

# In HIS INTEREST

Stewardship Opportunities To Further Kingdom Growth

A Publication of the Baptist Foundation of South Carolina

Volume 10 Issue 1

## A Last Will and Testament

You would never think that a will could become a tool for evangelism, but the Lord works in many ways. The story goes like this...

I was visiting one of our Baptist churches for the purpose of discussing the importance of preparing a Christian will, not only for the benefit of family, but for the Lord's work as well. Afterward, a lady came up to me and explained that her husband could not attend with her, but they had previously discussed the need to prepare their wills.

I explained that, in many cases, spouses have reciprocal wills that basically mirror each other. We discussed some of the particulars and I noted that her wills could include an option of a regular declaration or one of a Christian testimony such as the following:

*"... being of sound mind and disposing memory, realizing the uncertainty of this life and the certainty of death, with full confidence and trust in our Lord and*

*Saviour, Jesus Christ, and believing that He died on the cross for my sins and shed His blood as an atonement for my soul, and with full assurance that through faith in Him I have eternal life, do hereby make, publish and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament..."*

In reviewing this option, the lady hesitated, not knowing if her husband had actually ever made a decision for Christ. I gave her the language and she asked if we could make an

appointment to meet again.

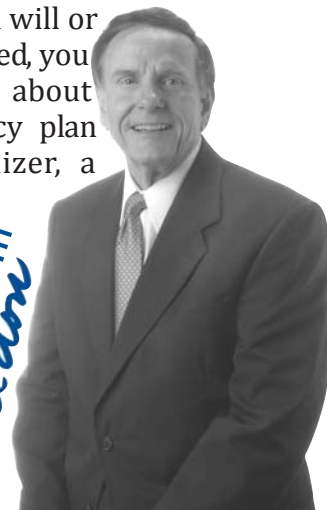
In the follow up visit, we met to discuss particulars that they could share with their attorney. I read the following statement of Christian testimony that his wife and I discussed. Then, I asked, *"Is this what you would like to declare to your Lord and have read to your surviving family members when this will is processed?"* He replied, "I never have made that statement before, but I think it is time that I did."

This gentleman, upon hearing these words, realized that he had more important decisions to make than determining what he wanted to do with his possessions. He realized that he must make a decision about how he would spend eternity. His will served as a testimony of what he believed and he needed to come to terms with that.

Not only did we settle the last statement that he would make to his family, but this became a decision for his eternity. And, by the way, even after their lives on earth, he and his wife decided they would continue to support ministry by leaving a tithe for the Lord's work.

Your Last Will & Testament can truly be a Last Will & Testament! What does your estate plan say about your Christian faith? If you don't have a will or if you need to have your will updated, you will find additional information about how you can develop your legacy plan through the Estate Plan Organizer, a secure online estate planning tool that can be found on the Foundation's website. See page 3 of this newsletter for additional details.

Words from  
Weldon



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# Serving You Through Estate Planning Services



**Coleman L. Catoe Jr.**  
Vice President of Legal Services

The Baptist Foundation of South Carolina began work in 1950. For all of those almost sixty years, the Foundation has encouraged Baptists to carefully and prayerfully plan their estates. This includes wills as a priority, but planning also involves Durable Powers of Attorney, Living Wills, and Health Care Powers of Attorney.

At the Foundation we are available to consult with individuals and families regarding how to institute a Biblically based estate plan. We can point out ways to protect minor children through guardianships and trusteeships. The staff is available to give counsel regarding how estate taxes may affect a person's property. We can also show through detailed information how a family can plan lifetime charitable gifts so as to provide family income now, and future income for a Baptist cause.

If a person does not have an estate plan of his or her own, the State of South Carolina has arranged a "back-up" plan through State Statutes. In almost all cases, however, what the State has mandated is not what an individual would want.

Contact the Foundation for guidance as to how to avoid intestacy (dying without a will) so you can protect your family and possibly provide a charitable bequest for the Lord's work. Do not leave to chance such an important matter.



**Lonnie H. Shull, Jr.**  
Field Development  
Coordinator-Central

## Millions More in Heaven

As a college student back in the 1950's, I responded to God's call to the ministry. About that time, our Sunday School Board launched an exciting program for growth called "A Million More in '54." No, it was not a program to raise a million more dollars, but to enroll a million more people for Bible study in Sunday School. In those days, Sunday School was the main outreach and evangelistic arm of the church. I guess I remember because I was one of those "million more."

There was another important emphasis among Southern Baptists at that time called "Every Baptist a Tither." The churches thoroughly indoctrinated adults, youth and children in the Biblical blessings of tithing; our churches and mission causes are still reaping benefits from that era.

Pat Neff, a former governor of Texas and a layman who was elected President of the Southern Baptist Convention, lamented the fact that preachers and Bible teachers spoke much about the

importance of laying up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:29-21), but never defined what those treasures were. Neff confessed that his ignorance bothered him until the Holy Spirit made the truth clear to him. He came to see and believe

that the treasure which we are to lay up in heaven is PEOPLE. You will have no need in heaven for silver and gold, stocks and bonds or dollar bills; but your joy will be seeing those in heaven who are there because of your faithful stewardship and committed witness. Through tithing your income, you make it possible for the gospel to be preached and for souls to be saved so that heaven will be full of people. People are our heavenly treasures. Now is the time to lay up your treasure.



As I have the privilege of visiting and speaking in our churches, I urge our folks to not only continue to support the Lord's church by tithing, but also to give priority in their will for their estate to be tithed to benefit our churches and missions causes. I believe God will bless these decisions and there will be "Millions More" in heaven.

For more information about estate stewardship, please contact me or other Baptist Foundation staff. We're always glad to be of help to South Carolina Baptists.

