps others by sharing his story of faith and hope. His message is simple; grief and loss offer the opportunity for ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. He believes that healing begins when we once again give of ourselves by helping others. "The moment I began sharing my music with others who have suffered a loss, miracles started happening,"

Alan lost his 18-year-old daughter in August 2001. Ashley, who had just graduated from high school, was killed in a car accident. After going through a period of tremendous grief, Alan decided the best way to honor Ashley's life was to help others by writing songs about the loss of a child. "When we as bereaved parents do things to honor our children, then they are never really gone," he said.

SHARED BLESSINGS FROM THE CONFERENCE

"The conference was awesome! It is wonderful to see the love and care that Umbrella Ministries takes to provide a safe and caring environment. The joy that we can share with each other and the strength we draw from each other. There are no words to express the hope that I had in my heart when I came home."

"I am indeed filled with comfort and what a beautiful memory of His comfort through Umbrella Ministries! Bless you and all the lovely ones who made the comfort possible this weekend. I already have a 'deep' love and affection for the 'sisters in loss' and look forward to our next 'reunion'. At the end of the weekend, though I came in pain, I left with a 'song in my heart' and new found joy and laughter which I thought was lost to me. I can't wait to see you all again."

"I am always surprised by God! I was amazed as I watched the change in their countenance take place in only a few hours. I think that every woman there was changed and filled with hope! I wish I had words to describe this to everyone, but it's like describing the beauty of a spring morning or the peace of a calm lake in the early evening ... impossible!"

For further information please call:

Daisy (760) 328-7142 or Bev (714) 554-5943 or Sandie (949) 661-HOPE