

2020 Family Reunion

Sun rises on the 2020 family reunion



Prepared by Thomas Lee Palmer
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2020 Family Reunion

God gave us families
to help us become
what He wants
→ us to be ←

“Don’t take yourself too seriously”

Joseph B. Wirthlin, "Lessons Learned in the Journey
of Life"

**“Can I give you one other piece of advice? Be willing
to laugh at yourself.”**

When Elder Matthew Cowley was first called as an apostle, President J. Reuben Clark said, Now, kid, don't forget rule six." Elder Cowley asked, "What's rule six?" President Clark said, **“Don't take yourself too seriously.”** Elder Cowley asked, "What are the other five?" President Clark said, "There aren't any"

*“Don’t take yourself too seriously”
Remember, the Lord is in charge!*

Our family loves to have fun!

We love to laugh!

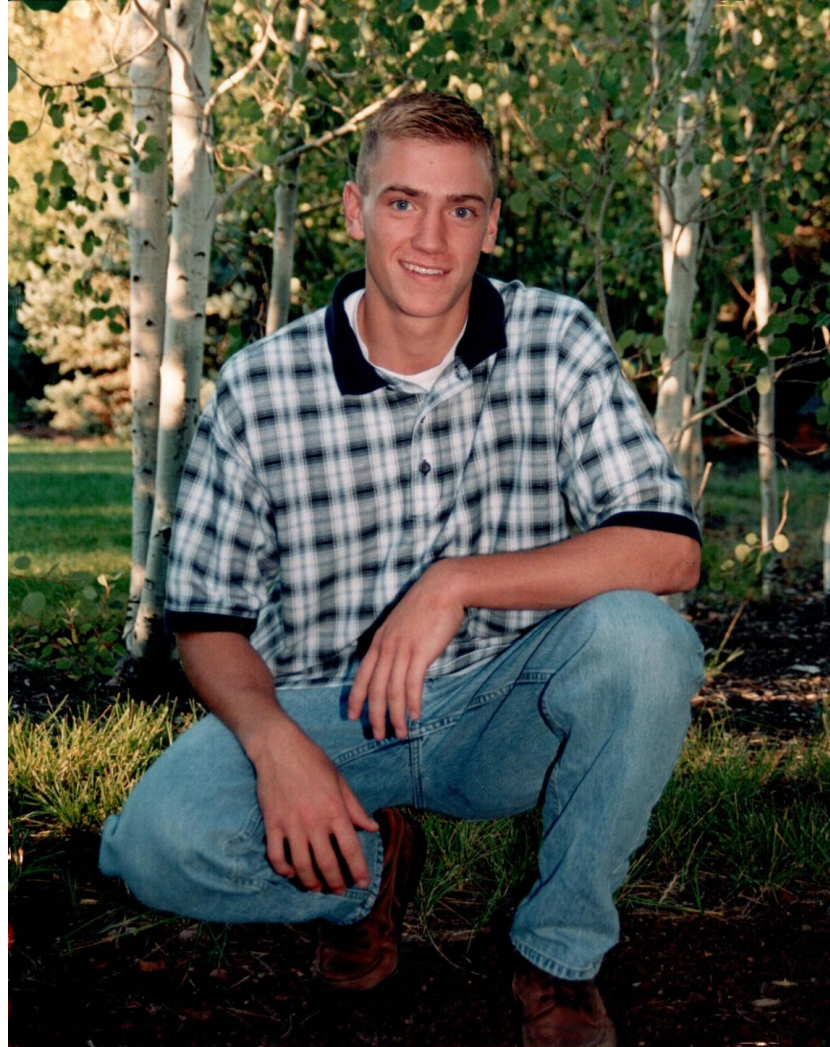
We love to tease!

We love to not take ourselves **too** seriously!

A few photos tell the story 😊

Remembering MARK

“Basketball Career”



Basketball was his favorite sport!

Sinagua High School

1995-1996 – Sophomore year

Mark played JV all season – scoring 202 points in 17 games. He was pulled up to varsity for the regional tournament. He got the JV Mustang award.

1996-1997 – Junior year

With JR injured, Mark plays point guard and Timmy as wing on the varsity team – fun to watch them play together. Tuba City – Mark played his best varsity game thus far – 18 points, six steals, six assists and only 1 turnover. Set school record with 99 steals for the season.

