

TWELFTH-BIRTHDAY TRADITION BRINGS PEACE AND FAMILY CLOSENESS

By Pam Mueller, as told to Emma Young

Our family learned firsthand about the peace and closeness that come from attending the temple together.

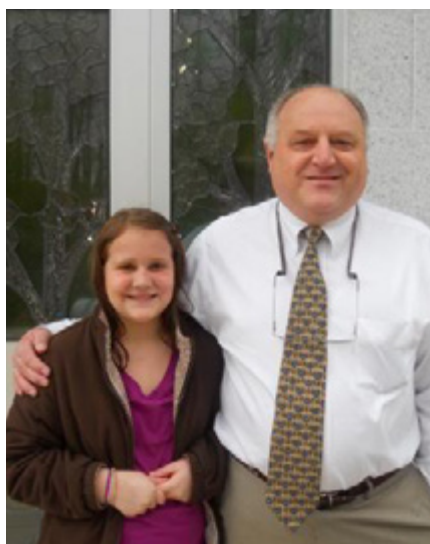
Years ago, my son Aaron was being bullied at school. “It was awful, made me feel worthless, and made me feel as if I couldn’t be happy,” he remembers. Thankfully, when tough times came, he already knew a place of deliverance from the torment: the temple. He used to ask us to drive him to the temple, “even if just to sit in the parking lot to feel the Spirit. . . . It was my escape,” he says. “I felt close to the Lord and far from the world when I was at the temple.”

When our oldest daughter, Rachel, turned 12, my husband, Eric, and I felt impressed to start a family tradition of introducing our four children to the blessings of temple attendance: a special trip to the temple for each child’s 12th birthday to perform vicarious baptisms for our ancestors. For this occasion we attended a temple of their choice, within a reasonable distance from our home, and sometimes stayed the night at a hotel near the temple.

Over the years, we have held family home evening lessons on the temple, prepared family names to take to the

temple, reviewed the process of the baptismal ordinance, and taught our children how to prepare to enter the temple.

We learned that the time and the extra expense to take each child at 12 years of age to the temple were all worth it when they felt the Spirit there. They now know where to turn for peace. Our son Jakob says, “I still remember feeling the peace and love in the temple and the wonderful experience I had. I remember feeling



Rebecca and Eric Mueller at the Palmyra New York Temple

a longing to return to the temple.”

The tradition encouraged our children to attend the temple often and brought our family closer together. Our daughter Rebecca says, “The tradition has helped me see that we are a forever family. We are linked to each other and need to help each other make our way back to Heavenly Father.”

As they grew older, our children started attending the temple together whenever possible. “I loved this. It was a special time with my older siblings,” Aaron says. “I have a firm testimony that regular temple attendance can bring you closer to those you love and help you see a new appreciation for the things they do.”

When we began the tradition, we couldn’t have predicted how the peace of the temple would bless all our lives. I often felt the quiet effects throughout our home. As we prepare to attend the temple, we are happier and our family has a different feeling—a more reverent attitude that can be felt in our home. ■

The author lives in New York, USA.

TAKE YOUR FAMILY TO THE TEMPLE

As the number of temples around the world increases and family history work accelerates, attending the temple as a family is becoming easier.

“Temples have a family-priority time enabling families to schedule a time to perform ordinances together without a long wait” (“Changes to Family History and Temple Service,” *Ensign*, May 2016, 144).

Consider scheduling some time for your family to serve your ancestors in the temple (lds.org/church/temples/find-a-temple).



Go to lds.org/church/temples/find-a-temple.



Find your local temple.

NAME ▲	LOCATION
Logan Utah	United States, Logan, Utah
London England	United Kingdom, Newchapel, Surrey
Los Angeles California	United States, Los Angeles, California



Schedule some time to take your family to the temple.



THE TEMPLE PROVIDES REST FOR OUR SOULS

“As I think of temples, my thoughts turn to the many blessings we receive therein. As we enter through the doors of the temple, we leave behind us the distractions and confusion of the world. Inside this sacred sanctuary, we find beauty and order. There is rest for our souls and a respite from the cares of our lives.”

President Thomas S. Monson, “Blessings of the Temple,” *Ensign*, May 2015, 91.