**Grandpa Thom and the Crossing Guard**

**When Grandpa Thom and I were very young, in elementary school, we had to walk to school each day. Part of the route to school meant we had to cross a very busy street. It was dangerous for little children to cross by themselves, so the school employed a crossing guard to help children across the busy street.**

**We thought our crossing guard was mean. He seemed angry all the time. He would even yell at us to hold still until he was ready to help us across the street. Grandpa Thom and I had a problem. WE CAN’T HOLD STILL FOR EVEN FIVE SECONDS!” This got the crossing guard very upset. And, the more upset he got, the more we seemed to do things to irritate him. Finally, it got to the point where he threatened to hit us with his stop sign paddle. He would raise it in the air and we would scamper out of the way. We probably said some things to him we should not have.**

**After a while, we felt it was unsafe for our health and our lives to cross the busy street with the grouchy old crossing guard. So, we went up the street a little way and then, waited as the speeding cars went whizzing by. It was a little scary for two nice little boys like us. However, when the coast was clear, no cars coming, then we made a mad run to get across the street. As we ran, we could hear cars screeching their brakes trying to stop and honking their horns. It was scary enough to wet your pants!**

**Unfortunately, all this could be seen and heard by the crossing guard. But we did not care. What could he do about it?**

**Later that evening, the phone rang and we could tell from watching our dad that it was not going to be good news. The crossing guard called to tell our parents what we had done. Grandpa Thom and I carefully slipped into our bedroom hoping we could somehow get out of trouble. A few minutes later, our father called us into the living room. Our mother was there and she and our dad did not look too happy. Wow, did we ever get a lecture! Our dad made it very clear that we did something wrong and we must not ever do it again.**

**On the sofa was a belt, a switch and a paddle. Our dad laid his hand next to those things and said, “Which one do you want?” We had received spankings before, but never a belt or a paddle. I said I wanted the hand. Dad gave me three hard spanks to the bottom. It stung! I probably even cried a little.**

**Grandpa Thom looked at the choices and quietly spoke up, “I’LL TAKE THE BELT.” Our father was really surprised, but Grandpa Thom was feeling just how seriously wrong our decision was to cross that busy street without help. Our dad said, “No, you will get the hand like your brother.” Whack, whack, whack! Grandpa Thom was feeling the damage of a spanking also.**

**Part of Twin Power is making good choices, safe choices no matter what. You do not have to be a twin to make good choices.**