



Laura B. Eager

Born: January 10, 1923
Homegoing: March 22, 2010

Laura was the most beautiful and the most unselfish person I have ever known. As the years passed, I discovered that Laura was as pure and beautiful on the inside as she was on the outside.

I wanted you to know how Laura looked when we were married nearly 68 years ago. Laura and I have been totally in love since the day we were married. But our love grew deeper as time passed.

Laura was in the fourth year of Alzheimer's. Little by little she lost certain abilities, but we have so much to be thankful for.

Laura had no pain through recent years. She had a good appetite. She slept through the night. She was not as "sunny" as she usually was, but her basic disposition had not changed. She was the same thoughtful, unselfish person that she had always been.

Sunday, March 21, was a perfectly normal day and Laura was asleep when I went to bed. I was up by 6:15 Monday morning. I dressed and went to my office to have a Quiet Time. I went in to wake Laura at 8:15. I turned on the light and opened the blinds. I took her hand; it was still warm. But when I turned her over, I discovered that something was wrong. I thought she may have had a stroke. Evidently the Lord had awakened her about thirty minutes before I came in. She literally went to sleep Sunday night and woke up in Heaven Monday morning, in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Through the years of her declining health, the Lord helped me keep a sense of humor! I woke her up every morning telling her how much I loved her. I would sing, "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." One morning I was kissing her repeatedly and I asked her if she knew who I was.

She said, "No" in her sweet voice.

I said, "I'm here kissing you and you don't know who I am?"

She replied, "No, but I'm going to find out!"

I got the feeling that I had better be her husband or I was in deep trouble.

Laura's mother told me when we were married, "When Laura was a little girl, if we were doing housework, she would come in and say, 'Can I help?'"

Laura was self-effacing, humble and godly. She loved the Lord! She loved people, never meeting a stranger. Her well-worn Bible is a reflection of her desire to know Christ better. The notations in her Bible are a journal of her prayer life for her husband, children, family and friends. Her life was all about serving others—Jesus Christ, her husband and children.

My precious wife is described by the apostle Peter, "Don't be concerned with the outward beauty that depends on fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. You should be known for the beauty that comes from within, the unfailing beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God."

Laura and I came to faith in Christ in 1953 after the tragic death of our oldest son, Brucie, seven years old. I had no place to go except to God.

My mother talked with me when my heart was breaking. She said, "Son, you can't bring Brucie back, but you can go where he is. There are only two things you can do with this tragedy—you can honor God with it or you can dishonor Him. Now which are you going to do?"

I went home with those words ringing in my ear. I had been trying to convince God of

what a nice fellow I was, but I came to the end of myself. I knelt down by my bed and said, "God, if You save me, You're going to have to do it all!" I went to sleep that night and slept like a baby. When I woke up, I knew that I had been born again. I felt like a 20-ton weight had been lifted from my shoulders.

Soon after this Laura and I began a half century of ministry in the schools of Georgia, Florida, and Alabama sharing the gospel with over a million children and young people. Laura loved to go with me, but for eighteen years I travelled alone while Laura was raising five children.

After that, Laura got to travel with me, going to the schools. We had some thrilling experiences. I always introduced Laura to the audiences at the schools as the most beautiful and the most unselfish person I had ever known. She got a huge applause!

Laura never wanted to be in the limelight. One year, at the International Child Evangelism Fellowship Conference, they were honoring those of other ministries working with children. Laura and I had to go up on the stage with an audience of thousands. When the usher came to take us up on the stage, Laura whispered to me, "We're trapped like rats in a mole hole."

After a few years of school ministry, my mother said to me, "You need some kind of follow-up for those children."

I said, "What is follow-up?"

She said, "You go to the schools and give them a gospel message, but you may never see those children again. You need some Bible lessons to send to them."

In 1965, the Lord led us to found *The Mailbox Club*. I have now written over 300 lessons for all ages, but I could never have done it without the support and influence of Laura.

God has greatly blessed *The Mailbox Club*. Over 42 million *Mailbox Club* lessons were printed in 2009. The lessons are printed in many languages and distributed in over 90 countries world-wide. We send them free to anyone who requests them.

"Her children rise up, and call her blessed; her husband praises her."

Mother was the sunshine of our lives. She loved the Lord, her family, her friends, and really everyone. She was truly a beautiful person. Her legacy will live on forever.

