

# Leaving a Legacy

For anyone who wants to make a difference  
for the next generation



Gayla M. Baughman

# *Leaving a Legacy*

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## Foreword

The flickering light of a wallowing candle may remind us of our own mortality. The fading light at end of day marks our progress toward the inevitable conclusion. Our years are limited; our days numbered. Our inalterable appointment of finality haunts us. The only thing that endures at the end of our days is the legacy we leave behind. Whatever influence for good, whatever investment made in the lives of others, whatever foundation of faith remaining in the lives of our progeny is truly the legacy of a life well-lived. Our predestined mortality teaches us the importance of leaving a legacy.

The prayer of Moses intreated, “So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12). With the maturity of age comes the realization that we will not live here forever. Our days will fail before we accomplish all we dreamed of doing. All that will last longer than our years is the vision we transfer to the living. We must transmit our values to another generation. We must share the things we value the most with those who will follow in our footsteps. Wisdom teaches us to be intentional in the task of communicating fundamental values to those who will value them.

The blessing of children and grandchildren is wrapped up in the hope that they will carry on the

heritage we have received from our families and relay the same values, hopes, and dreams into the future. We honor the legacy of our heritage by our faithful devotion to the truth that we have been taught.

I was born into the fourth generation of Apostolic Pentecostals on both sides of my family. My paternal grandfather, Mark Baughman, baptized his father after his conversion in the depression era 1930's while living near Tulsa, Oklahoma. He went on to become a minister and was first licensed with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Jesus Christ (PAJC) which merged as part of the United Pentecostal Church (UPCI) in 1945.<sup>1</sup> On the other side, my maternal great-grandparents served the Lord and embraced the apostolic message. Their son, Nolan J. Pope, became an ordained minister with the United Pentecostal Church International and pastored several churches in Texas and Arkansas.

Gayla's heritage includes five generations of Pentecostals. Her grandmother was a tremendous influence in her young life as she watched her pray for an unsaved husband for forty years. It was with tremendous joy that Grandpa Sellers was filled with the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Portland, Oregon, at the General Conference of the United Pentecostal Church in 1970. He remained faithful to the Lord

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<sup>1</sup> More on the history of Mark Baughman may be found in the book, "Let's Go! - The Life and Ministry of Mark Baughman" written by Terry R Baughman (available at [www.baughmangroup.org](http://www.baughmangroup.org)).

until his death nine years later. The legacy extended beyond her grandmother, Olive Sellers, to her grandparents. Our children are fifth and sixth generation Pentecostals on the paternal and maternal sides of the family respectively. That makes our grandchildren seventh generation in this continuing spiritual legacy of more than 100 years.

The message of the baptism of the Holy Spirit included the prophetic provision that the promise would be “. . .to you and to your children” (Acts 2:39) and “your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. . .” (Joel 2:28). God intends for this message to be propagated to every generation and passed on to all those who follow.

Leaving a Legacy is more than a book title, a novel idea, or a good cause; it is an imperative of passion that must consume us. It is a driving desire birthed in our hearts by the Spirit and the Word. “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward” (Psalm 127:3). Our children are more than our offspring. They are a mission field to evangelize, a spiritual estate to establish, and the fulfillment of our faith that will extend beyond our demise.

Read with an open heart and a ready mind to embrace the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Even if you have no children you can leave a legacy of faith in the youth of a new generation. The church is in good hands and our legacy will live on, fulfilling the purpose

of God's plan. Establish your heritage, leave a legacy,  
and build up the Kingdom of God through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

Terry R. Baughman

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I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

2 Timothy 1:5 NIV

