Chapter 53 – Year 2005

While we were on our mission, two more grandchildren were born. **Mike and Becky had a daughter, which they named Jessica, and David & Shauna had a son, which they named Connor**. We were excited to see them, as well as all our other grandchildren and their parents, when we arrived home. I’m sure that most of you already know that **we also had a death in our family while we were gone. Sandi’s husband, Terry, was killed in a vehicle accident in November 2003. That was surely sad news for us, and it was hard for us not to leave our mission and come home to be with Sandi during this hard time**. Our mission president said it was his wish that we would stay and then have Sandi come to the Philippines a little later and spend some one-on-one time with us. She brought her sister, Shellie, and came for 10 days the following February, and we were able to show them some of the beautiful places in the Philippines as well as meet many of our wonderful Filipino friends. We had a special time together. We arrived home, from our mission, the 17th of February and since that time we have had many wonderful family get-to-gathers as well as visiting our good friends again.

A **little great-granddaughter, Kennedy Grace, was born soon after we arrived home to our granddaughter, JaNae, and her husband, Brad.** Sandi is her grandmother. That makes 15 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren for us. **Sandi’s younger daughter, Chelci, just called yesterday with good news that she is getting married in the Salt Lake Temple on the 11th of March**. We are very excited for her and her fiancée. **Scott graduated from Weber University while we were gone** and **Jeff graduated from the University of Utah this past April**. They were both happy to be finished with college studies and have more time for their families.

**Family vacation at Shellie & Roys in July of 2005 – We celebrated the 4th of July there.**

**Anchorage Alaska to Terry & Angela’s in July 2005 – for more on these vacations, see Chapter 55 – Vacations and Reunions**

We have postponed the building of our home in Star Valley, Wyoming due to the costs in building materials tripling since we have been gone. We had sold our home in Layton to our son, Scott and his wife, Mishelle. We are living in the cute basement apartment, which Ken built for his mother a few years ago in his brother’s home. Mom Jensen passed away prior to our going on our mission. Bob & Carroll are wonderful to us and we enjoy the Clinton 20th ward, so for the present, we are happy to be here. We live close to most of our children as well as most of our brothers and their families and my sister and her family, which makes it nice also. We are very thankful for the many blessings the Lord has blessed us with, especially the gospel, our family and friends, and to live here in America.

**In October, 2005, Shellie and the boys came up in 2005 to visit and spend time with us and the rest of our family.** Roy couldn’t come as he needed to work. Shellie wanted to take the boys and go to **“Martin’s Cove”** where Roy’s parents, Veldon & Patsy, were serving a six-month (summer) mission there. Shellie wondered if Ken and I could go with them, and we were excited to go. We stayed the night with Patsy & Veldon’s neighbor and Shellie and the boys stayed with Patsy & Veldon in their RV. They have to have RV’s to stay in with these service missions. We had a great time, although it was cold and windy. The visitors center was wonderful and we saw my great grandfather, Lyman Wight’s name on the list of those who went to rescue the handcart saints, who were stranded here in Wyoming in the terrible cold, snow and wind of winter. How any of them survived is a miracle. They had handcarts there that we could pull each other in. Veldon took us in his outdoor vehicle to the spot that they call “Martin’s Cove” where the saints were trying to get by the hills to get out of the terrible cold. We saw many other sights there and enjoyed the time with Shellie and our grandsons. Also, with Patsy & Veldon, as they are good friends.