



A TRIBUTE TO GRACE ELIZABETH PFEIFFER SMITH

The dictionary definition of **GRACE** is ease, charm, attractiveness in form or manner; as to have the Grace to do what is proper; a term of relief from an obligation, as thirty days **GRACE**; a blessing asked at meals. **GRACE** implies spontaneous favor; mercy, compassionate treatment of the suffering.

That definition would describe our mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend.

I typed the name **GRACE** in the computer and came up with Grace, Idaho (a small town near Pocatello snuggled in a beautiful valley); Grace University (a Bible college); The GraceNet (a Christian web hosting site); Grace to You (a Bible study course); GRACE-2004 (a Christian music festival). So many Christian references.

Grace Elizabeth Pfeiffer was born in LaGrande, Oregon March 15, 1911 the first child of George Washington Pfeiffer and Elizabeth Combs. Two brothers followed: William and Howard. Grandpa Pfeiffer was an engineer on the Union Pacific railroad, which brought the family to Nampa.

Mom attended school in Nampa and upon graduation, attended Lewiston State Normal College in Lewiston, Idaho. She received a teaching degree in education.

In 1936, Mom married John Perry Beberness and was blessed with a son George.

On Jan. 18, 1939, Mom married Winfield Kenneth Smith in Nampa, ID. Daddy was 38, Mom 28. When she married Daddy, she took on two more boys – Gaylor and Chester. Chester was a special-needs child who passed away at age 18. Mom and Daddy knew they wanted a large family and would have to hurry to get one. They had five babies in a row adding to daddy's two and mom's one for a total of eight children. We kids think they wanted farm hands as we were trained to do the chores along side of our parents who worked very hard.

Mother worked on the dairy farm known as the Bar-K Stock Ranch, one of the largest dairy farms in the Boise Valley. Entertaining state officials involving agriculture and dairymen from other states was a big event with a home cooked meal spread out on rows of tables on the front lawn. Of course Mom had help with such a big task.

Our family attended the Church of Brethren, which was down the road from the ranch. Sometimes Daddy would preach the sermon and Mom played the piano. She also taught Sunday school classes and vacation Bible school in the summer.

Mom is a super-mom. Her six children are all here today honoring her - George, Charlene, Junior, Mary, Patty, and Sharon. Mom was a stay-at-home mother (as moms are called today).

In 1948, she moved with the family to Crouch to a 245-acre ranch. She continued to work on the family farm and prepared meals for ranch workers. She taught her children how to be self-sufficient. We learned to sew, cook, bottle fruit and vegetables, chop wood, and prepare meat from beginning to end.

Yes, when mom had small children there were no McDonalds or Dominos to call for home delivery. All our meals were home-cooked. Some Sunday's Mom cooked fried chicken, packed in a basket and we would drive up the canyon for a picnic. What a treat! We had a river that ran through our land. In the hot summer we would all go to the river to cool off. Mom put on her black knit one piece swimming suit and stood in the river while we kids splashed around her, always there watching over us.

Today we have the recipes – favorites from our mother. We picked and preserved berries and apples there in Crouch. We had a garden, our own cows, chickens, and pigs. We milked the cows, bottled the milk and sold

milk to our customers in Crouch. Mom would make homemade apple and berry pie for the freezer so that even in the winter we had hot delicious fruit pies for dessert.

Mom made sure her children were in church each Sunday. I still remember her saying "if you can stay out until 4 a.m. you can get up and go to church on Sunday." She was right and that is what we did. Besides she kept volunteering for us to take parts in plays or do activities so we pretty much had to go.

Every summer we would pack up our car to drive to New Meadows to Camp Stover and camp with our friends from the Church of Brethren. It was so cold in the evenings we would heat rocks to put in our sleeping bags to keep warm. During the day, we would go swimming in the Sims natural hot springs. Mom didn't send us - she took us and stayed whether it was church, school, track meets or music lessons. The only place she didn't stay with us was at the dentist.

Mom was there when George misbehaved at school, Charlene ran her hand through the flatwork iron; when Junior shot a hole in his foot; when Mary cut her chin falling onto a nail keg; when Patty cut her eye on a barbed wire fence; and when Sharon got the fish-hook caught in her finger. Yes, Mom took us to the doctor and stood by our side. I'm sure each one of us can remember a special time we were with Mom seeing her chop firewood or helping her clean out one of the barns. Mom's motto was "work before play." Mom would take us kids to the potatoes to glean the fields for our winter supply. I guess she made it fun because it didn't seem like work.

