

# **Rhonda Truman Ford**

*An account of the life of Rhonda Truman Ford from her early days in St. George, Utah, to meeting Scott Edward Ford in California; their marriage, births of their two daughters, college, and living in Utah, Texas, and Nashville, Tennessee, teaching elementary students for six years, world travels, and the births of her two grandsons.*



**Compiled by Richard T. Martin**  
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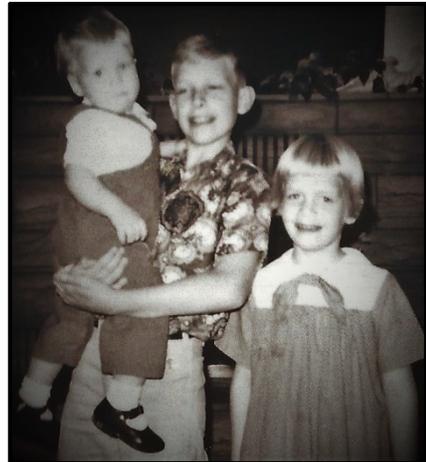
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# Rhonda Truman Ford

Compiled by Richard T. Martin

I interviewed Rhonda in October and November 2018, and a few times in 2019. As she reflected on her life, it reminded me of what a unique, special person she is, and how much she is loved by her family and friends.

Rhonda Truman Ford was born on April 21, 1960, in St. George, Washington County, Utah, the second child of Alma Delmont Truman (1931-2017) and Karol Geraldine Kuhn (born 1935). She grew up in St. George with her older brother, Daniel



**Top left: Rhonda Truman (age two) with her older brother, Daniel Truman, in 1962. Top right: Rhonda (age five) with Daniel holding their baby sister, Gina, in 1965. Middle right: Rhonda (age 8) with Daniel holding their youngest brother, Boyd, in 1968. Right: Rhonda and Daniel with Gina in a stroller in 1965. Above: Rhonda's family in 1975; left to right from back: Boyd, Gina, Rhonda, Daniel, Karol Kuhn (mother), and Alma Delmont Truman (father).**

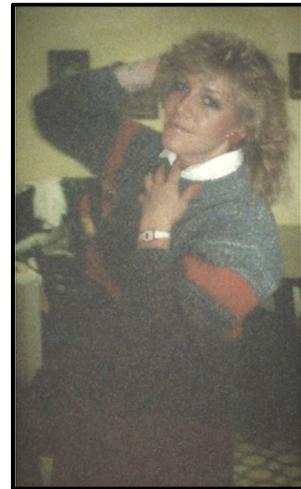
Kuhn Truman (born 1956), and younger siblings, Gina Truman (born 1965), and Boyd Kuhn Truman (born 1967).

She was very close with her grandparents, Al Truman and Alta Holt on her father's side, and Millard Eugene Kuhn and Naomi Johnson



## Rhonda Truman Ford

on her mother's side, who also lived in St. George, and whom she saw every week.

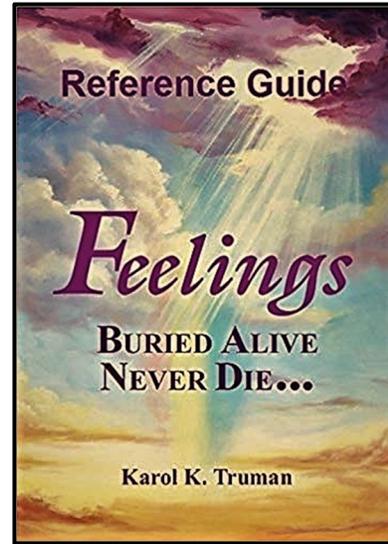
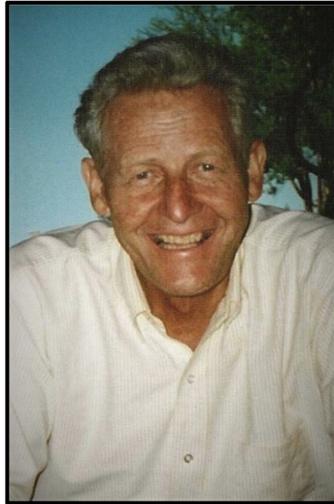


**Top left: Rhonda standing in the middle with her cousins in 1965. Left: Some of Rhonda's cousins again in 1967. Top middle: Rhonda when she was twelve years old. Top right: Rhonda when she was sixteen years old. Above left: Rhonda with her younger brother Boyd in 1980. Above right: Rhonda striking a pose in her college days.**

Rhonda's first memory was when she was about 2 ½ years old living on Diagonal Street. Her relatives were having a birthday party for her mother's brother. She wanted to be in on the fun, but her mother took her into the house where she watched them at the window. Laughing, she said, "I must have already had the FOMO, "Fear of Missing Out." Another early memory was when she was three years old at a Thanksgiving dinner at her grandparent's house. One of her Grandpa Truman's sayings was, "If you can't find something to do, go find a shovel, dig a hole, and then fill it up."

Get-togethers with her extended family are some of her happiest memories while growing up, and perhaps that is why she still loves family activities.

Her parents were heavily involed in the community. Her father was a gifted singer and



Above: Alma Delmont Truman (born April 7, 1931, in Enterprise, Washington, Utah; died July 19, 2017, in Ivins, Washington, Utah; son of Alma “Al” Truman and Alta Holt), father of Rhonda Truman. He was student body president of Enterprise High School and Dixie State College, where he also played center on the basketball team. He was a combat soldier in the Korean War, married Karol Geraldine Kuhn on April 9, 1955, in the St. George Temple, and later served as a Bishop. He had a beautiful baritone voice and was frequently asked to sing at community gatherings. In 2012 he was inducted into the Dixie College Hall of Fame. His obituary in *The Spectrum* read: “The earth will be a little dimmer with the loss of Alma Delmont Truman.” Top right: Book written by Rhonda’s mother, Karol K. Truman, in 1991. It is still selling well. One reader wrote: “I know, from reading all the other reviews, that I am not alone in my sincere appreciation for the work of Karol Truman in composing the book, *Feelings Buried Alive Never Die*. But why did it take me so long to find it? I think this book is must-read, must-share, must-remember resource for living a healthy life. It stands above other books about the importance of feelings by its sheer volume of intriguing and useful information.” Karol has also written two other books: *Healing Feelings...from Your Heart*, and *Looking Good Feeling Great*. Right: Karol Kuhn Truman.



profession and for many years manager of the bank in Enterprise, Utah. Her mother taught on the average forty 30-minute piano lessons a week.

Her parents were resourceful and the first distributors of the Sundancer Mini-Trampoline, which was a national hit. Her mother wrote a book on how to do exercises using the trampoline. They reaped the benefits of this for ten years until the company lost its patent.

From the time Rhonda was three or four years old until she was 18, she stayed every summer in Pine Valley, Utah, in a cabin that the family had built and owned, which is located

was often invited to sing at various church and private events. In fact, he was so popular that her parents were often gone for two or three days a week. Her mother would accompany him on the piano and sometimes sing with him. He was a banker by

close to the historic Pine Valley Ward Chapel, built in 1868. This valley has many pine



Above: A family gathering of Rhonda's relatives on her grandmother, Naomi Johnson Kuhn's side of the family, about 1967. Rhonda is standing in the middle (wearing a dark shirt) and her grandmother, Naomi Kuhn, is standing behind her. Rhonda always enjoyed family parties and said that from a young age she probably had FOMO, "Fear of Missing Out." Left: After many tries and a miracle, Rhonda passed the final math class exam required to earn her education degree from Brigham Young University. Here she is pictured with a friend on December 17, 1985.

trees, hence its name, and is cooler in the summertime than St. George, so Rhonda always enjoyed going there. Interestingly, while some scenes for the movie, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969) were being filmed, the lead actress, Katherine Ross, stayed in their cabin in Snow Canyon. As a token of gratitude, she left the refrigerator full of wine and beer, unaware that the owners didn't drink.