1997-1998 – Senior year

Peaks' Tournament – Mark had 17 points, 10 assists, 10 steals and several rebounds against Havasu; In Payson game he scored 7 points, 10 steals and 10 assists – he made the All-tournament Team.

My journal entry - 14 Feb 1998

“I have really been proud of Mark this year – he always plays his heart out and gives 110% - he’s been fun to watch and has clearly been the team leader. He’s gained a lot of maturity and has won the respect of opposing players, coaches and referees. He was always the one who the opposing team keyed on with their best player and he received the assignment to guard their best shooter.”

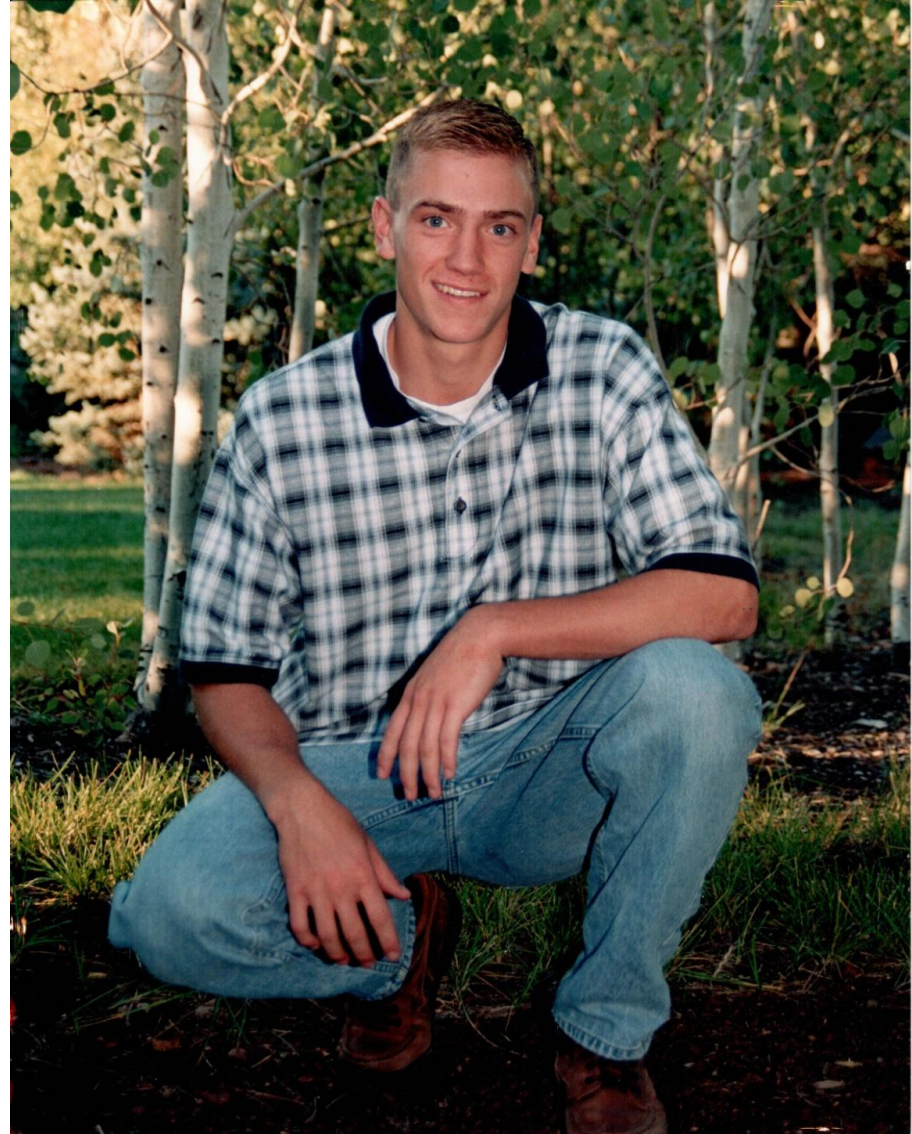
It's OK to not take ourselves too seriously, but we do
need to **TAKE LIFE SERIOUSLY!**

We are in mortality for only a short time and time
flies – as expressed in the lyrics of Sunrise, Sunset
from Fiddler on the Roof

*Is this the little girl I carried?
Is this the little boy at play?
I don't remember growing older,
When did they?*

*Sunrise sunset, sunrise, sunset!
Swiftly fly the years,
One season following another,
Laden with happiness and tears...*

*We've had our happiness
and our tears this past year*



Oh, how we miss him!