Mom was active in the community - her Syringia Club. She was active in school activities and her and Daddy started the first parent teacher association in the Garden Valley School District. She cooked in the school cafeteria preparing hot meals for the students. You could always count on a delicious meal when she was in charge. She believed that education was very important. She helped plan the PTA box lunch socials - always a hit in the community.

In preparation for winter months, Daddy would take the truck to the sawmill, get trimming off the logs - called slabs or tail ends, and haul it home on the truck; the heaping pile was larger than this room. Mom would get the saw and cut the wood to start another pile of smaller pieces of wood. Winter brought 2-3 feet of snow and it was the kid's job to carry the wood to the porch to use in the wood burning stove. Usually, Sharon, Junior, Patty and Mary handled this task, until one night when we protested until Charlene was made to help. Charlene was so furious that long after everyone had gone inside, she was still out carrying in the wood until the back porch was completely filled to the top. (Lighten up)
Many nights when the snow was up to the windows Mom would stuff the stove full of wood, we kids would set up the card table for games and Mom would make fudge and popcorn for the evening of enjoyment.

In 1958, the family moved back to Nampa. Mom worked for the school district until her retirement in 1983. She enjoyed visiting with her friends and attending programs her grandchildren were in.

Mom had a special musical talent and she passed on the appreciation of music to her children. She played the piano and organ for a many years at church. The only type of music I ever heard her play was gospel music. You may not know it today, but her daughters sang together at many special events or at church.

Mom took advantage of the opportunity for her girls to learn how to play the accordion. A teacher from Boise would come to Crouch and give lessons, lessons that still are remembered today. She has been a member of the Boise Valley Church of the Brethren for a long time. This is home and I know she is happy today knowing so many of her church friends are here.

Mom will be remembered for the lessons she taught others. She wasn't a woman of strong opinions but hard work. She used her one-liners to teach us all lessons. For example:

"Just consider the source and let it go!"

"Save your pennies"

"Clean up your plate"

"Take what you get and be happy"

"Remember the little children in China"

"If you can't say anything nice don't say anything at all"

"It's not polite to take the last one,"

Children should be seen and not heard, and so on . . .

She used her mind and body to make the world a better place for all who knew her. She taught us the value of hard work and the importance of volunteering. Mom was great with her hands. She has continuously made afghans and crocheting hanger covers over the years. I have several items and would not think of giving them to anyone. They are so useful and being a gift from mom makes them more special.

When Mom lived in Nampa, she acquired a little dog named Daisy. This little friend gave mom a lot of companionship and someone to boss around. Someday Mom will be able to have her little Daisy with her but for now Daisy resides with Amy. Sharon brought an 8 x 10 picture of Daisy to her at Cedar Crest. She held it and looked at it for the longest time.

Up until recently she was able to keep her hands busy with needlework. Many of you have been recipients of her needlework. These are priceless memories of love from our mother, grandmother, and friend. In talking with family members what they remembered about Mom: Daryl commented of the times when he would drive over to Nampa to pick Mom up. They would drive through the country side because Mom would like to look at the new calves and sheep that were in the fields. They would have good talks and he enjoyed making Mom happy even though they argued with each other.

Daryl and Sharon were very good about taking advantage of the time spent with Mom. Having a picnic on the patio, running errands, doing business and many phone calls to check on how mom was feeling. When Patty was in town they would take Mom out to lunch, which she would enjoy.

We were very fortunate for Mom to have a comfortable place to live in her last years. We owe a debt of gratitude to our sister Charlene for providing this care to both mom and daddy during their last years here. We thank all of the residents and workers of Cedar Crest who took care of Mom and for their friendship.

We are who we are today because of the many things mom taught us. Now that she has gone to live with the Lord for eternity I know we will miss her and cherish her memories.

Survivors include her children: George Richard Beberness (Beverly); Charlene Humpherys; Winfield Kenneth Smith, Jr (Vivian); Mary Elizabeth Richman (Lynn); Patricia Ann Combs; Sharon Winona DeLanoy (Darryl).

25 Grandchildren: Cindy, Linda, Susan, Jeff, David, Greg, Todd, Kevin, Tonya, Margie, Jennifer, Julie, Becky, David, Elizabeth, Cindy, Brad, Jim, Dustin, LaDawn, Lisa, Lynette, Amy, Julia, and Harold.

21 Great-Grandchildren: Grayson, Melissa, Mallory, Megan, Lauren, Rachel, Brady, Hannah, Jacob, Katie, Ashley, Anthony, Shadow, Sarah, Jacob, Courtney, Brady, Hannah, Kylie, Mikayla, Melissa, and Zachary and three more on the way.