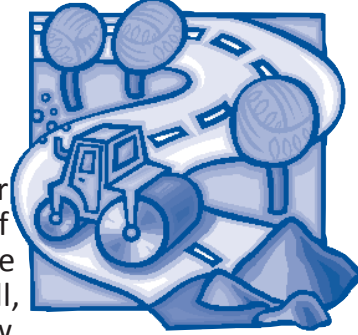
### LIMITED GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Baptist Foundation of South Carolina has a limited amount of funds available to award to churches or other Baptist ministries for non-capital ministry projects. In order to be eligible for a grant award, a ministry must complete and submit an application for grant funding. The deadline for 2009 has been extended to **September 30**. Up to 80% of project costs may be requested for grant funding. Grants cannot be awarded to individuals. Grant applications are reviewed by a committee and **awards are distributed at year end**. If you would like to obtain an application for grant request, call us or visit the Foundation's website -

[www.baptistfoundationsc.org](http://www.baptistfoundationsc.org)

- and choose the Grant Funding link.

# Legacy Giving Programs... Smoothing Out the Bumpy Ride



Churches today are faced with a challenge - keep ministries going strong, while watching offerings shrink due to the economy. This isn't the first time the country has faced an economic crisis, and it probably won't be the last. How do you smooth out the bumpy ride? By promoting and maintaining a meaningful legacy giving program. Funds that are received through legacy giving can provide an income source that can be invaluable as your church seeks to have an effective ministry in your community. How does this work?

**First**, determine a purpose that church members can embrace. For example, many churches set up mission funds, which are used to assist in ministry projects in the community and around the world. Other churches set up maintenance funds, which help with upkeep of buildings and grounds, or other items.



Valerie E. Rumbough, CPA, CFP  
Chief Operations Officer

**Second**, develop a

strategy for informing your members of the advantages of becoming a legacy giver. Some may do so through their will, some may give gifts now.

There are several ways to encourage members in this area.

**Finally**, make plans for a thorough promotion of your giving program. Not sure how to do all of this? Contact the Baptist Foundation of SC. We have the tools and information you need to begin such a program at your church. Not only can we help you get it started, we can also help you implement and maintain it on a long-term basis.

Many of our clients are very thankful that they began such a program several years ago. They are now reaping the benefits. Many are not only continuing their ministry as they did before the latest economic crisis, they are also able to even expand it. Help your members be rich toward God, and watch your ministry grow and expand the Kingdom of God.

## Simplicity, Safety, Convenience

### Estate Planning On YOUR Time

The Baptist Foundation of South Carolina, in partnership with PhilanthroCorp, Inc. (a Christ-centered estate planning firm) is proud to offer a way for you to design your personal estate plan from the comfort of your own home in a safe and secure manner. The online Estate Plan Organizer (EPO) allows you to think through your important legacy planning decisions before you finalize your plans. Simply go to the following site:

<http://www.baptistfoundationsc.org/estateplanning>

Click on the link to the Estate Plan Organizer at the bottom of the screen. Then, log in to register and your information will be retained for 60 days. You will be able to log in and out to make updates at your convenience. Once your information is complete, you can print the information to take to your attorney, or submit the information to the Baptist Foundation or PhilanthroCorp for review and assistance.

The EPO format is a simple, survey style that is directed by choices YOU make. As you enter information in the system, you will be provided with helpful information about considerations important to you (guardianship, stewardship, etc.). You can be secure in the knowledge that the EPO is encrypted, meaning that no one can see your information. And, you will NOT be contacted unless YOU make the decision to submit your plan to the Foundation or PhilanthroCorp. **Simple. Safe. Convenient.**



#### Please send me more information!

##### Information for Individuals

- Personal Records Book
- Information on wills and estate planning
- Donor Advised Funds
- Establishing charitable trusts (life income gifts)
- Charitable gift annuities
- Other charitable giving opportunities

##### Information for Churches/Ministries

- Personal Financial / estate planning seminars (for groups such as seniors groups, etc.)
- Church / association financial seminars (Maximizing Your Ministry's Finances)
- Investment Management Services
- Establishing Endowments

Name:  Rev.  Dr.  Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Miss

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Home Phone

Work Phone

Church / Organization Name

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# In HIS INTEREST

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To see ALL experience  
Christian generosity!

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## New Assurance Fund for Ministries *You Asked...We Listened!*

In today's unpredictable economy, many of our churches and ministries are looking for funds that are backed by FDIC insurance. The Foundation has heard your concerns and has responded! Our new Assurance Fund is a pooled investment fund that consists primarily of FDIC insured instruments. The fund offers rates consistent with current CD rates while allowing more flexibility than normal bank CDs. For example, you are only required to maintain your funds on deposit in the Assurance Fund for six months. After that, you don't have to worry about keeping up with new maturity dates or shopping for new rates. You can keep your funds on deposit and withdraw (in whole or in part) at any time with no penalty upon a 60-day's notice of withdrawal. Interested? Call the Foundation today to get more information and to learn about fund rates!

### ONE-LIFE GIFT ANNUITY RATES

AGE	RATE	AGE	RATE
55	4.8%	75	6.3%
60	5.0%	80	7.1%
65	5.3%	85	8.1%
70	5.7%	90+	9.5%

### Have You Seen Rates Like These Lately?

A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is a gift that offers guaranteed income for life while providing an ultimate gift to your favorite ministry cause(s)! With a minimum gift of \$10,000, a CGA provides 1) guaranteed income for life at very attractive rates; 2) an income tax deduction; 3) avoidance of up-front capital gains tax on gifts of appreciated stock and; 4) donor choice of ultimate charity(ies). Call the Foundation today to receive an illustration that will provide the current payment rate, payments, and estimated tax deduction amounts for a CGA based on your age(s).

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### Our Vision:

*To see ALL experience Christian generosity!*

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