

“I did not have the pleasure of attending a Sunday School class taught by Eula Mae Baugh, but I did enjoy many pleasurable and meaningful meetings with her. Eula Mae was an outstanding, strong lady with many talents. She and her husband worked with other people and organizations that have made this world richer in many ways. They were generous with financial gifts and made God’s world a better place in which to live by personally working with other. I treasure my memories of this wonderful lady.”

—*Mrs. Herb (Joy) Reynolds*  
*Waco, Texas*

“Mrs. Baugh, one of the best Bible teachers I ever had, was always prepared to deliver clear biblical truths and provide useful applications for living an exemplary life. Her biblical teaching skills were honed, no doubt, by her being reared in a Baptist preacher’s home. She was so dedicated, and always gracious, loving, caring, and generous with her time. Mrs. Baugh’s Christian walk—her compassion for family, friends, and others—was obvious in every aspect and activity of her life.”

—*Jack D. Carlson*  
*Houston, Texas*

“It is with great fondness that I remember my special friend, Eula Mae Baugh, a wonderful Christian, Bible teacher, and Southern lady. I never had a Sunday School teacher more knowledgeable of the Bible than Mrs. Baugh. She spent many hours each week researching and studying for our singles class that she taught in a down-to-earth manner for everyone to understand. Mrs. Baugh, an inspiration, was always gracious, compassionate and a true friend.”

—*Jane Bugg*  
*Meadowlakes, Texas*

“Mrs. Baugh was such a special lady. She was a wonderful Bible teacher who kept her class interested and involved. I always enjoyed the small get-togethers in her home. We had great fun talking and also eating the delicious dinners she prepared. She was one of a kind and is missed to this day.”

—*Lynda Spinks*  
*Garden Oaks, Texas*

“I have heard it said by a master teacher that when a teacher loves her subject matter and loves her students, miracles happen. As a lifelong teacher of Bible studies, I was mesmerized and inspired by the lessons included in this book about the life of Eula Mae Baugh.

“It was the consistency in communicating the biblical material and applying the lesson to the everyday lives of her students that impressed me most, and while she was a woman of her era, the life lessons she taught are applicable for today. Her method of involving the class in the process reminds me of Jesus the Teacher who taught not only by what he said or did, but by his very character.

“Eula Mae Baugh—beautiful, dignified, gracious, and strong—clearly revealed a love for her subject matter and her students, and my guess is that by her transparency, her generosity, her practicality and her involvement with her class members, she changed their lives.

“I feel her strength and *joie de vivre* lived out in her daughter Babs and her granddaughters, Julie and Jackie. Clearly, she taught them well. She teaches us well, even now, through this book. We do well to learn from her.”

—Jeanie Miley  
*Spiritual director, speaker, retreat leader,  
and author of 13 books*

“Seldom have the laity received the appreciation and recognition they should. In Baptist life, they are the soul of the church. Thank goodness for this look at the life of one such laywoman, an intimate and inspiring look that should cause each of us to ask, ‘What am I called to be and do as a part of Christ’s church—and how can I love as he has loved me?’ I think Eula Mae would agree that we are not called to do nothing. She was called to teach Sunday School, but the result of answering her call was that she laughingly and lovingly helped those who heard her voice have a more vital relationship to Christ and his community.

“*Lessons for Living* brings Eula Mae alive to a new generation and those beyond her family so that we, too, can hear her voice. At the very least, it could enhance the teaching of many faithful Sunday School teachers who are always looking for ways to improve and have the kind of impact that Eula Mae did.”

—Connie McNeill  
*Associate Pastor for Administration and Discipleship  
Second Baptist Church, Liberty, Mo.*

“Eula Mae Baugh was an extraordinary Baptist leader who left a long-lasting legacy of generosity to Baptist mission work and institutions in Texas and around the world. Thanks to Bo Prosser for giving us a window into the teaching ministry of Eula Mae through a sampling of about 60 years of Sunday School lessons. These lessons reveal a Baptist woman who was indeed called to ministry, traditional in some respects but also innovative and inspiring. This volume reminds readers of the importance of lay-led ministry and how that faithfulness looks from the pew. As a lay leader, committed church member, Sunday School teacher and philanthropist, the contributions of Eula Mae Baugh to our Baptist family are enduring and overflowing.”

—Aaron Weaver

*Communications Director  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship*

“In strictest theological terms, this book is known as ‘a double whammy.’ First, it’s a stellar tribute to one of the finest Baptist Christians who graced this earth, Eula Mae Baugh. We see her as an exemplary Bible study teacher, but also as a loving wife, mother and grandmother, as well as a devoted community leader, church member, businesswoman, and philanthropist. In these pages we learn about her and learn from her. Second, it’s a stunning collection of Bible lessons. Eula Mae taught Scripture as a practical guide to a faithful, fulfilling life. With only the slightest tweaks, these lessons are as relevant today as they were the Sunday she taught them—and far better than most of us are likely to prepare.”

