

My name is Joan Yarrington. I have been attending the temple daily for 5 years. This is the story that started my daily temple attendance.

My son Brian, who is a 4 year seminary graduate, so talented and dependable, and an Eagle Scout, went totally inactive in the middle of filling out his mission papers at 19. I'm still not sure why. I was so shocked and heartbroken, and went to our Bishop Felt, who was also very surprised. We talked and I cried, and I asked him for a blessing. When he finished, he told me to write down what I could remember because that was not the blessing he was going to give me. It was very specific and from the Lord. This is what I recorded: Receive peace and comfort. Have faith in the Lord. He is aware of the situation. Don't argue with or lecture Brian, just love him. Go to the temple frequently. Make your home a place of order and peace, like the Lord's house. The Lord will tell you what is in Brian's heart. He will inspire you how to respond. Brian will feel and recognize the Spirit at home. The Lord loves you. He is pleased with your service and all you have taught Brian. Receive peace and comfort. Counsel together with your husband. Continue to sing, and to read the scriptures and pray daily. The prayers of friends and family here and there are heard and the Lord will respond to them. Brian will see Christ in your face.

Bishop Felt also shared with me that he knew that while Elizabeth Smart was missing, her father Ed went to the first session of the temple every day. After pondering "frequently," I decided to go every day that I possibly could, never expecting that it could or would be every day. I wanted to try to qualify for the greatest blessings that the Lord could give me – I wanted my dear son back. After the first month I was amazed that I had only missed 1 day. The second month the same thing happened. The third month was perfect and it continued. I got a little pocket calendar and began recording what I had accomplished because to me it was totally amazing. The temple was literally sustaining me and I began to love the initiatory ordinance because of the blessings I received there.

Then on Feb. 9, 2007 about 11 months into my daily temple service, while doing initiatory ordinances, I was privileged to be part of an extraordinary experience. That day there was a lack of patrons when I was there. All week the temple had been very full due to a nearby temple closure for cleaning. But this day the benches outside the booths were literally filled with ordinance workers who were waiting for patrons to come. When I finished the first set of names that I had been given, the workers were still there with no patrons waiting, which is very unusual. I asked if they would like me to stay and do some more names. They were excited that I would stay longer and I did several more names. The names were extracted from the early 1700s in Baden, Germany. On the last name, who was Maria Catharina Kraemer, the sister doing the ordinance suddenly gasped and drew her hands to her face and started to cry. When she finished the ordinance, she exclaimed, "What an experience! What an experience!" over and over again. I could feel an exceptionally strong spirit and I asked, "What happened?" Pointing to the name on the card she said, "I saw her! You transformed and I saw her!" I asked, "What did she look like?" She answered, "She was beautiful..."

After this experience my motivation changed. Prior to it I was attending the temple for the strength and comfort it gave to my broken heart. Afterward, I still received comfort, but I went, knowing they are really there, and that they are hoping that I will come to help them. Maria Catharina's short but

powerful visit gave me a sure witness of her gratitude and I know it represents all her sisters on the other side of the veil. I increased the time I spent in the temple to do as much as I could do every day.

Thursday July 5, 2007. I went to the temple with a prayer in my heart for Brian as usual. I had been cleaning in Catherine's room and pried a small folded paper out from under her closet door. I was going to throw it away and thought I had better unfold it to see what it was first. The whole sheet was filled with quotations on angels. Catherine hadn't seen it before and who knows how long it had been there. I felt it was put there for me. I especially loved Elder Vaughn Featherstone's promise: "I promise you that all who faithfully attend to temple work will be blessed beyond measure. Your families will draw closer to the Lord, unseen angels will watch over your loved ones when satanic forces tempt them, and the veil will be thin and great spiritual experiences will distill upon this people." With this in mind I was praying for angels to minister to Brian and soften his heart. I was praying with all my heart for a miracle that he would be drawn back to paths of truth and righteousness and back to his foreordained responsibilities. As I sat down to await my turn in the temple, I picked up some open scriptures and this was the scripture my eyes first fell upon. Moroni 7:27 "Have miracles ceased ... or have angels ceased to appear unto the children of men? Or has he withheld the power of the Holy Ghost from them? Or will he so long as time shall last, or the earth shall stand, or there shall be one man upon the face thereof to be saved? Behold I say unto you, Nay; for it is by faith that miracles are wrought..." I knew the Lord had heard my prayer and answered it. I must be patient and full of faith and love.

