



Parents' Corner II

"Messiah Dwayne Brown was born into heaven January 22, 2017"

From the moment I found out I would be a mother I approached my position with the upmost sincerity. My son was loved from the start. On my father's side of the family He was



heavenly baby. My natural feeling was to want to nurture my child-- regardless of the fact that he wasn't on earth. That meant that my desire was also to leave earth-- to be with my child no matter where he was. This is why I know my son's life has so much value and meaning. Simply because I am

to be the first grandchild since 34 years. My baby was very active with a lot of energy. It was such a joy to carry him and despite the outcome I thank God for the opportunity to be a mother to child in heaven. My pregnancy was great. I had no major complications. I took motherhood so seriously that I refused to drink soda or coffee, two beverages I love! I took special care of my body carefully planning and making decisions around what was best for my baby. However, the universe had other plans. Around week 34 I started to feel cramps. I was constantly reassured that it was Braxton Hicks contractions and that it was "fine". By week 37 I was delivering my son, only to discover I was delivering a stillborn baby. I blamed myself for not listening to my body. As a parent, specifically a mother, I'm sure you can barely fathom the thought of going through the pains, discomforts, anticipations and emotions of delivery only to deliver a beautiful, perfect baby with no heartbeat. The devastation is beyond imaginable. My significant other and I are forever changed from this experience. **Messiah Dwayne Brown** was born into heaven **January 22, 2017**. His life, his presence, his journey has so much meaning... even if we can't understand it fully I believe in my heart that God has a reason for it all. The pain of losing a child is a disruption of the natural order of life and no man or woman should ever have to experience such affliction. Loss in general is devastating, but the loss of a child is especially personal because as a parent you immediately feel it's your job to care for your child, even from the womb.

My life changed in a way that it's hard to explain. I had to learn to live again, and am still working on that even today. The natural relationship between a mother and child is to be close. To keep your baby near, safe from any harm. The same is true for a mother who in my case had a

here today to share my story. I learned that 1 out of 4 women experience the loss of a child and that is just too many. As a community, we must bring awareness to this issue. There are too many women silently suffering and afraid to speak out about their experience because it's so devastating. Despite how tough it is to share the message, we must bear the cross to bring awareness to this issue to hopefully raise the bar within medical practices and women's care in this country. If heightened awareness saves one baby then we've done our job. The work done by the University of Maryland School of Medicine Center for Infant & Child Loss must be supported. Because of this organization I was connected to a support group where I met Joani Horchler. She is the author of a book entitled "SIDS & Infant Death Survival Guide". This book and this support group was my first step to recovery. Meeting Joani changed things for me and my significant other because she was the first mom we met who suffered a devastating loss like we did but found a way to live and love again with purpose. Joani inspired me and still does to this day. I would have never met her if it hadn't been for this program. I now have such a sense of hope and anticipation for my future. I appreciate and honor the work of this organization so much because without it I may not be here today sharing my story. We must continue to reach others because the loss of a child is debilitating. Providing support resources is fundamental. I have found that there's so much meaning and fulfillment to reach out and help another, especially when you understand their pain.

Submitted by Messiah's Mother, Keosha D. McKoy