—David Eager, son

Our Mother gave us the things that were most important on this earth...her love, her prayers for us daily, and her dedication to us as she raised us. Her kindness and gentleness has been a source of strength to us our whole lives. Her love for the Lord has made her strong for us.

—Peggy E. Castro, daughter

I am eternally indebted to my parents. Mom knelt with me as a child leading me to faith in Christ as an 8 year old. Her daily example of being fully surrendered to Christ and a lifetime of love, grace and intercession for our family leaves us with very big shoes to fill.

—John Mark Eager, Sr., son

"Mama Laura" was a beautiful person inside and out and the epitome of a Proverbs 31 woman. What a blessing and example she was to all who knew her. She was dearly loved and will be missed. —Carrie Eager, daughter-in-law

On earth and in Heaven, we will always be impacted by her for Christ, both in direct blessings and indirectly through her modeling godliness in her entire life. We are grateful for the many prayers that she prayed over each one of us. Our hope is to see her prayers manifested in our lives and carry the legacy she has given us to our children. We are deeply humbled, thankful and inspired by all that she taught us. She will be deeply missed.

—Timothy, Rachel, and Stephanie Castro,
grandchildren

Grandmother, you gave us memories that could never be forgotten. You gave us love that will always be cherished. And you gave us time that can never be replaced. I love you.

—Matthew Castro, grandson

She was a great grandma! She taught me to respect my elders, but more importantly, she was a great example of someone who lives for Jesus.

—Thomas Eager, grandson

We have all truly been blessed to have such a wonderful woman in our lives. Our grandmother lives on brightly in our memories as a kind, loving and nurturing support. She will be missed as much in her death as she was loved in her life.

—Laura and Erin Sherman, granddaughters

"Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised" (Prov. 31:30). Grandmother was charming and beautiful, but hers was an honest charm and a humble beauty because she both feared and loved the Lord. God blessed her and blessed others through her. She lived her life for His glory, and we have benefited from her example, her love and her prayers. We praise the Lord for her and we love and miss her very much.

—James J. Eager and Elizabeth Eager Marvel,
grandchildren

Through her quiet grace and dignity, she taught me how to live as a woman. Through her patience and compassion, she taught me how to be a mother. Through her pure and selfless love, she taught me how to love as Christ loves. She was a blessing to everyone she met and it was my honor to call her my grandmother.

—Laura Helen Eager VanWinkle, granddaughter



Dear Friends, I want to establish a memorial to honor Laura. I cannot think of anything she would appreciate more than thousands of boys and girls coming to know and love the Lord Jesus.

We are planning the largest outreach to the children of India that we have ever done. John Mark will explain this to you on the next page.

"As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing,"

George Eager



Precious friends,

We are in the middle of a thrilling outreach to countless boys and girls in India, partnering with 400,000 host families by supplying *Mailbox Club* lessons to help them right in their homes this spring!

We want to provide each host family with a bound set of Explorers 1, consisting of 12 evangelistic lessons and a bound set of Explorers 2, consisting of 12 discipleship lessons for children.

A special television program for children was broadcast during the Easter season. Host families invited parents and children into their homes to view the broadcast. This is a golden opportunity to evangelize and disciple hundreds of thousands of children using *Mailbox Club* lessons.

In February, we were able to wire \$200,000 to print 400,000 bound sets of the 12 lessons of Explorer's 1. These lessons teach a child how to take the Lord Jesus as their Savior. Untold thousands of children have been saved taking this course. We printed these lessons in 12 languages for immediate outreach Easter 2010 weekend across India. These lessons should keep the host families and the children busy for about 3-4 months.

We have given the host families permission to print as many copies of the lessons as they want or they can simply teach the lessons to the children. The exciting thing is that there is no limit to how many children each host family can reach with these lessons! And these Christ-centered materials can be used over and over again.

However, we do not have the funds to print the 12 discipleship lessons of Explorers 2. This course explains what it means to be *in Christ* and *Christ in you*. It also has a lesson teaching the student how to lead a friend to the Lord.

Our passion is to make disciples for Christ, not just to make "decisions." The remaining cost of this project is \$200,000. A generous Christian family will match every dollar you give up to \$100,000. So every dollar you give will be doubled.

This project will honor the Lord Jesus, and I know my precious Mom would be pleased with it.

Yours for reaching the children,

John Mark Eager

the Mailbox Club®

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