

Remembering Our Children

The Story Behind the Children's Memorial Roll Certificate

Just a child, she and her sister were dismissed from school early. They rode quietly in the car, clutching teddy bears. Soon the treasures were taken from them and placed in a box no more than two feet long, slightly larger than a tall man's shoe box. Later as a teenager, she held a baby girl in her arms who was no more than three weeks old. The baby girl struggled for each breath and choked with each swallow of milk. Three weeks later the teen saw the baby's precious doll-like face in a box no more than two feet long, slightly larger than a tall man's shoe box.

Time passed. That child, Christy Gunter-Leppert, began working in the General NMI Office processing Memorial Rolls and Distinguished Service Awards. One day she received an order for "Travis Mark Brewster" with the notation, "He is just an infant." Christy filled the order and looked at the traditional Memorial Roll certificate. She felt it was not a certificate designed to memorialize the loss of a child. Remembering the pain of losing a loved one so young, Christy began to think about what the church could do.

The Children's Memorial Roll certificate, for children ages 18 and under, is the result of that thought process. Christy requested an illustration be drawn up that communicated to parents that their child was in the arms of God. She chose the words of Jesus when He says, "Let the little children come to me." Knowing families would probably be like hers, she designed the certificate to be bright, as it would most likely hang in a nursery, living room, or hallway.



"It was my honor to present the first Children's Memorial Roll certificate to the family of Travis Mark Brewster on March 7, 2004," writes Christy. "Reminding them that the suffering of my family and the suffering of their family inspired the creation of this certificate, I helped them understand that the inspiration of the children who passed away has made **a global difference**. It is because of the Children's Memorial Roll that more money will be given to the missionary Medical Plan. When missionaries or their children are hurt, they will be able to receive medical help because of the money raised from these certificates. The inspiration of the children who passed away has made **a local difference** as well. When other families grieve as ours have, the church can minister to them by way of this beautiful age-appropriate certificate."

Order Information:

- \$50.00 per certificate, \$25.00 for reprints (even for past memorial rolls).
- Indicate "Children's Memorial Roll" on the order form