February 1, 2008 at the temple, a greeter named Brother Sixto Barrera, said, "I see you have changed your day, too." I told him I had not. He said, "Then you must come Wednesdays and Fridays. He told me his shift had changed from Friday to Wednesday and he recognized me. I told him that I come every day. He said, "Every day? Would you mind telling me why?" I noticed that no one else was around and since we were in the temple I felt that could tell him, though it was a little unusual to do so. I told him about Brian and the blessing that I had received and that I was being obedient to qualify for the blessings of the Lord. I told him I was praying for a miracle. He said, "We don't know why these things happen, but the Lord does, and He will lead him back." He continued, "I joined the Church 37 years ago and then due to a misunderstanding I became offended and left the Church for a while. I picked up some vices, but the Lord brought me back and healed me. Since then I have been a bishop and served in many positions and have been able to help literally hundreds of people that I would not have been able to reach had I not strayed. And I have had a prodigal son. We will pray for Brian and he will return." I was amazed by this exchange but it was comforting to know that someone else was praying for him, too. In my journal I recorded that "I am certain the Lord planned for that encounter. This week I have especially been praying for a miracle because I have felt a turn for the worse in Brian's spirit. He is not happy and there is a discernable darkness about him."

In the months that followed whenever I went to the temple and Brother Barrera was there, he always asked about Brian, although I usually didn't have anything to report, but he never forgot and always was interested.

October 31, 2008, Halloween evening, I went to the Bountiful Temple and did some initiatory work. There weren't many patrons and I was glad to be of service. As I finished and was walking in the empty

lobby area, Elder Nelson and his wife were coming in. They saw me and crossed the middle of the room to greet me. I believe he recognized me from the choir because his daughters Marsha and Gloria are also in the choir. He introduced me to his wife Wendy and I introduced myself to them. I told Elder Nelson that I had shaken hands with him many years ago when my children and I were sitting near him at a Tabernacle Choir concert in the Tabernacle. He had shaken my hand last --after all my grinning children-- and said, "I can see by looking in your face that you are a mother who has taught her children well" and then wished me a happy Mothers Day. That was May 1989. I told him I was in the Temple serving the Lord and praying for a son that had gone astray. Elder Nelson said that a mother's prayers are very powerful and counseled me to continue to do so.

Then one Saturday in December, Dennis, my husband and I went up to the Temple together. Brother Barrera had never met Dennis because his day was Wednesday. And there was Brother Barrera at the recommend desk. I introduced them and he suggested we go out to eat so we could talk. This was just before the Christmas concerts so we decided to do it right after the holidays. But I never saw Brother Barrera again in the temple.

At April conference time I saw Sister Barrera at the Temple and asked her about her husband. I asked if he had told her about going out to eat. She said, "My husband is not well. Didn't anyone tell you that my husband has an inoperable brain tumor and is at home? He has a great attitude, though, and we watch for you in the choir. But now the tumor is taking his sight and he can barely see." This was shocking news.

Two weeks after conference on Sunday, April 19 I had the most marvelous sacred experience. At 4:30 in the morning and time to get up for choir, I was given a vision of the Savior. Actually I was in it, but not in my body – in my spirit body. I was high above the ground and looking down when I heard a voice call me by name: "Joan." I turned to the voice and there He was, face to face, in front of me. I knew Him instantly and remembered that I loved Him and knew Him well. He smiled at me with the warmest loving smile and I knew He was pleased that He could show Himself to me. I stood there in utter surprise and amazement and didn't even say a word. There was a small partition or ledge between us that was waist high or so that he was resting his hands on. I looked down at His hands and saw the wounds on them. I picked up His left hand and turned it over to see the palm, and then looked back into His face. Without words I knew that He accepted my offerings in the Temple. I knew that he loved me and that he loved Brian. Now I was to watch Him make the miracle unfold.

