**Grandpa Thom Says Good Bye**

**Not everything Grandpa Thom and I did was just fun and games. Once, there was time when it was a little bit sad. But, even when it is sad, there are good things that can happen and good lessons to learn.**

**In 1969, Grandpa Thom and I had graduated from high school. We were members of the Utah National Guard, a military unit that is always on hand in case the nation needs more soldiers in the army. The National Guard keeps men and women trained and ready just in case there is a need. While they are training, they still go about their work, jobs, schooling and other activities.**

**Part of the training is to go to what is called “Basic Training.” You leave your family and friends and go to an army camp somewhere in the country to learn about being a soldier. Grandpa Thom and I were assigned to go to different camps. Grandpa Thom went to Fort Ord in California. I went to the other side of the country to North Carolina to a camp called, Fort Bragg. Our assignments were for about 3 to 4 months.**

**Grandpa Thom and I had never been apart. We went to school together. We went to church together. We played together with the same friends. We even got in trouble together! The most we had ever been away from home was Boy Scout camp for a week. But, even then, we went together. But now, things were different. We were going to different places and we were going to be apart for a long time.**

**I can remember getting on a bus to leave for Utah. I was going to fly from there to North Carolina. As I sat on the bus, I could see Grandpa Thom standing there waving good bye. It was a hard thing to do! We both had tears in our eyes. Grandpa Thom was my life-long buddy. How could I survive without him? It was a sad moment.**

**But even though it was a sad parting of ways, it was only temporary and for maybe 4 months at the longest. The experiences we had while in basic training were good and helped us grow. Grandpa Thom told me of an experience he had once.**

**There was another soldier in his unit that was much bigger than Grandpa Thom and a bit of a bully. Fortunately, Grandpa Thom had made a good friend during basic training and he was one big, tall, muscular, mean machine! When the bully was picking on Grandpa Thom, his friend stepped in and told the guy to back off. It looked like there was going to be an ugly fist fight as the two squared up. Grandpa Thom’s friend told the bully, “If you knock me down, you better make sure I can’t get up because I will pound you into the ground when I do.” The bully thought about that and then, went his way without getting into a fight.**

**Part of Twin Power is to make good friends. You don’t have to be a twin to have good friends that care about you and like to be with you.**