Sometimes on her way to Pine Valley, Rhonda would stop at Veyo, Utah, where she would



**This page: Rhonda with family and friends at her bridal shower in 1987. Bottom left: Rhonda exercising with a friend, about 1984.**

go swimming at the natural warm spring, lava rock, swimming pool (established in 1927). Rhonda remarked, “Those were some great times—Pronto Pups (corn dogs), shakes and fries.”

**School**

Rhonda attended three public schools, all in St. George: West Elementary, Woodward Jr. High, and Dixie High School. She said, “Achademically I was horrible. I never applied myself in school. After all, I wasn’t going to go to college or anything. I did love school, but only for the social side of it. I



was friends with everybody.” Once she was asked by someone why she talked to this



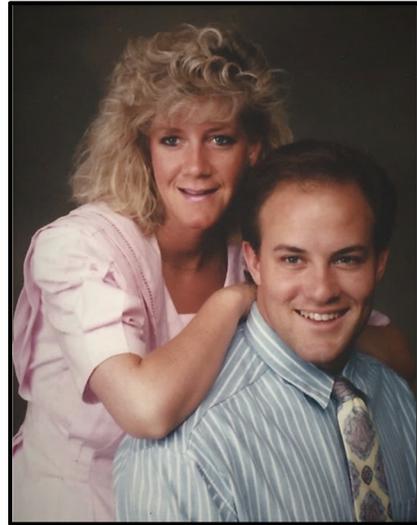
**Top left: Rhonda at her bride shower in 1987. Left: Rhonda on the right with her friend, Connie Brown Larsen, about 1974. Above right: Rhonda and her future husband, Scott Ford, in 1986/1987. They met in California and dated for 18 months before getting married on August 15, 1987.**

one girl, and Rhonda replied, “Because she’s my friend.” She accepted everyone.

Some of her friends from school are still her best friends today. One of her dearest friends just completed chemotherapy and is a “downwinder,” like Rhonda. The term “downwinder,” according to the Oxford Dictionary, is a “person living downwind from a nuclear test site [Southern Nevada], where the risk from fallout is greatest.”

Rhonda went on her first date to the Preference Ball when she was fifteen. That was a school dance where the girl asks the boy out. Most of her dates were more with her

buddies and friends. A couple of times she came home, waited fifteen minutes, and



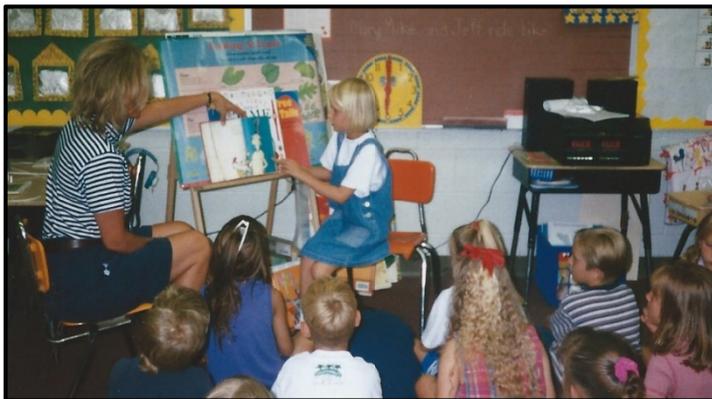
**Top and above left: Rhonda and Scott Ford in 1986 and 1987. Above: Rhonda with young Ben in 1986. Rhonda thought that Scott was older than he was and Scott thought Rhonda was younger than she was. When they found out their real ages, it didn't matter because they had fallen in love.**

then snuck out the back and drove to Las Vegas with her friends. “We never did anything bad—we played too much.”

## **Jobs**

Her first real work was helping her dad with odd jobs at his employment. She did this before and after she was 16. Her first formal job was working at Quick Mart, which was a gasoline convenience store like Maverick. She began working there when she was 17 years old and worked from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. two to three days a week. Looking back on it, she wonders why her parents didn't object to her working there because it wasn't the safest environment for a young

lady to be working in. (Gina explained that her parents knew the manager there, Klissa Heaton, who they thought would be a good influence on Rhonda, which she was.)

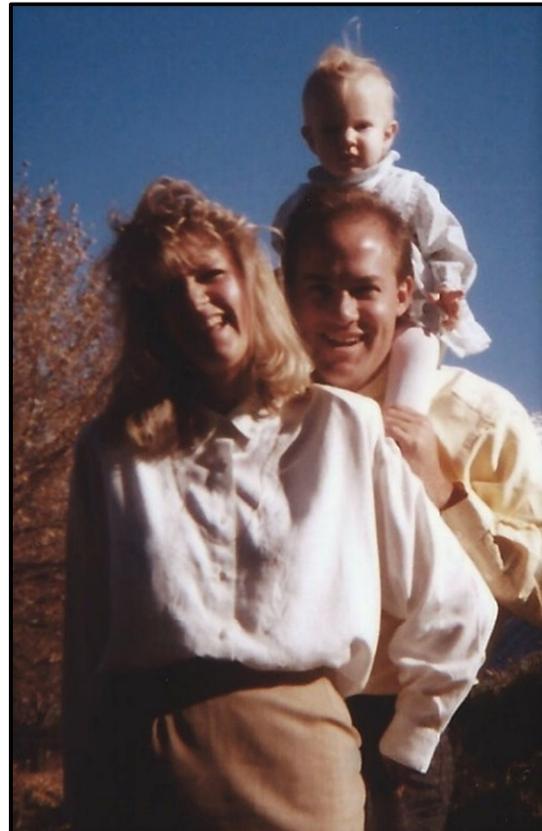


**Above: Wedding Day!** Rhonda and Scott were married on August 15, 1987, in the St. George Temple. Pictured are Scott's parents, Ed and Bev Ford, on the left, and Rhonda's parents, Delmont and Karol Truman, on the right. **Left: Rhonda in class teaching her 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade students in 1988.**

## College

After graduating from high school, Rhonda didn't have a plan to get a college degree, but she enrolled at Dixie College for one semester. She didn't study and ended up with a 1.9 average (out of 4) and earned only one credit. She said, "A lot of people don't realize it, but St. George is a party town. Most people take the church for granted there. My parents wanted me to leave St. George, and even planned to move to Provo to help me get into a new environment."

Rhonda soon moved “begrudgingly” to Provo, Utah, and worked two jobs at the same



**Top left:** Two of the classes that Rhonda, “Mrs. Ford,” taught in 1988-1989. When asked how she felt about teaching, Rhonda replied, “I loved, loved it.” Rhonda taught for a total of six years, with breaks in between. Some students thought that she was the best teacher that they ever had. **Above and right:** Rhonda and Scott with baby Shaylee in 1990.

time: Slice of Pizza in the University Mall and at the movie theater. She said, “I like to keep busy.” She worked there for six months and then got a good job working at

the Utah Valley Dental Lab, where she worked for two years. She took dental impres-



**Top: Rhonda and Scott with baby Shaylee at their first apartment in Provo in 1990. Above: Rhonda with Scott's family in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1994. Left to right: Steve, Ed (father), Rhonda, Scott, Bev (mother), John, and Tracy. Scott is six feet tall, but he is the smallest of his brothers.**

She took dental impressions and generally worked as the office manager. There were some great guys there who she became friends with and they talked her into going back to school. So she enrolled in Utah Tech College (now Utah Valley University) and soon met a girl at school that became her first roommate. A year later, in 1982, she transferred to Brigham Young University where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1985. But before she could graduate, she had to pass a required math class. "I took this math class four times and ended up dropping the class or failing; it was so hard. I ended up with one more chance to pass the class. I took an online class and my dad studied with me, but I had to pass the final to get credit. I took the test twice and failed. I had one more try or I would have to take the class over again. Everything depended on this. I had three job offers, but I had to pass the math test to get credit. My family fasted for me. I took the exam and when the results came in I had a score of 70.1 (70 was the minimum score to pass). I had PASSED! So I took the job offer in California."

