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English
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*Extended Family
Gospel of Jesus Christ
Divine Guidance
Endure to the End*

About This Story

Although RaNae was raised with very little religion in her home, she came from powerful pioneer stock. God and faith were in her bones. In this Faith Story, RaNae shares her love for her ancestors, her testimony of Jesus Christ, and offers a plea to her posterity to continue her legacy of faith.

I was baptized at eight years old as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and it is an honor to share my faith story.

When I was growing up, I was raised in a loving home, but there wasn't much religion. Even as a child, I felt like there was something missing. I would go to church by myself, and I made friends there. Mostly, I loved the lessons about families and temple marriage. Those Primary lessons spoke to my heart.

As a teenager, I set a goal that I would marry a man who was strong in the Church. Through the power of the Holy Ghost, I knew when I met Bernell Taylor that he was the one I was to marry. We've now been married for more than fifty years. We've gone through many hard things, but our marriage has endured because we've remained faithful to each other and to God.

One of our daughters created a book filled with stories from both my

family and my husband's family. Those stories have deeply influenced my life.

My great-grandmother, Emily Tolton, was described with these words:

“She was a valiant and faithful little pioneer lady all her life.”

If those words could someday be said about me, I would be deeply honored.

Another of my heroes is my great-great-grandfather, Louis Barney. He arrived in the Salt Lake Valley with the Vanguard Company two days before Brigham Young. He wrote:

“Being mobbed and driven from our homes in the dead of winter to perish with cold and hunger for no other cause than that we dared believe the word of the Lord.”

Our pioneer ancestors sacrificed so much so we could enjoy the blessings we have today. Their example inspires me, and I hope to leave that same legacy of faith for my own family.

We have six children, twenty grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Like every family, we've experienced many joys and many challenges. Through it all, I have learned that Jesus Christ and His restored gospel are the answer. They are the only sure foundation for facing the trials of life.

Raising a large family has not always been easy. Some experiences have been very difficult. But I know Jesus Christ has suffered everything for me personally. He knows my individual trials, and because of Him I know I can endure anything. My life has meaning and purpose because of my Savior.

One of the hardest challenges is when family members no longer believe as you do. My faith has carried me through those experiences time and time again. I love every member of my family, and I am proud of the good they do. I rejoice in their talents and in their willingness to serve others. At the same time, I hope something in their spiritual journey will help them return to the covenant path.

I know Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. I know he experienced what he testified he experienced and that he helped restore the Church

of Jesus Christ. After his martyrdom, many believed the Church would disappear. Instead, it has continued to grow throughout the world. That strengthens my testimony that this is God's work.

I am grateful we have living prophets and apostles to guide us today.

If you have wandered from the covenant path, or if you are searching for answers, I invite you to pray again. If answers don't come immediately, don't give up. Keep praying. Go to church. Partake of the sacrament. Ask your sincere questions. Please don't turn away from the gospel. If you have, I invite you to come back.

I share these things humbly and gratefully in the sacred name of Jesus Christ. Amen.