**Grandpa Thom – The Gold Medal Baker**

**One time I went to visit Grandpa Thom in Modesto when he and Grandma Netsie had a bakery. It was a wonderful bakery with delicious breads for sale to people in the community. There was wheat bread, jalapeno cheese bread and cherry almond bread. But, the bread that I thought was best of all was the cinnamon swirl bread. Wow, was it good stuff. It had lots of sugar and cinnamon and made the best toast you can imagine.**

**The bakery was a family business. That meant everyone got involved. Uncle Adam would help make the bread dough and bake it. Grandma Netsie would work at the counter. And, the girls in the family also helped. Great Grandma Carpenter would come regularly and help out. It was a team effort by everyone.**

**As a baker, your work starts very early in the morning. Grandpa Thom would be up and ready for work hours before the sun came up. He had to open the bakery, get all the equipment running and make sure everything was ready for his workers to make and bake bread. Then, it was his time to load up his van and start deliveries to different stores in the area.**

**I had the chance to ride along with Grandpa Thom as he made stops at all the various stores that needed his famous cinnamon swirl bread. His van would be loaded to the ceiling with fresh baked bread. It smelled so good! We would go from place to place in a special route and order so that Grandpa Thom could unload the bread quickly and also for driving the least number of miles to save time and gasoline.**

**I was amazed at how he would quickly get into a store, evaluate their inventory of his bread and then, load up the shelves to make sure there was enough bread for all his loyal customers. But, the most amazing thing for me was to see how Grandpa Thom would greet everyone with a smile and a warm “hello.” Everyone seemed to know him and everyone seemed to really like him. He would stop to talk to people and tell them what a great job they were doing.**

**I learned a lot from Grandpa Thom on that trip. It made me want to be more friendly and happy. That was just the way Grandpa Thom was. He loved life and he loved all people. We all think that he is now using his great personality doing missionary work in the Spirit World. Maybe Joseph Smith is his missionary companion. Or, maybe Nephi or Alma. Maybe one your great grandpas, like Great Grandpa Carpenter or Great Grandpa Stan. All those guys would be very lucky to have Grandpa Thom as their missionary companion.**

**Part of Twin Power is to be kind to all around you. Other people might not be kind, but you can always make the choice to be kind and be happy.**