All students at BYU are required to take a religion class each semester. Rhonda said, "I loved my religion classes."

## California

The interviewers had made the job in California sound idyllic. The school was located



Above: Rhonda with her family in 1991; left to right from back: Boyd Truman (younger brother), Delmont Truman (father), Daniel Truman (older brother), and Scott Ford (husband); front row from left to right: Gina Truman (younger sister), Ben Truman, Karol Kahn Truman (mother), Chad Truman, Wendee Truman (sister-in-law), Casey Truman (baby), and Rhonda holding her first daughter, Shaylee Ford. Right: Rhonda with her siblings, left to right: Gina, Daniel, Rhonda, and Boyd in 1991.

in Lake LA.—“doesn’t that sound nice? I drove 45 minutes each day through the desert to a place that wasn’t what I thought it would be.” Rhonda taught first grade for one half year and then substituted for another half year.

## Scott

“At the time I was dating an air traffic controller and a chiropractor. I wasn’t looking for anyone new.” There were only a few members of the church in Lancaster, California, and all thirty of them met at a Branch.



When I first met Scott I thought he was older than he was and he thought I was younger



**Top left: Rhonda with newborn Kelsie Ford on June 2, 1992. Top right: Rhonda with Kelsie (left) and Shaylee (right) in 1998. Middle left: Kelsie and Shaylee at Christmastime, 1996. Above: Shaylee (right) playing the violin at a recital in 1998. Left: Rhonda's first St. George home; 1995-1998. (Note the birthday banner for Rhonda.) Lower left: First truck owned by the family in Texas in 1993.**



than I was. We didn't find out our real ages until we had gone out on a few dates. We went on our first date to Venice Beach and the Hard Rock Café. Then a second date to a Los Angeles Dodgers baseball game." Scott had gone on a mission, but was only

20 years old and Rhonda was almost 26 when they met. "Both of our mothers were

against me dating him. My mother came out to meet him and changed her mind. She



**Top, left to right: Delmont (father), Karol (mother), McKenzie, Dan, Wendee, Casey, Boyd, Sandy, Ben, Tiana, Chad, Gina, Steve, Scott, Shay, Kels, Rhonda, John, Stephanie, Tosch, Alexa, Beverly (mother-in-law), and Ed (father-in-law). Above, left to right: Dan, McKenzie, Wendee, Boyd, Casey, Tosch, Sandy, Ben, Delmont, Karol, Chad, Tiana, Shay, Gina, Rhonda, Kels, and Scott. Both photographs were taken in 1998.**

said, ‘Look for the God that is in him.’” Scott’s mother didn’t change her opinion for many years, but now they are very close. They dated for one and a half years and then married in the St. George Temple. Interestingly, Scott never made a formal proposal of marriage—it was just understood that they were going to get married. They went on their honeymoon to Las Vegas, San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico.

## Provo Again

Scott still had three more years to complete his degree so the newlyweds moved back



Above, Scotts family, left to right: Julie (wife of Tracy), Steve, Bev (mother), Steph (wife of John), Rhonda, Tracy, Kels, Ed (father), Brittney, Alexa, John Scott, and Shay in 1997. Left, left to right: Delmont Truman, Karol Truman, Bev Ford, Ed Ford, and in front, Shaylee Ford in St. George in 1998. Rhonda's parents, in-laws, and daughter.

to Provo, Utah, so he could attend school at BYU. Meanwhile, Rhonda got a job teaching fourth grade at Sharon Elementary, where she taught for four years. Scott also worked at Sports Authority

and did a window washing business with a friend.

I asked if she enjoyed teaching and Rhonda said, "I loved it! Loved it! It was very rewarding. I was in Nashville one day and a young man from Utah came up to me and said, 'Are you Mrs. Ford?' I said, 'Yes.' And then he said, 'I'm Doug Collins. You were my

favorite teacher!' I've had a few other former students tell me the same thing. I taught core



Above, left to right: John, Hannah, Stephanie, Rhonda, Scott, Bev, Tracy, Ed, and Steve (sitting on front row). Children on front row: Lex, Kelsie, and Shaylee in 1998. Right, left to right: Rhonda and Gina with their brother, Dan, and father, Delmont Truman, in 1999.



subjects to 36 students in the morning and another 36 students in the afternoon. I had them divided up in such a way that I could talk one on one with every child every day.”

It was during this time that her first daughter, Shaylee Noel Ford, was born on December 18, 1989, in Provo.

### **Lancaster, California, 1991-1992**

While Scott was still in school he did an internship for a constuction company in Lan-

caster, California. They offered him a job so after he graduated from BYU they moved



**Above Rhonda with her brother, Dan, and friends in 1999. Left to right: Maxine and Darren Ence, Rhonda with Connie Larson behind her, Dan, Tonya Norcrest Witwer and her husband, Jeff. Left: Rhonda playing around, with Connie and Dan behind her.**

to Lancaster where they rented a house and lived for the next two years. His company was a small commercial contractor that did business mainly with military bases.

Meanwhile, Rhonda kept busy by working five different jobs. She arranged things so that she could work and take care of the kids at the same time. She worked for a title company, sold Tupperware, was a receptionist at the emergency room of a hospital, and worked for eight months at a very popular casual restaurant, "T-Shirts" (where she got to wear jeans to work).

While in Lancaster she started a call center. She went up to the owner of a company and

said, “I have a program that will work for you to get leads.” He liked her idea and then



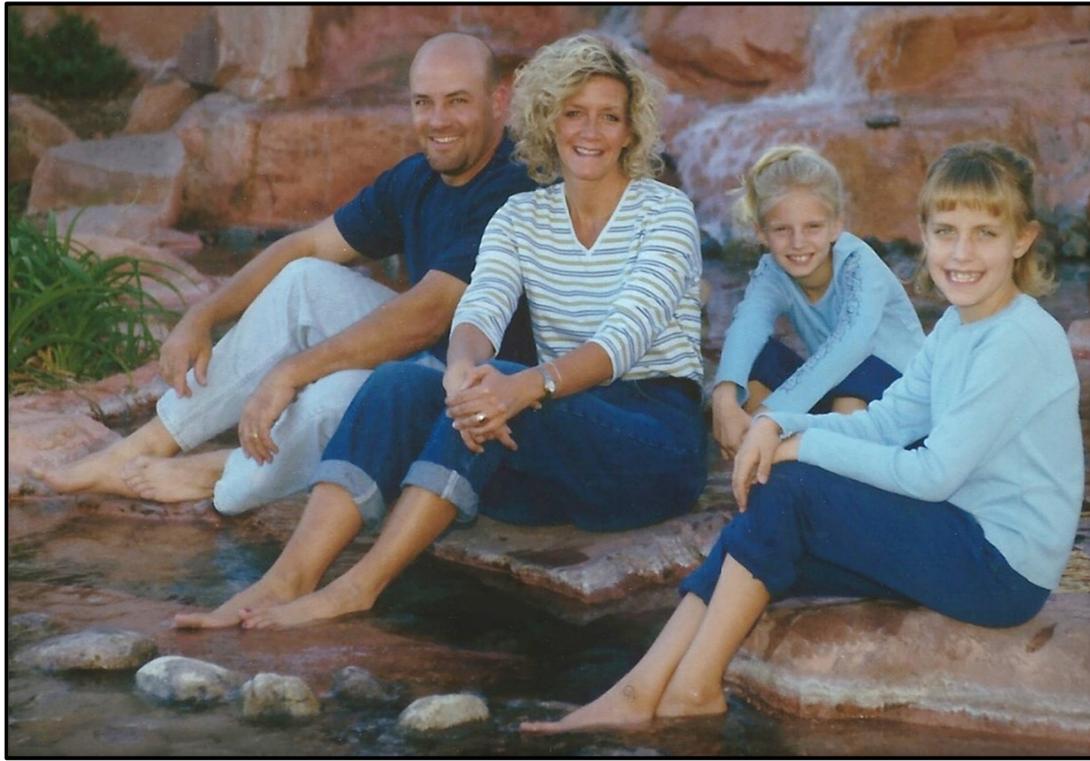
**Top, left to right: Maxine Ence, Connie Larson, Rhonda, Dan, and Tonya Norcrest Witwer. Above left to right: Maxine, Connie, Tonya, and Rhonda. Right: Rhonda with her friend, Tonya. All photographs were taken in 1999.**

