



## RHONDALEE A. PASKINS

### “TENDER MERCIES THROUGH LIFE’S ADVERSITY: MY STORY OF CANCER”

(Saturday Session 3)

Sister Paskins has been married to Steve Paskins for 25 years. They are parents to two sons and a wonderful daughter-in-law. They simply adore their four grandchildren.

She is currently serving in her ward’s Young Women’s. Served on the BYU Women’s Conference Committee Board. She describes herself as a wild and crazy grandma, someone who loves to laugh, fun-loving and definitely not quite. She is a cowboy’s wife, daughter, sister and a favorite aunt.

She began her teaching career at Granger High School in 1979. She taught, P.E., gymnastics, aerobics, and weight training. She has coached many sports, including gymnastics, boys and girls tennis, softball, track, and cheer. She created a student leadership club called the Lancer Action Team.

After 32 years of service, she retired from teaching. During this time she received several national, state and local awards in teaching, including The Kennedy Foundation National Community of Caring Lifetime Achievement Award, Utah Education Association Teacher of the Year, Granite School District Teacher of the Year, Salt Lake County Commission on Youth Award and KSL TV Teacher of the Month.

After retiring, she and her husband moved from Sandy, Utah to Tabiona, Utah; a small town in a valley in the Uinta Mountains that is definitely cowboy country. Several years ago, she and her husband formed a band called Western Shadows. They sing western and cowboy music.

In July of 2011, she was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer in her jaw. On July 14, 2011, she went into the hospital for a 15 hour surgery that would eventually turn into four surgeries and over a month in the intensive care unit. She lost the fibula in both legs and was on a feeding tube for over two months and was on an antibiotic pic line, along with 30 treatments in a hyperbaric chamber. She says she is “tired of being a toothless hillbilly”.