—Marv Knox

*Field Coordinator  
CBF Southwest*

“I opened *Lessons for Living* like a time capsule, curious to see what it held from the life and teachings of Eula Mae Baugh. In it I found timeless resources for teaching from the Bible. Even more, it gave me a chance to peer into the heart and life of an accomplished woman. Here are the writings of a deepened faith. They bear testimony to a soul that trusted God along the marvelous adventures of her days. . . . Here are windows not only to the grounded soul of a Baptist leader, but also to a dedicated servant who worked at her teaching responsibility. . . . I feel as though I have been given a glimpse into Eula Mae’s spirit, faith, and dedication through her teachings.”

—Charles Qualls

*Pastor  
Franklin (Va.) Baptist Church*

“Eula Mae was witty and wise, with a touch of spiritual sassiness. She was fun and funny—all of which comes through in this collection of her writings. She honored God with her life and by teaching Sunday School. If you want a fresh read on how to teach the Scriptures, open her book. The pages will turn themselves.”

—*Les Hollon*  
*Pastor*  
*Trinity Baptist Church*  
*San Antonio, Texas*

“The life of Eula Mae Baugh is a testament to what God can do with one faithful person committed to live out her Christian call through years of weekly devotion to deep Bible study and to teaching adult Sunday School. Eula Mae exemplified those lessons in her love for family, for friends, and for those in need and as she helped grow a community of faith. Today we are fortunate to have access to Eula Mae’s ‘lessons for living’ that can be used for individual devotion or small group discussion.”

—*Vicki Hollon*  
*Minister to Adults*  
*Trinity Baptist Church*  
*San Antonio, Texas*

“Where would Cooperative Baptists be without the Baugh family? There is no doubt that their faithful generosity is forming our fellowship and investing in our collaborative future. This book offers the reader a glimpse back in time to where it all began: the Sunday School classroom of Mrs. Eula Mae Baugh. Through her wit and wisdom, Eula Mae creatively challenged her family and friends to grow deeper in faith. Her lessons are practical and timeless, and this book has the potential to inspire a new generation of Christians.”

—*Rob Fox*  
*President-elect*  
*CBF Church Benefits*

EULA MAE BAUGH



LESSONS  
FOR LIVING

*From 60 Years of  
Faithful Bible Teaching*

Edited by Bo Prosser

*Foreword by Daniel Vestal*

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*Dedicated to:*

*Gail, Jamie, and Katie for making me a better man*

*Sarah, Lois, and all the wonderful women who have formed me as a minister and leader*

*And especially to Eula Mae for living out her calling and giving us all such a deep Baptist legacy*

# Beginning at the End

## *An Introduction to Eula Mae Baugh*

**T**his book begins at the end! The idea for the book came from a conversation between Daniel Vestal and Babs Baugh concerning the life and work of Babs' mom, Eula Mae Baugh. Daniel called me and gave me the honor of trying to piece together more than 60 years of Sunday School lessons, sharing her wit and wisdom, and giving the reader glimpses of an extraordinary woman.

I want you to see her obituary before you dive into the rest of the book. She was a woman ahead of her time—way ahead! And, she was also a woman of her time. At many places in the book she speaks from her place in time.

In her Sunday School lessons she usually used the male language for God—for which she was unapologetic—and also quoted from the King James Version. After all, she was a product of her culture and her upbringing. She was raised by a Baptist preacher who, in the best sense of parenting, taught her the basics as he knew it.

My editor and I intentionally tried not to modernize her words. We've left her language alone for the most part because it represents her traditional understandings of God. Remember, these lesson plans came from the 1950s and 60s. She never expected that her notes would be published, much less put into book form. If she had, I am certain that she would have challenged the purely masculine nouns and pronouns around the name of Jehovah God in today's context.

Yet, in her upbringing Eula Mae was also given the freedom to grow and be herself. In her lessons you'll see her as strong-minded and independent, brave and courageous, tender and loving. You'll see glimpses into her teaching (and preaching), and you'll see her challenging her students to think for themselves.

These are amazing pages. I am honored to have been a part of this project. I'm grateful to Daniel Vestal and the Baugh Family for the opportunity to sort through Eula Mae's personal files. I'm appreciative of John Pierce and Nurturing Faith Publishing for their energy and grace in helping us get this to print. Clarissa Strickland served as my personal editor and made these pages much more alive than they could have been. And, Libby Allen of the Baugh Center kept Daniel and me on pace! I'm also grateful to my wife, Gail, who graciously gave me the time to hide away, research and write.

Most of all, I'm especially thankful to Eula Mae. I'm grateful for her leadership and commitment to the church and more for her commitment to Jesus the Christ. Her files have been fascinating. Her words are as alive today as they were when she put the lesson plans together. And her spirit continues to swirl around all of us. We are richer for the contributions she made to God's world—and that she continues to make.

And so, we begin at the end. . . Or, is this just the next beginning?