she said, “I will need to use your office for my girls to make calls from.” He agreed and three to six girls would work on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for three hours each night setting appointments. They set appointments for real estate agents, automobile salesmen, and accountants. It was a successful business. Rhonda said, “I’m totally an independent worker. I never want to work for someone else.”

Rhonda’s second daughter, Kelsie Nicole Ford, was born in Lancaster on August 5, 1992.

## San Antonio, Texas, 1992-1994

The family moved to San Antonio, Texas, in 1992 and lived at 9201 Ridge Square



**Above: Rhonda with her family in 1998. Below: Their first home in Nashville from 2001 until 2005.**

Street. They had an “awesome ward” and made many good friends. They were especially close to two “super” couples who they are still friends with today. They lived close to SeaWorld and got season passes and went there together “all the time.”



Scott and Rhonda purchased their first home here. It was a three bedroom, two bath house with a huge backyard for which they paid \$67,000. They lived here for two years and then sold it for a nice profit of twenty thousand dollars, which was big money at the time.

It was here though that they had the saddest experience of their lives when Rhonda miscarried a little boy. They tried, but were never able to have another child.

While in San Antonio Rhonda worked for a few months as a newspaper monitor where she would check to see if people were getting their newspapers delivered properly (the

girls would be sleeping in the back seat of the car as she drove through the neighborhoods). She also worked as a test proctor at a local college.

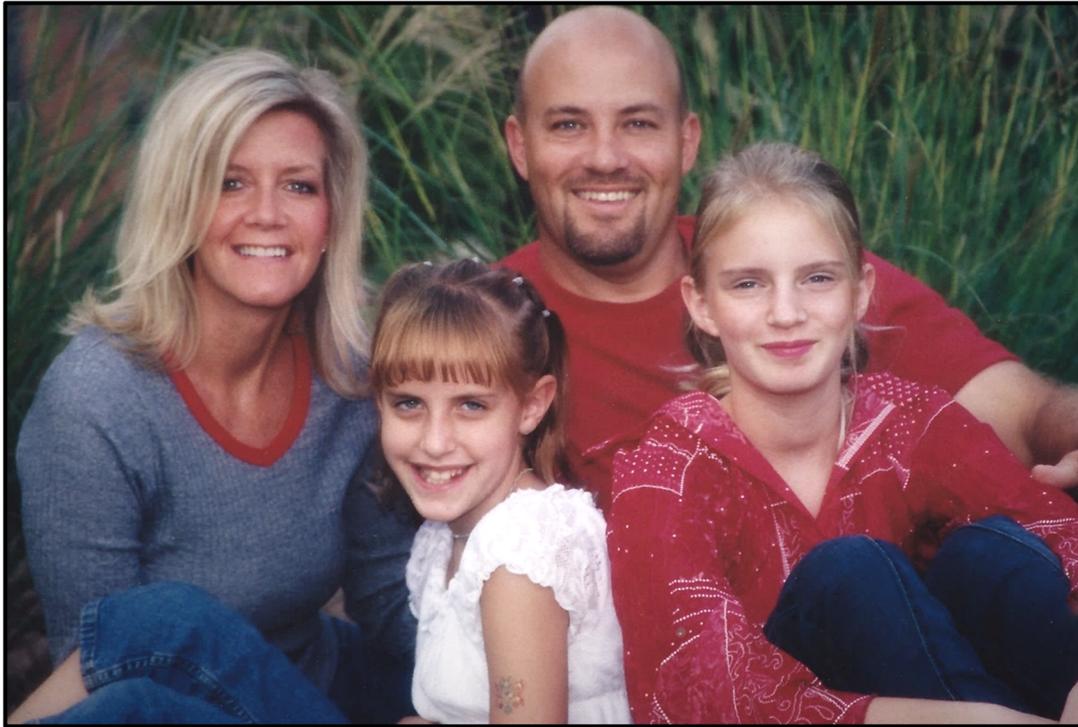
### St. George, Utah, 1994-2001



**Top:** Rhonda with her high school friends from St. George. They have stayed good friends even since those early days. Her father, Delmont Truman, is standing on the right. **Above:** Rhonda driving a convertible in Las Vegas in 2002. **Right:** Rhonda, with Kels (left) and Shay (right) at the Los Angeles Temple in 2002.

After a while their friends, being in the military, started moving away, and feeling some home-sickness, they decided to move to St. George, Utah. Scott got a good job with a home construction company in St. George and he designed and built a house for the family at 230 North Stone Mountain Drive in the Shadow Mountain Subdivision. Two years later they sold their home and moved around the corner into another

house that Scott also designed and built at 1042 West, 100 North, St. George, Utah.



**Above: Rhonda, Scott, Kelsie and Shaylee Ford in 2003. Right: Rhonda receiving a big gift in 2004.**

Rhonda taught first grade for a year, but didn't like it. She enjoyed teaching the fourth grade much more. This was her next to last formal teaching job.

While teaching she was the school's fund raiser chairperson. They had a cookie dough fundraiser which raised a lot of money. She got to know the owner of the company and he asked her if she would like to be the cookie dough representative for Southern Utah. She agreed and successfully promoted the product all over her territory. The hardest part was making calls and following up on leads, but after that "the rest was easy." At one time they had six freezers in their garage to keep the dough frozen. She sold this for five years in Utah and continued selling it for two years after they moved to Nashville, Tennessee.



Rhonda also worked for her mom and dad at their company, Olympus Distributing,



Above, left to right: Tod and Cass Thompson (Rhonda's best friend), Rhonda, Dan, Scott, and Ron Jensen (family friend) in 2004. Left: Valentine's Day 2004.

where they made mini-trampolines. As mentioned earlier, this was a profitable business for ten years. "Back then they were able to sell their units for \$185.00 each, but now they sell for about \$25.00 each."

