

Preface

For our family, 2004 will always be our grief year, when we began the unfamiliar journey into the world of emotional pain. The strange thing was that we could still see the normal world around us, but we didn't feel as though we belonged to it. It was quite distinct from the one we were in; parallel, but never touching.

'I'm sorry. There is no foetal heartbeat.' With these words, the obstetrician gave us our pass into this unknown world. With over 50,000 pregnancies in Australia ending in either miscarriage or stillbirth each year, we are not the first parents to hear those words.

A study I participated in—MOMStudy¹—released the following results August 2004:

40% of stillbirth moms lost the baby of their very first pregnancy.

53% lost a boy.

37% lost the baby at term.

14% were expecting another baby when completing the MOMStudy questionnaire.

49% had an autopsy to find the cause of death.

92.5% have siblings that were live born

8.3% have stillborn siblings with the same mother as themselves.

We can see from these statistics, many families suffer grief each year. How many women do we walk past each day and not know of their silent sorrow? Are there women in your church who need support and understanding in their time of grief? Have you lost a baby, but have yet to find someone who understands your pain?