Two weeks later when we were going up to the temple again on a Saturday, I suggested we take the new Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing CD to the Barreras so the music could bring them both comfort. I looked up their address and they live right behind Albertsons, not even a mile away from our home. We surprised them with a visit. The date was May 2, 2009. Sister Barrera got Brother Barrera out of bed and brought him into the living room. He couldn't see us. Then she said, "I have a surprise. Joanie is here." He did not look well, but he immediately lit up. He asked, "Will you do something for me?" I answered yes. "Will you fast for me?" I told him that I would be privileged to fast for him. He then

continued, "Will you tell me the day that you fast?" "Yes." "Will you come to my house to break the fast?" "Yes." "And will you bring Brian?" I hoped to be able to, I would try. When we left, Dennis told me he didn't think Brother Barrera would live through the week.

By Thursday the 7th I was concerned because Brian hadn't come home so I fasted. I asked that he come home soon with the right spirit so that I could explain what I would be asking him to do. On Saturday morning, May 9th, the day before Mothers Day, he came home with a good spirit and I was able to talk to him openly, how I had met this special man who had been praying for him, who is now dying and has requested to meet him. Brian agreed to come. Then the spirit prompted me to ask Brian to fast with us. Again he agreed.

We set the fast for Monday the 11th. Everything seemed to get in the way of Brian getting there. He got caught in traffic. Someone locked the gate early so that he couldn't park the company truck or get to his motorcycle. He had to go find the keys. He was about 2 ½ hours later than he said he would be. We got there before him and he drove up with his black leather jacket and long hair and unshaven face. I wondered what the Barreras would think. Sister Barrera greeted us with, "You've already made a miracle happen. Brother Barrera has been up sitting in his chair since 1:00. He has energy and there is color in his face!" It was true. He looked very grey the previous week. It was a big contrast. When Brian came in Brother Barrera told him how much he loved him and the spirit was so strong. Brian felt it. He said, "Brian, I get up at 2:00 to 3:00 in the morning and talk to the Lord and He talks to me. He has told me things that I need to tell you, but you need to come back so that I can tell you these things. Will you come back?" Brian said he would. We then broke the fast and had dinner at the Barreras.

Later that evening Brian came home from a friend's house smelling like smoke. I asked him if it was hard to be around smokers and not smoke. He told me he had started smoking again, that he had quit for a while, but that it's a habit. I assured him the Lord loves him and could help him with that. I told him he had witnessed a miracle that day with Brother Barrera. The fast had strengthened him and he looked much better than just a week ago. That's the power of a fast. I told him I would fast and pray and do anything I could to help him. I suggested we read the scriptures and pray and draw on that power, too. I bore my sure witness that the Savior lives and loves him. He hugged me, we prayed, and then retired for the evening.

Wednesday the 13th the Barreras called me from the Huntsman Cancer Institute and excitedly confirmed the miracle. They had been testing him all day. He had been diagnosed the previous May and had been told the longest he could expect to live was 1 year – with this kind of tumor it is usually weeks or months, it's very aggressive. The doctors were indeed surprised that he had made progress and made the decision to continue the treatments.

Sunday the 17th Brother Barrera called and asked Brian to come over. After work Brian went and later came back with a smile, saying he needed to go back again and see him, though he didn't say what they had spoken about.

Monday the 18th Brother Barrera called and said "tender mercies" follow obedience to instructions as in the blessing I had received from Bishop Felt. He also told me the Lord had told him we needed to meet

with the Stake President. On April 19th, only a month earlier and on the same morning as my vision of the Savior, Bishop Felt had become Stake President Felt. When he had been released as the bishop of our ward, Brandon Pace, who had served in Young Mens when Brian was active, became the new bishop, and the other leaders in Young Men who had worked with Brian were sustained in the Elders Quorum leadership. As I watched this happen, I knew the Lord set it up for Brian, at least in part.

Wednesday the 20th I was late getting up to the temple but I was glad because had I left sooner I would not have seen Stevie Mitchell pick up Brian to go home teaching.

