**Chapter 45 - 1999**

**Jeff** came home from his mission in January 1999, and we were excited to have him home. He hasn’t told us a lot about his mission, but from what he has said, **he had a hard mission, but he stuck it out and did his best under very trying circumstances and we are proud of him.**  **He also had another hard trial. His girlfriend, Nicky**, who he had planned to break up with before leaving on his mission, but felt the Lord told him she was the one for him, so he didn’t break up with her and he expected her to wait for him. She did wait up until the last few months and ended up getting married two days after he returned home. Her family loved Jeff and felt she was making a big mistake. Nicky’s friends were getting married and she wanted to also. She was dating a guy who had graduated from college, had a good job and could afford to buy Nicky a home. I think she knew that Jeff would have to go to college and she would need to work to help him get through with his education, so I think that was a big part of it. She used her free agency. Free agency is a gift from God and he allows us all to use it. It was really hard on Jeff. It was hard on all of us. It is really hard when your children are hurting, and you can’t do much about it.

Jeff didn’t date again for quite a while. He went to Weber State University in Accounting. He got good grades so got scholarships and was on the Honors program. They had a trip to go with doctors, nurses and dentists to Nepal. He had been working so paid the money and went with them. It was a trip of a life time and we were glad Jeff had that experience.

Jeff had known a girl from school, Gail Fairbourn, who he said everyone liked to be around because she was cute and lots of fun. He dated her off and on, but didn’t seem to be too serious. Trent had come home from his mission and married Anna, and Ben had married a cute girl. We were working on our papers to put in to go on a mission and Ken mentioned to Jeff that if he was thinking of getting married, that he better do it right away as we would be gone for two years and we wanted to be here for his wedding. We turned in our papers and it asked when we would be available to go and we had put FEBRUARY. The next thing we knew was that Jeff told us he and Gail were going to get married. We asked when and he said the 20th of February. We thought “Oh no, we said that we would be available in February. We called the bishop and he hadn’t sent the papers on to the stake president as he had been sick with phenomena and they were locked in his file cabinet at the church. He told us we could change the date from February to March. We were thankful and felt the Lord had a hand in that. **Jeff and Gail’s wedding was beautiful. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple and all our children and their spouses were able to be there. I felt that it was the most wonderful day of my life as Ken and I were in the temple with all our children and their spouses. I felt the presence of Mom & Dad there too and I knew they would be there if at all possible as they loved their children and grandchildren – family was so important to them, as it is to me.**

**Payson Lake –** Payson Lake is located up the canyon behind the town of Payson which is close to American Fork where Mike and his family live. We heard about that canyon so wanted to camp there. It is a beautiful area and a beautiful small lake with a walking path around it with areas to go down by the lake to fish or just sit and enjoy the view. It’s not big enough for boats, but many put rafts and canoes on it. We invited our family and most came with us. We had a tent trailer, but the others had tents. We fixed meals and ate together, sat around the campfire and roasted hot dogs and marshmallows and sang songs and visited. We have a great family and love to be together. The only bad thing is that there are cows in that campground and they are a bother with their droppings, mewing, and having them all around. Sometimes it bothered our sleep with hearing them close by.

We have gone camping with our family to Payson Lake several years. One-year David found a log sticking partway out of the water and went onto it. It was tricky trying to keep his balance, but he did great! Others wanted to try their luck, but some fell into the lake. Sometimes Mike took his raft and let us all take turns using it on the lake. That was fun. One-time Ken and I went alone and Mike let us take his raft. They came up one evening to have a Dutch oven dinner and spend the evening with us. That was fun. One-time Ken and I were there alone part of the week and we took our float tubes. That was fun at first until the wind carried us to the other end of the Lake. We kept trying to paddle back up or to the side, but we wore ourselves out and it didn’t work. When we got out at the other end of the lake, we had to carry our float tubes back to the truck. That was the last time we used those float tubes. If the air is perfectly still or you are floating down a slow river to fish, they were alright. They had belonged to Sandi & Terry, but after Terry died, Sandi gave them to her dad.

My Mom, Mildred Hope Bushnell Porter passed away in June of this year. I wrote this up and it is included in chapter 47 – Mom Porter, dying and funeral.