

Minnesota Christian Chronicle

www.mcchronicle.com

Vol. 27, No. 15

April 21, 2005

SPOTLIGHT



illustration by Mary Anne Ellis

A Grace Journey

The Grace Conference, in its third year, is a conference where the issues of pregnancy, infant loss, infertility and adoption are highlighted. "We try to bring wonderful resources together for families who are bereaved, infertile or looking to adopt," said Candy McVicar, cofounder and codirector of The Missing GRACE Organization. "We have a comprehensive program to meet the needs of families going through these issues."

"But we can't just address physical needs, we need to look at the spiritual needs," McVicar pointed out. "We have a wellness track available with prayer classes for family members, clergy, pastors and laypeople who may have never experienced a loss. It's a great time to learn to relate to and help friends or family members who may have experienced a loss."

"My husband and I greatly benefited from attending the conference. Not only were we able to share our story of loss and grief and meet others with similar stories and experiences, we were able to learn from professionals about grieving as well as the things that we can do as parents to ensure that our future babies receive the monitoring they need to have a better chance for a good outcome. The weekend was educational, renewing and healing for both of us." (Missing GRACE Web site)

McVicar mentioned that there would also be an area available where conference attendees could gather information from adoption agencies. "Many people often wonder where to start in the process of adoption. At the conference they can walk from table to table and get information on various adoption agencies. Then they can take the information home, compare their options and pray about it."

According to McVicar, there will be 30 resource tables, 25 sessions and 40 speakers at the event, as well as an evening dinner banquet on Saturday, a spa for pampering, a memory album scrap-booking area and much more.

The Missing Grace Conference will be held Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24, at the Double Tree Park Place Hotel in St. Louis Park. On-site registrations will be accepted. If someone is in need of financial assistance to attend the conference, there are scholarships available. For more information, visit www.MissingGRACE.org or call 763-497-0709.