Sunday the 24th I saw Stevie at church. He said that he had told Brian he should come back to church and that Brian had responded favorably, indicating he would. President Felt was in Sacrament Meeting and I met him in the hall afterwards and told him what was happening. I told him Brother Barrera wanted to meet with him and Brian, but that they would need to go to his home to do it. With a smile he said he would. I hoped I was watching the miracle unfold that I had been praying and serving and waiting for!

Tuesday the 26th I fasted for Brian. It was ward temple night. Sister Newbold, whose husband is in the temple presidency, acknowledged my presence there. She said, "Sister Yarrington has done literally thousands of initiatory ordinances and we love her for her service." While we were there, Dennis talked to Bishop Pace about what is happening concerning Brian.

Friday the 29th I finished my 7,402nd temple ordinance and Dennis turned in his application to serve in the Bountiful Temple.

Saturday the 30th in the middle of memorizing "Cum Sancto Spiritu" for tour, I was prompted by the spirit to go up to the temple immediately. I quickly dressed and went up to the temple. There in the entrance area, as I was going in, President Felt was coming out. He told me he had talked to Brian and had told him there is someone he needs to introduce him to. Brian said he would. Then I went into the temple and while I was briefly waiting, I let the scriptures fall open to where they would. It was D&C 29: 1-6 "Listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, your Redeemer, the Great I Am, whose arm of mercy has atoned for your sins; who will gather his people even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, even as many as will hearken to my voice and humble themselves before me, and call upon me in mighty prayer... Verily, I say unto you that ye are chosen out of the world to declare my gospel with the sound of rejoicing, as with the voice of a trumpet. Lift up your hearts and be glad for I am in your midst, and am your advocate with the Father; and it is his good will to give you the kingdom. And, as it is written --- whatsoever ye ask in faith being united in prayer according to my command, ye shall receive." I knew I was meant to see these verses and the Lord in His tender mercy was assuring me of His great and marvelous miracle for Brian. I wept.

When I returned home from the Temple that evening, there was a message to call Brother Barrera. They want to fast with us on Monday for Brian and shared their favorite scripture with me. Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy paths." I love this scripture. I do trust the Lord with all of my heart.

Monday June 1st we fasted and broke the fast on the phone at 5:00. Brother Barrera confirmed the prayer offered.

Tuesday June 2nd Dennis and I did 37 sealings of my family names. That evening was Catherine's seminary graduation. I was the chorister, Marybeth the pianist, and Catherine was the closing prayer. I asked Brian to come – he is a seminary graduate, too – I wanted him to feel the spirit and remember those feelings. He sat on the front row wearing fatigues. When President Felt saw him, he came down off the stand and put his phone number in Brian's phone and asked him to call him. There was a great spirit present.

Wednesday June 3rd Brian called from work and asked me to set up an appointment with the Barreras and President Felt that evening. Brian came back from the meeting smiling and full of light. President Felt asked Brian to come to his office and meet with him on Sunday at 5:00.

Sunday June 7th the whole Spoken Word program is a confirmation of what is happening. The songs are:

"I will Sing with the Spirit," "Cum Sancto Spiritu," "Lead Kindly Light," "You'll Never Walk Alone," "When the Saints Go Marching In," and "Gaelic Blessing." Even the message is perfect: "The Bridgebuilder" ---Brother Barrera.

That evening Brian kept his appointment with President Felt. He came back with a smile and a good spirit and a commitment to meet with him again next Sunday. Our home teacher, Brother Jenson, had arrived just before Brian, and had been prompted to prepare the lesson to touch his heart. It was on loving and praying and trusting the Lord. Brian came in and listened to the lesson. The Spirit was so strong. When it was over and Brother Jenson was shaking hands to leave, Brian asked him for a blessing. Brother Jenson discerned that it should be with oil, so Dennis anointed and Brother Jenson sealed and pronounced the blessing. He said if Jesus were here he would bless his body and say to arise up and be made whole. He told Brian he is here to experience joy and angels will be with him to help him. He said there are those now here on earth who are foreordained to help him through this experience and that because of his great faithfulness in the preexistence the Lord has a store of blessings he has set aside that he intends to give him. I don't remember everything he said, but it was amazing and the Spirit was so strong. All of us were crying. He who is mighty to save is saving my son!

Monday June 8th I fasted today for Brian. He says his desire to smoke is almost gone.