Just before this time, her mother wrote a book entitled, *Feelings Buried Alive, Never Die*. It was

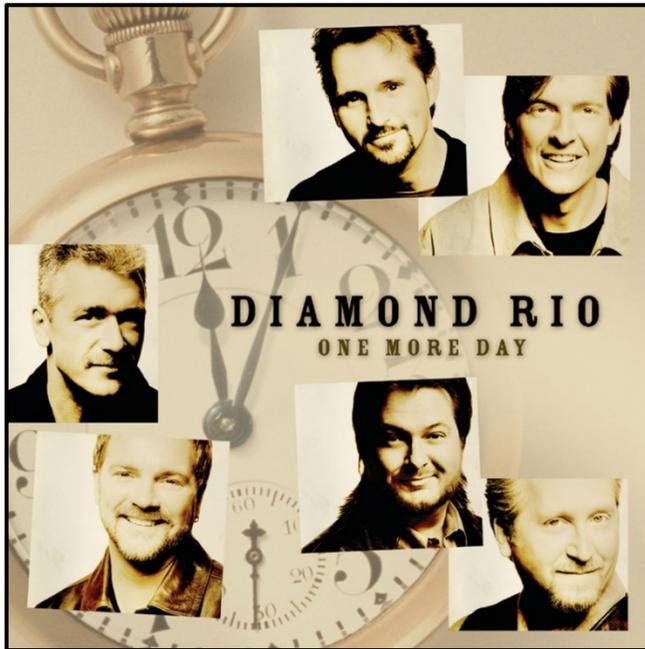
privately published and a big success, being sold in Barnes and Noble and other major outlets. Twenty-eight years later it continues to sell about 500 copies a week.

### Nashville, Tennessee 2001-2018

In April 2001 Rhonda and Scott moved with their family to Nashville, Tennessee. Here she continued to do fundraisers. At first people didn't believe you could make good money selling cookie dough, but they soon found out that it did work. She also sold "Butterbrad's," a delicious Amish bread, and "Pizza in a Bucket." Meanwhile, Scott was in construction management.

When I asked why she moved to Nashville, Rhonda replied, "We weren't growing

spiritually and needed a change.” Another reason that made Nashville a good choice



Above, left to right: Craig, Lori, Wendee, Rhonda, Scott, Jennifer, Chad, McKensie, Casey, Matt, Korbin, Matt, and Whitney; 2004. Left: Album cover for Diamond Rio's "One More Day" (2001). Rhonda's brother, Dan Truman, is one of the founding members of the band and plays keyboard. He is pictured at the top right (above Rio).

was that her brother, Dan Truman, was in the music business and living there. He plays keyboard and is one of the founding members of the music band, "Diamond Rio." They are well-known, especially among country music lovers. They have had many nationwide hit songs, but their song, "One

More Day," made Number One and was popular on all music channels, not just country. (Rhonda's comments made me realize that I hadn't heard the song so I played it from a music video on the Internet and loved it! Part of the lyrics are: "Last night I had a crazy dream / A wish was granted just for me / It could be for anything / I didn't ask for money / Or a mansion in Malibu / I simply wished for one more day with you! / One more day, one more time / One more sunset, maybe I'd be satisfied / But then again, I know what it would do / Leave me wishing still for one more day with you..." It has a meaningful message and a great sound.)

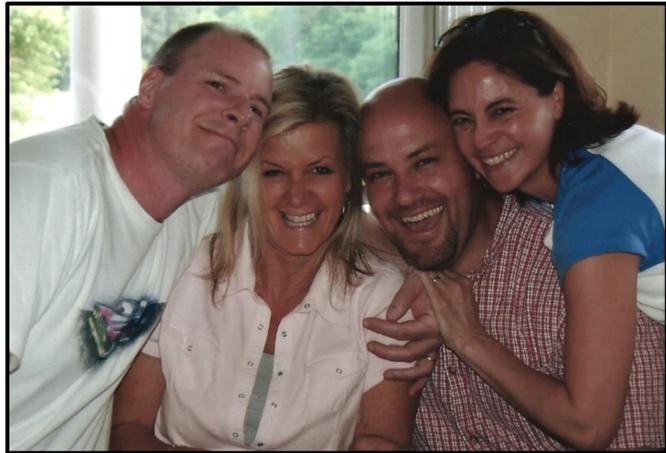
They left for Nashville “not having a job and going on faith.” Soon Scott got a job and



**Above: Extended Truman family in Pine Valley, Utah, in 2004. Right, left to right: Rhonda and Scott (center) with friends, Craig, and Lori Bernatz. Below: Rhonda and Scott in 2005.**

bought them a home at 1040 South Burham Drive in Hendersonville, Tennessee, which is about twenty minutes north of downtown Nashville.

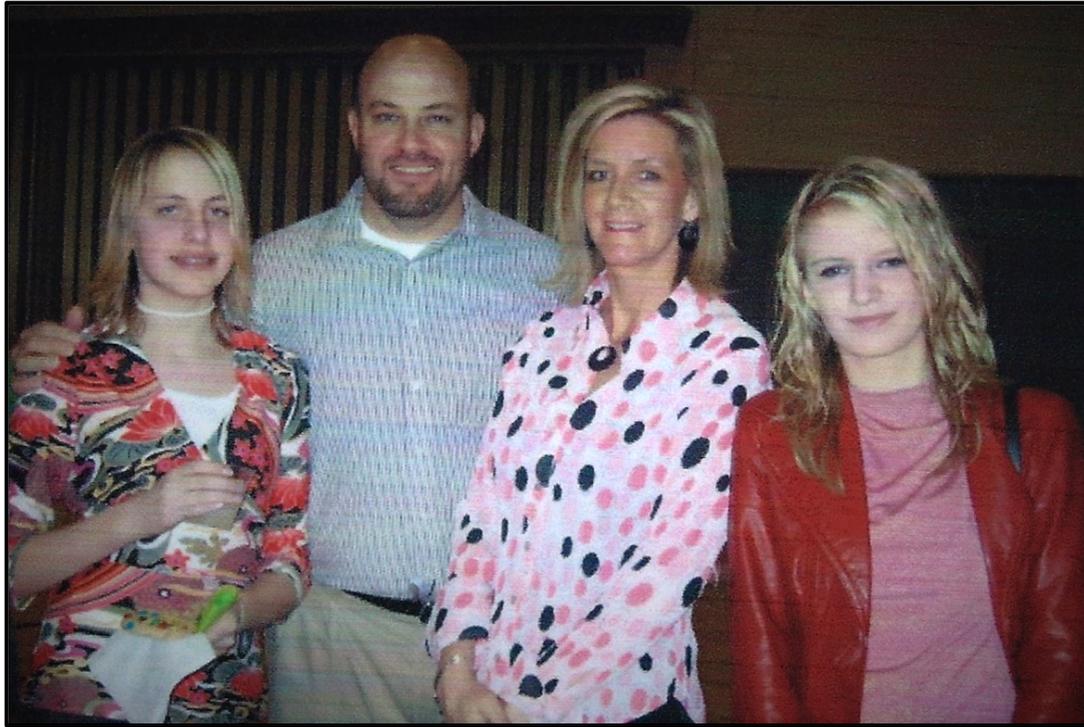
I asked if anyone thought that they sounded different when talking and Rhonda said, “All the time. They would say, ‘Y’all got the cutest little accent. Where y’all from?’”



After two years, Scott got an offer from a company in Las Vegas, Nevada. They didn’t want to go, but thought it might be a good opportunity, so Scott went by himself and lived in Vegas for a time. He would fly back and forth to see the family. After a year the rest of the family moved out to Vegas, but they weren’t able to sell their home which turned out to be a good thing; they rented it out instead.