Mark's passing caused all of us to ponder and better understand the answers to three questions:

Why are we in this mortal state?

Where did we come from?

Where are we going from here?

*We **REALLY** need to know the answers to these three questions*

Our Father's Plan

Pre-mortal life

Mortality

Post-mortal life

**We were with the
family of God
Savior offered to
come to earth
- to show the way
- to give us life
--- physical
--- spiritual
We chose to follow
Him**

**Family
Body
Follow Him
Build a family
Ordinances
Walk the path**

**Return to Him
Resurrection
Serve Him
Serve our family
Eternal Life**

How we “come follow Him” in our homes helps us know if we are “on the path home to our Father”

Alma taught about “mortality”

“this life [is the] time to prepare to meet God” -

“the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body . . . are taken home to that God who gave them life.”

Our Father's Plan

When we leave mortality, we return as spirits to a loving Father in Heaven and His Son, Jesus Christ



Our Father's Plan

Central to our Father's plan is the **Family** – **we need each other** to come home to the Father.

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Our Father's Plan

- We need to pray for one another*
- We need to help one another when there is a need*
- We need to lift, love, care for, and strengthen one another*
- We help each other embrace the Savior's restored Gospel and its ordinances*
- We need to become as one - bound together by love and by the sealing power in the temples of the Lord - this is where God creates families!*

So . . . How are we doing?

The Savior marked the path and led the way and said "Come follow me"



Home/family centered worship

We have been taught to make our homes the center of our gospel study and walking the pathway home to our Father in Heaven

*What is Sunday like in **your home** when we are unable to attend meetings at our chapels? (COVID)*

Our Home

Sabbath Day

- Music and the Spoken Word
- Come Follow Me - study time
- Sacrament
 - Hymn
 - Sacrament
- Family History
- Visit/Call family
- Minister to others



What is working for you?

WE NEED EACH OTHER!

*As families we are walking the
pathway home together*



Walking the path together as FAMILIES



Walking the path together



*Our family now numbers **78** - with the most recent additions being the sons of Darris and Amandalyn and Trent and Alexandra*
2018 Family Reunion Photo



