

## Feel Like You're Missing in Action?

### Miscarriage



Miscarriage (or the loss of a child in utero or stillborn) is a topic of conversation that is often avoided in today's society. However, miscarriages in particular happen rather frequently. Studies note that anywhere from 10-25% of all clinically recognized pregnancies will end in a miscarriage ([www.americanpregnancy.org](http://www.americanpregnancy.org)).

In 2003, after three years of marriage, we decided it was time to "try" and start a family. In late 2003, we were thrilled to find out Wendi was pregnant. A few weeks later, we suffered a devastating miscarriage.

When we told family and friends what we were going through, we were shocked to find out how many other people we knew had gone through this very same trial; some on multiple occasions. Why had we never heard anybody discuss their loss before? We wondered why this topic was so "taboo" in our society, both in secular and religious settings.

Where were the support groups? Why wasn't the topic addressed in church? Why did we feel so alone? How could we heal the hurt?

Sadly, many in our spheres of influence did not know how to help us. Some may have thought they were helping by offering cliché words of "encouragement"; words that often hurt more than the speaker would ever know.

During this time, we dealt with the pressures of the medical process, the pain of our loss and simply trying to keep our focus and faith.

We learned a lot about life, faith and each other!

## You Are NOT Forgotten...

### Infertility



Infertility or secondary infertility, whether medically "explained" or not, can wreak havoc on the lives of both mothers in waiting and married couples. The CDC notes that about 10% of women between the ages of 15 and 44 will experience infertility. Infertility rates in men are listed at 9%. ([www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr067.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr067.pdf))

As with the loss from a miscarriage, infertility is also often overlooked or not spoken of in American society. Why is that? With so many silently suffering, it's essential we realize the need to support those who are hurting and to let them know they are NOT forgotten!

Infertility can greatly affect a woman, and it can also cause much heartache for a man. Walking down this difficult path can be very painful, especially if you weren't expecting life to go that direction. Infertility may be a cause of shame, lead to frustration in a relationship, or bring on long-term guilt, despair or depression.

Often, individuals feel they are alone during this time of sorrow and confusion. Sometimes, they are given "words of encouragement" by well-meaning family and friends that do more harm than good. These words can add insult to injury! Looking back now, we can laugh (a little) at some of the remarks people made to us to include sure-fire suggestions that would "guarantee" a successful pregnancy.

After our miscarriage, our medical team told us we would have "no problem" getting pregnant in the very near future. However, God's plan didn't quite match. We both underwent medical exams (several times over) and all of them came back with the same response: "There's nothing wrong with either of you". After several years on this long road, we decided God was leading us to pursue adoption.

## You Are NOT Alone!

### Adoption



Adoption is simply helping a child find a forever home. The need is great in America and around the world. Children dream for the same thing adoptive parents do...a secure and loving family.

There are over 100,000 legal orphans in US foster care. Many children age out of the foster program before being adopted. There are children of all races, ages and health needs as well as sibling groups. Additionally, there is a need for short-term and long-term foster care besides permanent adoption placements.

After years of "medically unexplained infertility", we decided it was time to actively pursue adoption. Adoption had always been in our hearts, but we always thought it would be after we had biological children. We started the paper process and then Cliff deployed to Iraq. Upon his return, we received a call that a potential match had been made. As we watched God orchestrate all the pieces, an amazing little man was born to a strong, loving birth mom. We are so blessed!

Several years later, we decided to begin the process again. We completed the paperwork and then Cliff deployed to Afghanistan. Months after his return, we received a call that an expectant couple wanted to meet us. We'll never forget the day we met two of the most amazing young adults ever!

We forged an instant bond, and they chose us to parent their baby. We have a positive ongoing relationship with them and their families and are forever changed by one incredible little girl!

## ABOUT US

We were married in 2000 and had every hope of rearing a house full of children. However, God had other plans. After enduring a miscarriage, followed by years of medically unexplained infertility, God opened the doors to the amazing world of adoption. We are blessed to be called “Mom and Dad” by two amazing children, via the miracle of adoption.

We’ve been privileged to have a relationship with various individuals in the birth families of both of our children.

We’ve also been able to walk the difficult road of miscarriage, infertility and adoption with many hurting people. We desire nothing more than to be a resource for others who may find themselves in these seemingly uncharted waters.

Our desire is to help connect, encourage and restore those who find themselves MIA!

## WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Maybe you currently find yourself in challenging times, facing loss, infertility, or an unexpected pregnancy, or maybe you’re considering adoption. Maybe you’ve been on this road and no one else even knows. Maybe you’ve held on to unrelenting pain for a long time and just want someone to lean on. Maybe you have never given a thought to the plight of those around you going through difficult times. Hopefully, our story has opened your heart and mind to be willing to love others and walk with them, even thru their most difficult hours.

If we can encourage you, listen to you, pray with you or simply be a friend, please let us know. We would be honored to serve you!

Much love and many prayers,  
Cliff and Wendi

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Website: [www.mia2hope.org](http://www.mia2hope.org)

Facebook: [MIA2HOPE Ministry](https://www.facebook.com/MIA2HOPE)

## SELECTED RESOURCES

### Miscarriage/Child Loss

- **Focus on the Family**  
[www.focusonthefamily.com/lifechallenges](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/lifechallenges)
- **A Place to Remember**  
[www.aplacetoremember.com](http://www.aplacetoremember.com)
- **Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep**  
<https://www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org>
- **Silent Grief**  
[www.silentgrief.com](http://www.silentgrief.com)

### Infertility

- **Focus on the Family**  
[www.focusonthefamily.com](http://www.focusonthefamily.com)
- **Hannah’s Prayer Ministries**  
[www.hannah.org](http://www.hannah.org)
- **Christian Life Resources**  
[www.christianliferesources.com](http://www.christianliferesources.com)

### Adoption/Foster Care

- **Bethany Christian Services**  
[www.bethany.org](http://www.bethany.org)
- **Show Hope**  
[www.showhope.org](http://www.showhope.org)
- **Dave Thomas Foundation**  
[www.davethomasfoundation.org](http://www.davethomasfoundation.org)
- **The Sparrow Fund**  
[www.sparrow-fund.org](http://www.sparrow-fund.org)
- **ABBA Fund**  
[www.abbafund.org](http://www.abbafund.org)
- **Focus on the Family**  
[www.focusonthefamily.com](http://www.focusonthefamily.com) (Adoption)
- **Together for Adoption**  
[www.Togetherforadoption.org](http://www.Togetherforadoption.org)
- **Foster and Adoptive Family Services**  
[www.fafsonline.org](http://www.fafsonline.org)



501(c)3 Federal Tax ID: 82-1139290

# Miscarriage Infertility Adoption



*Connecting  
Encouraging  
Restoring*