Rhonda went to the local elementary to enroll Kelsie and met the principal. They got to talking and the principal found out that she had taught school for six years and just then a new position had opened up and he needed a teacher for the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade. He liked her and basically hired her on the spot. This was the last year she ever taught in a public school. She said, “It was a

great time, great people, but I just didn't feel right being there" [in Vegas]. After a year



**Top: Kelsie, Scott, Rhonda, and Shaylee in 2005. Left, left to right: Shey, Wendee, Kels, Rhonda, Bev, McKenzie, Julie, Brittney, and Annie in 2005. Above: Ginger, the family dog in 2005.**

Scott got a good offer from a builder in Nashville so they returned to Tennessee.

When they got back to Nashville they found a  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre lot in a good location and built a new house on it that they have to this day. Rhonda went back to fundraising—her company was called “Eatum Up Fundraiser”—but after a while she “wasn't interested anymore,” so she studied and got a real estate license. “I loved it,” she said, and she did

well, selling three or four houses every month, but then came the Banking Crisis of



**Above: Rhonda, Shaylee, Gina, and Kelsie in 2006. Right: Tennessee home from 2005 to 2020. Lower right: Rhonda with friends, Maggie Price and Hailei Price, at a football game in 2006.**

2008 and the entire real estate market in Nashville collapsed. Instead of selling three or four houses a month she began selling three or four houses a year. Scott's business suffered also and his company couldn't sell the houses that they had built and soon went bankrupt. Scott didn't have a job and no one was hiring anyone in his field. So he formed his own company and did construction jobs wherever he could find them; home improvement or repairs, etc. Rhonda substituted in the public schools, but it was a rough time, the most difficult ever. About this time, Rhonda's



sister, Gina Truman, hit bottom and was living with their parents in St. George, Utah. But soon things were to change.



This page: Rhonda ran in the Country Music 1/2 Marathon twice; once in 2005 (above), where she completed the race in under three hours and a second time in 2006 (left), where she finished in about 3 1/2 hours. Scott also ran in these two races.

### Doterra 2008 to Present

Her sister had been working in the essential oil family business for 16 years when Doterra came along. She thought, "What do I have to lose?" Soon Gina got Scott and Rhonda into the company. It took a few years, but then

it really took off. Gina is now one of the top leaders in the company with a downline of over one million people.



**Top left: Rhonda and her oldest daughter Shaylee, in 2007. Top right: Rhonda in 2007. Above: On an ocean cruise with Scott. Left: Rhonda giving a thumbs up for Doterra in 2009! Doterra positively changed Rhonda and Scott's life.**

Rhonda and Scott were two of the first 100 people to join the company. They are now top leaders of the company and their present downline is 250,000 people of which 65% make new orders every month. This means that financially, LIFE IS GOOD!

Here are some things that you may not know about Rhonda. She doesn't have a favorite

color (“I like them all—just some more than others”), her favorite food is “everything,”



**Top left: Rhonda and her family in Pine Valley, Utah, in 2010. Lower left: Kelsie’s Beech High School volleyball team in 2010. She received a scholarship from Florida State College of Jacksonville for volleyball the following year. Above: Rhonda and Scott in 2011.**



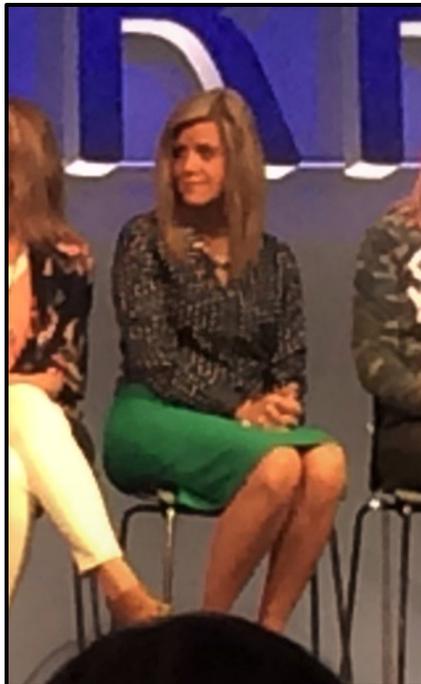
she is not an ice cream fan except for Rocky Road, she likes historical movies like *Saving Private Ryan*, *Schindler’s List*, *Lincoln*, and a *Star is Born*, and likes to watch a good football game if the Titans are playing. She added, “I also like to watch hockey, when I get a chance.”

Rhonda played second base on her Jr. High Softball team for two years when she was 13-15 years old. She was “just okay.”

I asked Rhonda, “What are you the happiest doing?” She replied, “Being with my family and friends.” It was such a perfect answer. From what I have seen in the few years that I have known Rhonda is that she is social and loves her family more than anything else and they love her.

Rhonda is a kind thoughtful, person and willing to be friends with people from different

circumstances. In that regard she hasn't changed much from those high school days



Top: Rhonda with Kelsie and Shaylee in St. George, Utah, in 2011. Above and left: Rhonda on a Doterra panel in 2012.

when she was willing to be friends with the less popular kids. She is a wonderful person and a blessing to everyone that knows her.

## Health

On September 9, 2018, Rhonda suddenly became dizzy and couldn't walk straight. She

went to an emergency room and after being operated on was found to have Grade IV



Above left: Rhonda and Scott with their beloved family dog, Ginger, in 2012. Top right: Rhonda celebrating the new year of 2012 with Gina in New York City. Middle: Rhonda and Gina with Emily Wright at the Waffle House. Right: Rhonda with her family and new son-in-law, Michael Martin, at a Padre's game in San Diego in 2013.



brain cancer and a tumor the size of a walnut. It is believed that this came as a direct result of being exposed when she was young to the atomic bomb tests that took place nearby St. George in Nevada. The doctors said that she cannot be cured, but that her life can be extended for a number of years if she responds well to treatments. It has been a year since she had her operation and so far she is doing well.

***Rhonda wrote the following about her husband, daughters, and grandsons in August 2019.***

## Meeting Scott

“After graduating from BYU, I had several job offers and I took the one that paid the



**Top: Rhonda, Scott, and Kelsie in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the wedding of Shaylee to Michael Richard Martin on August 7, 2013. It was a happy occasion. Above, left to right: Ed, Gina, Delmont, Rhonda, Kelsie, Chad (Scott’s nephew), Cathy (Chad’s wife), Shaylee, and Michael at a Predators game in 2014.**

most in Lake LA in Southern California. I was used to huge wards at BYU, but I was assigned to a Branch with about 30 of us. This is where I met my husband Scott. He was almost six years younger than me. He was also new to the Branch and to Southern California. Because of our similar taste in doing extracurricular things, we found it easy to ‘hang out.’ We went to the beach, ballgames, and dinner together quite often. WE laughed a lot together and the friendship developed more and more into a love for each other. I was impressed with Scott by what he did at an YSA event we attended—

he helped instead of socializing and/or just hanging out. During this time he was work-



Left and above: Rhonda and Scott at a Predators game and a Dodgers game in 2014. Rhonda with her best friend, Cass Thompson, in San Francisco in 2015. Rhonda and her new Range Rover in 2015.

ing at a sports store and attending a local college, and I taught elementary school. We were married 18 months after we met. We headed back to BYU for 4 years, where Scott finished school and I taught Elementary. We have had quite the journey for the past 33 years. We have traveled the world, have a great family, and so many great friends. I would not change a thing. I think our happiest moments, besides having our girls and grandsons, are the 20 years we spent in the Nashville, Tennessee, area. This is the place our girls call home.”