Walking the path together

Kenneth & Deborah



Walking the path together

Steven & Colette



Walking the path together

Michael & Heather



Walking the path together

Daniel & Julie



Walking the path together

Mike & Kalynn



Walking the path together

Ricky & Shannon



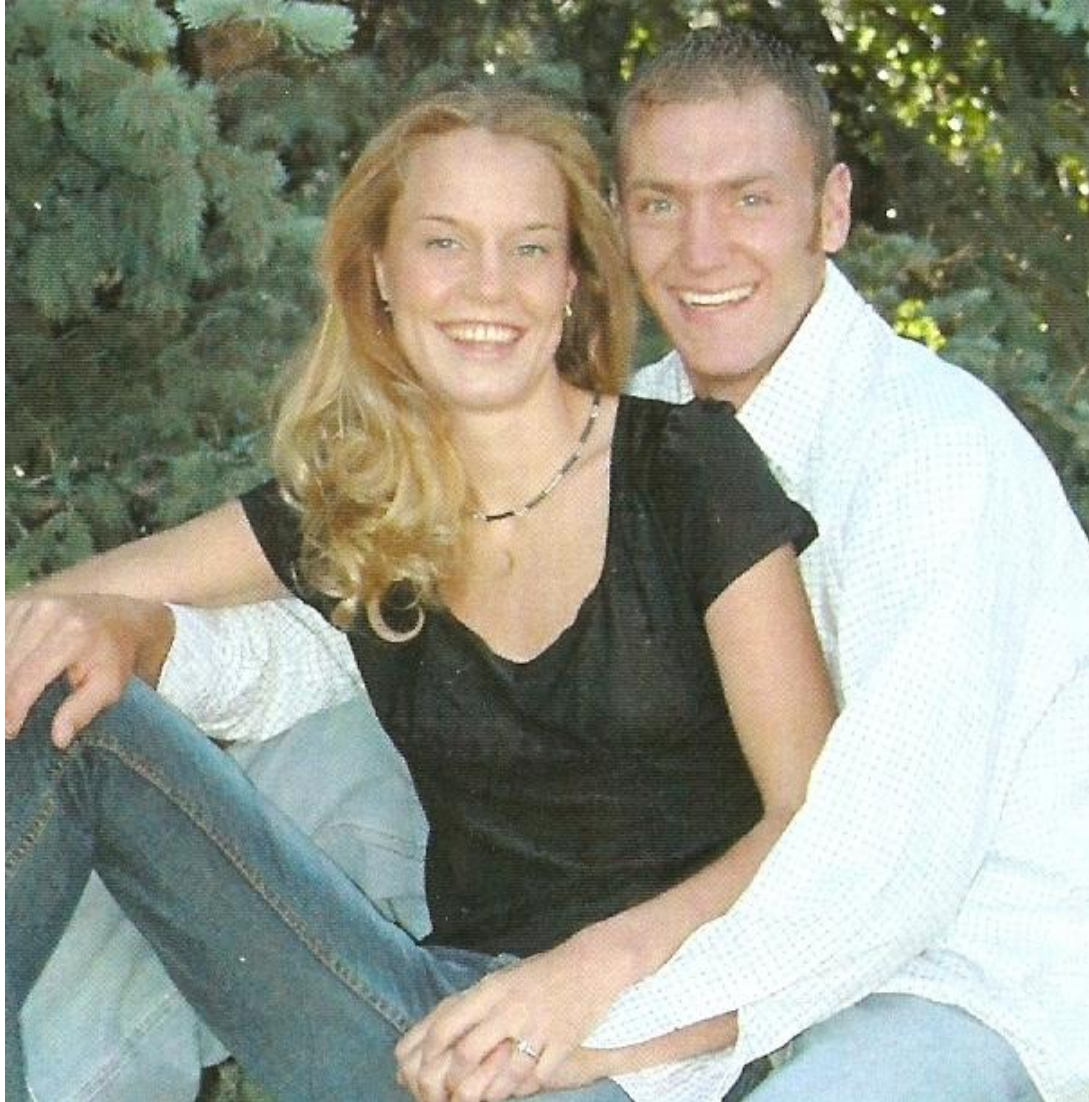
Walking the path together

Timmy & Tia



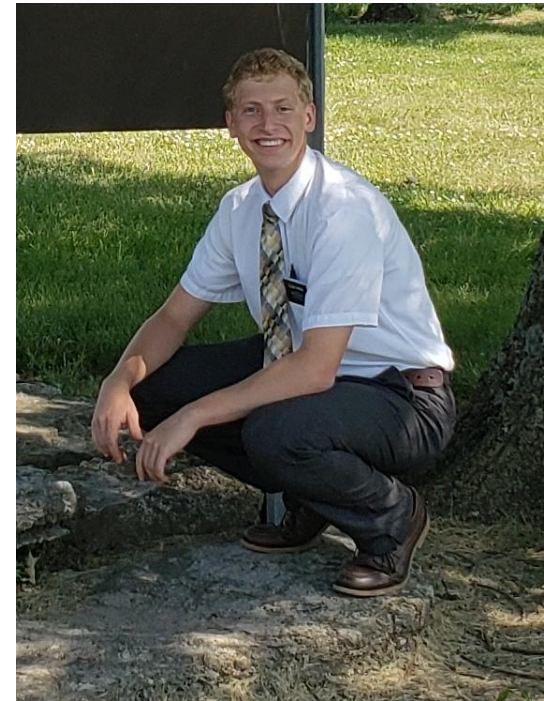
Walking the path together

Mark & Celeste



Walking the path together

Pam & Ronnie



MISSIONARY REPORTS

*Independence
Missouri*



Keegan



Bryant

*Fresno
California*

*Mexico - - - -
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania*



Garrett



Lance

*Mexico - - - -
Boston
Massachusetts*

Preparing for tough times ahead

Are we prepared?

- COVID 19 taught us a lot . . . Were you ready?
- 72 hour kit/Year's supply?
- Spiritually prepared?
- Educated and prepared to provide?
- Prepared for retirement?
- Staying healthy?

“If ye are prepared, ye shall not fear”

D&C 38:30

We love all of you!

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*We feel so blessed
that He gave us you
to help us become
what He wants us
to be!*







The End