

It is amazing what can become "normal" to us...

Normal for me is trying to decide what to take to the cemetery for Christmas, birthday, Valentines Day, and Easter.

Normal is sitting at the computer crying, sharing how you feel with other grieving parents who have also lost a child.

Normal is going to bed feeling like your kids who are alive got cheated out of happy cheerful parents and instead they are stuck with sober cautious people.

Normal is having tears waiting behind every smile when you realize your son is missing from all the important events in your family's life.

Normal is not sleeping very well because a thousand "what if's" and "why didn't I's" go through your head constantly.

Normal is every happy event in my life always being backed up with sadness lurking close behind because of the hole in my heart.

Normal is telling the story of my son's accident as if it were an every day common place activity and then gasping in horror at how awful it sounds. And yet realizing it has become part of our normal....

Normal is each year coming up with the difficult task of how to honor your child's memory and their birthday and survive those days; and trying to find a balloon or flag that fits the occasion. Happy Birthday? Not really.

Normal is waiting for the phone to ring, just wishing it was him.

Normal for me is a new friendship with another grieving mother and meeting for coffee and talking and crying together over our children and our new lives; and worrying together over our living children.

Normal is wondering this time whether you are going to say you have 2 children instead of 3.....because you will never see this person again and it is not worth explaining that one of them is in heaven. And yet when you say only 2 to avoid that problem you feel horrible as if you have betrayed that child.

And last of all normal is hiding all the things that have become normal for you to feel, so that everyone around you will think that your are....."NORMAL"

In memory of Donavon Chadwick..... killed by a drunk driver on June 6th, 2004 - 13 days before his 20th birthday