### Shaylee Noel Ford

“We had our first daughter, Shaylee, 2.5 years after we got married. I had a very easy

pregnancy. I wasn't ever sick and I taught school until the day I delivered. It was her

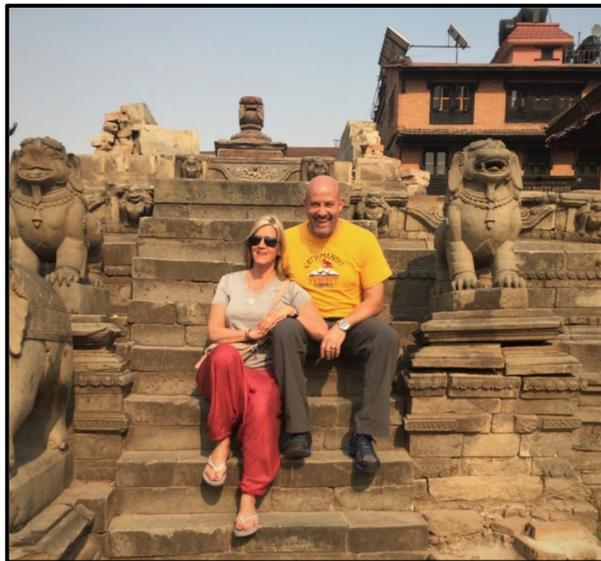


**Rhonda and Scott traveled to China and Europe in 2015. Top left; Great Wall of China. Top right: Shang Hai, China. Middle right: Scotland and London, England. Above: Tower Bridge in London. Right: Rhonda and Scott with her brother, Boyd, and his wife, Sandy, in Ireland.**



due date when my water broke, but it was a 23 hour stint to get her here. She didn't want to come. I pushed for over three hours. We are talking painful pushing. Once she

got here to earth, I had a hard time nursing her. It was quite the challenge, but I know

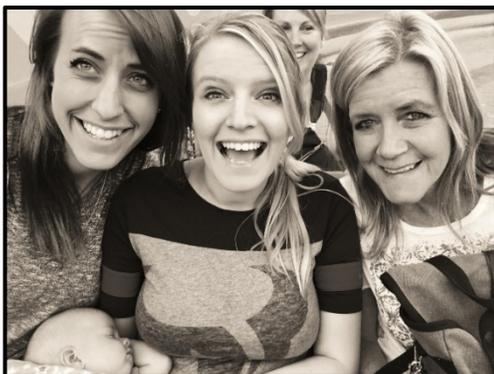


**Rhonda and Scott went to Italy and Nepal in 2016. Top: Venice, Italy. Above: Pisa, Italy. Right: Nepal.**

how important mother's milk is so I hung in there for about six months."

"Shay cried a lot as a baby and I think one of the reason was because she went to a babysitter every day from the time she was five weeks old. Every day for 18 months I would cry leaving her in someone else's care, but it's what we had to do. She had the sweetest little voice that would melt everyone's heart. She was a tiny thing because she didn't eat much. Her best days were visiting Nana and Papa. She LOVED visiting them

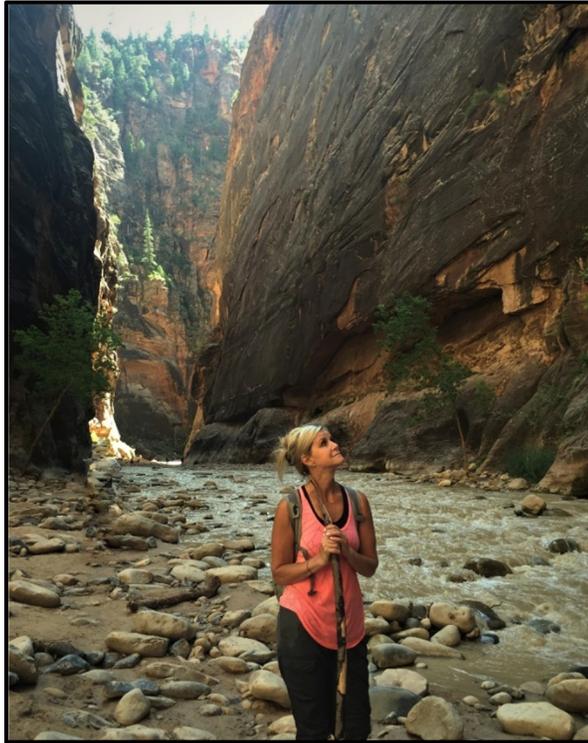
often. Shaylee also loved playing the violin and performed often for others, including



**Rhonda has gone to Disneyland many times. In fact she has taken little Houston to Disneyland at least four times since he was born on January 5, 2016. Top left and top right: “Girl’s trip” to Disneyland with baby Houston in 2016. Above: Rhonda holding boy Houston in December 2016. Right: The family went on a trip together to Hawaii in 2016.**

at church. We were always so proud of her and this accomplishment. Because of her violin training she was able to teach herself how to play the piano and guitar. She also has a great singing voice and performed with her school’s music department each year. She has always been a talented, sweet girl—except for those few, short, rebellious high school years, which we’re glad didn’t last long. The greatest blessing for me has been to watch her raise her beautiful son in the Gospel.”

“Shay and I have a love for food, movies, and great music. She doesn’t like to go shop-



**Top left: Rhonda on a Doterra trip with Scott in 2017. Top right: Rhonda at a special moment in Zion's National Park in 2016. Left: Rhonda holding boy Houston in December 2016. Above: The family at a BYU game in 2017.**

ping, but will drop everything to go and see a good movie, with or without her mom. I call her one of my dear friends that I can trust to share any secret with.”

“Michael is a great husband and father as well. WE are so proud of him and love how

much he loves and works hard for his family. Mike and Shaylee are a perfect pair and



**Top:** Kelsie’s wedding reception on July 22, 2017. Left to right: Michael Richard Martin, Shaylee Ford Martin, Kelsie Nicole Ford Jarrell, Cameron Jarrell, Rhonda Truman Ford holding Houston Scott Martin (boy), and Scott Edward Ford. **Above:** The family in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2019. Left to right: Houston Martin (boy), Michael Martin, Shaylee Ford Martin, Rhonda Truman Ford, Scott Ford, Cameron Jarrell, Lincoln Alma Jarrell (baby), Kelsie Ford Jarrell, Gina Truman, Taliya Schaefer, Austen Schaefer, Benjamin Truman, Leo Truman (boy), Casey Truman, Harrison Truman (boy), Samantha Truman, McKenzie Truman, Catherine Truman, and Chad Truman.

we love them more than they know. We are grateful for both of them and for Houston.”

### **Kelsie Nicole Ford**

“After several miscarriages we finally had another baby girl. It was another easy preg-

nancy and, this time, an easy delivery. I choose not to work full time and to spend time



**This page:** In December 2019, Rhonda went to Cancun, Mexico, for the first time with Scott, her daughters, grandsons and sons-in-law. In both photographs she is holding her baby grandson, Lincoln Alma Jarrell.

with the girls. We were so poor, but it was worth it and we did what we could to make things work. Kelsie wasn't as independent as Shay. Kelsie always had to be with her mom, and it's sometimes that way now. We have the best time shopping and I know that's one of her favorite things to do. One of my favorite years was when I went back to teaching in Las Vegas at the same school Kelsie attended. We went to and from school together every day and got to see each other all the time."

"When Kelsie started 9<sup>th</sup> grade she was asked to try out for the volleyball team because of her height, 6'2." She played on her high school volleyball team from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. She was team captain, and made All State in her senior year. After high school she was asked to play college

ball. She had a lot of offers and decided to take a full ride scholarship at Jackson State



**This page: Rhonda and Scott. Top left: Rhonda with her father, Delmont Truman.**

Florida. She played for two years there and Scott and I attended many of her games. We had good times watching her play with her team. Kels has a gift of caring, and the first year she played col-

lege ball she got the Coaches Award. She wasn't sure what that was and she asked the coach what it meant. He said, 'It's because of the way you made your teammates feel and you were a huge cheerleader for each of them coming from love and respect.' Her teammates loved her throughout her volleyball career and they still do. After Florida Kels moved to Provo, Utah, to attend school. She became a volleyball coach at Timpview High School in Provo, where she assisted the coach in taking teams to State, where they took first place in the State of Utah."