Saturday June 13th as I waited in the temple, I asked the Lord to speak to me through the scriptures and they opened to Ether 12:7-8 "For it was by faith that Christ showed himself unto our fathers after he had risen from the dead; and he showed not himself unto them until after they had faith in him; for it must needs be that some had faith in Him for showed Himself not unto the world. But because of the faith of men he has shown himself unto the world and glorified the name of the Father and prepared a way that thereby others might be partakers of the heavenly gift -- that they might hope for those things which they have not seen." This trial has developed my faith to the point that I have had this marvelous privilege – of seeing the Lord. My faith has progressed to knowledge. I will use this knowledge to continue to lift and help others.

Sunday, June 14th. Again the Spoken Word, as if by a second witness, is perfect to the miracle which is unfolding. The message is "Turning Points" and the songs include "Praise Ye the Lord," "Praise and Thanksgiving," "Homeward Bound," "When Faith Endures," "Oh What A Beautiful Morning," and "Praise to the Lord Almighty." I think the Lord inspired Mack to program these just for me! My heart is full of praise and gratitude for the miracle I am witnessing.

After the Broadcast there was a meeting with the Prophet, President Thomas S. Monson, prior to our tour which begins Thursday to America's heartland. He gave a talk and pronounced a blessing on our families. We need it. Brian kept his appointment with President Felt again.

Monday June 15th I talked to Brother Barrera on the phone and afterwards prepared a Father's Day gift for him. I gave him copies of both of the Spoken Words, a picture of the Savior hugging a young man, and a letter thanking him for his kindness and love to us, and for being the Bridgebuilder for Brian.

Tuesday the 16th was Concert night, and Wednesday the 17th I went over to Barreras to deliver his gift. He was asleep, but Sister Barrera and her daughter were there. They said they knew Brother Barrera's earthly mission would be over when Brian was turned around. They said he had also been working with a family in Layton for 2 years and they had come to him the previous night and requested that he baptize them. They knew he was waiting for that family, and now only Brian is left – and on the way. He loves Brian so much. I don't know how I could ever thank him enough.

Thursday morning the 18th I left for the Tabernacle Choir tour, leaving Brian in the Lord's hands. While I was gone, Dennis got sick and Brian helped administer to him. He went to church on Sunday and even taught our daughter Marybeth's Primary class. Someone said he made several good comments in Priesthood and Dennis heard him tell our neighbor that he's going to cut his hair soon.

Tuesday June 30th I got back from tour. Brother Barrera went into a coma this morning and has been moved to a care facility.

Wednesday July 1st at the temple I had a brief wait and the scriptures opened to D&C 88: 1 and I began to read and received a witness "Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you who have assembled yourselves together to receive his will concerning you: Behold, this is pleasing unto your Lord, and the angels rejoice over you; the alms of your prayers have come up into the ears of the Lord ... and are recorded in the book of the names of the sanctified, even them of the celestial world...." and at that point I was called up to begin my service.

July 2nd Thursday at the temple the scriptures opened to these verses also in D&C 88: 67-68 "And if your eye be single to my glory, your whole bodies shall be filled with light, and there shall be no darkness in you; and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things. Therefore sanctify yourselves, that your minds become single to God, and the days will come that you shall see Him, for he will unveil his face unto you, and it shall be in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will." I love that the Lord is teaching me in his temple.

July 3rd All my kids including Brian are at Karl Timmerman's encampment for Colonial Days in Provo.

July 5th was Fast Sunday. I got a call after church from my daughter Tina who lives in Provo, that the kids had attended her ward and that Brian had borne his testimony! She and Marybeth emailed me his testimony as they remembered it. "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters. You'll have to excuse my attire today. We have been camping down at Colonial Days for the Freedom Festival in colonial time clothing. We weren't going to come to church today because we were taking down camp and thought we could hurry home for our own sacrament meeting. (Crying) But my sister felt a prompting that we needed to come. I didn't know why since we aren't in our home ward and we don't have any Sunday clothes. But now I know why. (Crying) You'll have to forgive me. I haven't done this in a long time. I know that this is the true Church of Jesus Christ. Whether you are in your home ward or another ward, no matter where you are the Spirit is the same –because I'm feeling it right now! I wanted my nieces and nephews and brothers and sisters to know that I know this is the true Church of Jesus Christ. I know Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon by the power of God and that he restored the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the earth and that this is His Church. And I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen." Marybeth wrote, "We were all crying. The spirit was so incredibly strong. And the spirit said to my heart, the devil has him no more. I sat and thanked my God in shouts of 'Hosanna' from my heart for being able to be a part of that miraculous experience!"

Monday morning, July 6th, I called the Barreras to report the good news. The bishop answered the phone. I told him about Brian. He told me they were bringing Brother Barrera home from the care center since he wasn't expected to live much longer. He was still in a coma. I asked if I could come over and tell Brother Barrera about Brian's testimony, knowing that sometimes those in a coma can still hear even if they cannot respond. Sister Barrera said I could come Tuesday, but to call first.

Tuesday July 7th 2009 I called for permission to come, but Brother Barrera had just passed away. Sixto Barrera's mission is over because Brian is back. The Lord extended his life 2 months longer and it was enough time to rescue Brian.

Wednesday, July 8th Dennis was interviewed and set apart as a temple worker. His shift will be Tuesdays 10:00 to 4:00.

Thursday July 9th "Joy in the Morning" was the first song we rehearsed for this Sunday's broadcast of Music and the Spoken Word. The words include: "Joy! There'll be Joy! There'll be joy, joy, joy, joy, joy! There'll be joy in the morning! With the light of dawn, the dark is gone! There'll be peace and contentment evermore! There'll be love and forgiveness everywhere! Every heart, every voice, will together rejoice! There'll be joy, joy, joy, joy! Joy!"

Monday July 13th at 11:00 was the funeral. Brother Barrera wanted it to be a missionary meeting because his 9 siblings are not members of the Church. The Stake President presiding realized he had been the missionary who had taught and baptized Sixto's children when he was a missionary in Alaska and read their names right out of his missionary journal at the funeral service. Sister Barrera asked Brian to speak at her husband's request. Brian had prepared a talk but put it away and spoke from his heart. He had been preceded by a grandson who told of his grandfather's great love for the gospel and that even on his deathbed he was trying to help a young man who had rebelled and decided not to serve a

mission. Brian stood and introduced himself as that young man. He said, "I've known and loved Sixto for only a few months. He truly had a brilliant light. I felt as loved by him as I do at my own home. When he told me he loved me, I thought, you don't know me. But he said he knew me through my mother's faithful temple attendance—he knew me through her. I was the young man he took an interest in. I rebelled and decided not to go on a mission. He helped me realize that I haven't done anything that I can't repent of. I am blessed to know him and his wife Beverly. I want to bear testimony that I know he lives and is here, though not in his earthly body. I know we can be forgiven of our sins and we can with him again. I know he is enjoying a rest but will be eagerly engaged in service there."

At the graveside service I sang "You'll Never Walk Alone." The words are so appropriate. "When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high and don't be afraid of the dark. At the end of the storm is a golden sky and the sweet silver song of a lark. Walk on through the wind. Walk on through the rain though your dreams be tossed and blown. Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart, and you'll never walk alone. You'll never walk alone!"

November 19, 2009. "Dear Mom, I love you so much. I wish I could find the words to express how I feel. I'm so grateful that you never gave up on me. I'm very thankful for your sacrifice on my behalf. I don't know where I would be right now if you hadn't been there for me when I needed you. I can't relay in a letter how horrible I feel for having caused you so much pain, as I'm sure I did. I hope I can someday make it up to you somehow. Thank you for helping me realize that the Lord still loves me and that through him we can be an eternal family. I love you, Mom. Your son Brian."

March 11, 2011 Brian received his endowments in the Bountiful Temple.

March 19, 2011 Our joy was culminated in Brian Yarrington and Taryn Shingleton's wedding in the Salt Lake Temple. They met dancing for the Tabernacle Choir Christmas Concert in 2008 and again in 2009. We invited Sister Barrera to the ceremony and when I told her when it was, she gasped, "That is our anniversary, too! I think Sixto is still helping Brian, don't you?"