“Kels met her husband, Cameron Jarrell, in Utah, who is her best fit. They are strong in the



**Top left: Rhonda and Scott on the cover of Doterra’s Leadership magazine. Rest of page: Rhonda with family and friends.**

Gospel and they just had our second grand-son. Scott and I love Cam, Kels, and Lincoln.

Kels is living her dream; married to an awesome guy, and raising a beautiful little boy.”

### Houston Scott Martin

“Our first grandson—what a blessing to have Houston as part of our family. He is such a



**This page: Rhonda with family and friends. Top right: Scott is holding baby Houston Scott Martin, who was born January 5, 2016.**

precious little guy and brings such joy to each of us. His caring heart reminds me of my dad—always looking out for the

needs of others. He is such a smart, wise little boy. He has always been a smart, caring,



**This page: Rhonda with her sister, Gina (top left and middle right), husband, Scott, daughter, Kels, and friends.**

lovable little boy who is loved by so many. My favorite times with Houston are going for walks, playing games, and doing puzzles. I love watching him do his silly dances and I love how he makes sure he gives everyone a hug and a kiss each time someone leaves. LOVE him so much!”

(Houston was born on January 5, 2016, in Lehi, Utah. He calls Rhonda, “YaYa.” Rhonda and Scott have taken Houston with them on at least four trips to Disneyland, at least once

to San Diego Beach, Newport Beach, and San Clemente Beach in California, several times



**This page: Rhonda overseas, in Zions, and seeing baby Houston Martin for the first time.**

to Nashville, Tennessee, and recently to Cancun, Mexico.)

### **Lincoln Alma Jarrell**

“What a treasure it was to watch Lincoln come into the world. I will never forget that moment, and now, two months later, watching

his little personality come alive has been a treat. I'm so excited to watch him grow into a

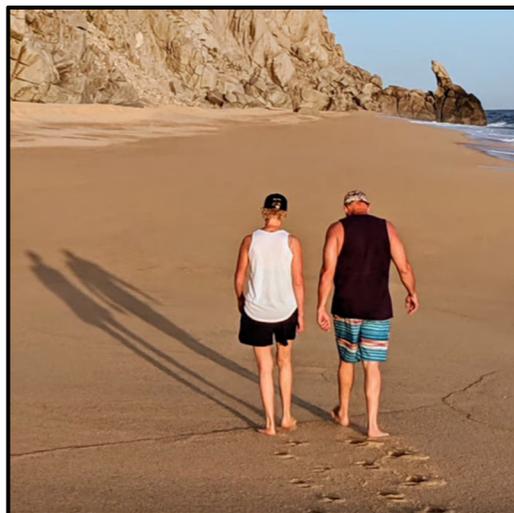


**Top and above: Rhonda, Scott, family and friends at Kelsey's wedding. Right: Lincoln Alma Jarrell, Rhonda's second grandchild, which was born on June 24, 2019.**

little boy, like Houston. I really look forward to watching and being here for both of their baptisms.

Both our grandsons are special individuals and will be huge examples to all their family and friends.” (Lincoln was born on June 24, 2019, in Provo, Utah.)

“I guess you can say I’ve been very blessed and have had some amazing life experiences.



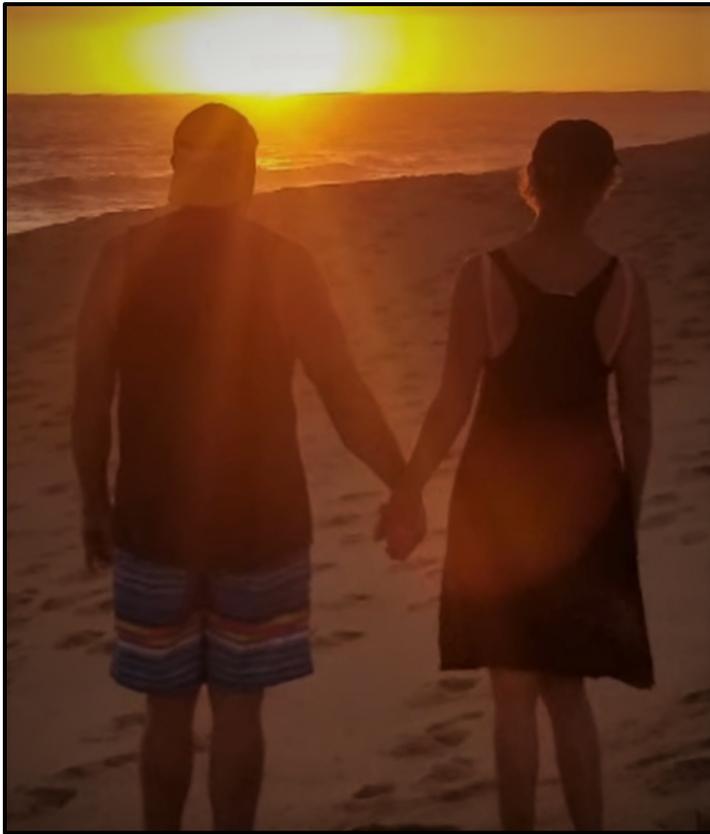
**Above: Rhonda, Richard Martin, and boy, Houston Martin, on January 18, 2020. We are standing outside Rhonda’s Provo townhouse on a cold, but beautiful, winter day, just minutes before she went with Scott and Gina to St. George. Rhonda and Scott purchased a townhouse in Provo so that they could be close to their family in Utah. Right: Rhonda and Scott together on a beach in Mexico in 2019.**

I’ve got to also add that I have the best siblings in the world. I love each of them and each of their kids. We are all pretty dang close and I couldn’t imagine my life without each one of them.”

## Addendum

Today is March 18, 2020, and this morning, just after 7 a.m., Rhonda Truman Ford passed away at her home in Provo, Utah. Next month she would have turned 60. In late October she was informed by her doctors that her cancer was growing again and that she had only a short time to live. This news was so sad because Rhonda had so much to live for and her family loved her so much. A few days after receiving this report she went with her family

to Cancun, Mexico (see earlier photographs), where she had a nice time. She said, “This is the last time that I will ever see the ocean.”



**Above: Rhonda and Scott watching the sun set. They were married for 32 years and always loved each other.**

Rhonda and Scott were interviewed on a talk show in Nashville, Tennessee, in February 2020. They talked about what Rhonda was going through and how it was affecting their lives. Scott commented that they had been married for 32 years and in spite of the cancer they had had 17 good months together and were still able to do many things such as travel and spend quality time with their family. He said that over this time many people had told him about the special little things that Rhonda had done for them. He went on to say, “We have had an incredible life together and even though it’s not in the cards to have another twenty years, it’s just a blink of time before we will be together again.” He said, “We went into this with the realization that

her life is going to be cut short...we continued to want to built memories and not focused on the negative...we never said ‘woe is us’...this is just an experience, not an easy experience...but we will look back twenty years from now and say we are better for all of this.” Rhonda agreed and said, “This experience makes you want to be a better person and to try harder.”

Interestingly, only minutes before Rhonda died, a 5.7 earthquake hit at 7:10 a.m. near Salt Lake City. It was the strongest that the state had experienced in 28 years, causing buildings to shake in Provo. It was as if the very Earth was moved at Rhonda’s passing.