



LOUISIANA  
BAPTIST  
FOUNDATION

An Agency of the  
Louisiana Baptist Convention

## Charitable Bequests

### MULTPLYING MINISTRIES THROUGH YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

**T**he laws governing our society allow us the freedom to direct the distribution of our assets at the time of our death. A well drafted Last Will and Testament gives an individual the opportunity to make gifts, provide administration and address special needs beyond the short time frame of our life.

Without a Will, the distribution of personal property is controlled by state law. That likely will not produce results desired by the deceased.

As Believers, we should be conscious of God's goodness and His provision for our life. Good stewardship should be practiced not only during our life but also over those assets that are left at the end of life. Unfortunately only around 40% of Christians take the time to write a valid Will.

### BEING STEWARDS OF OUR ESTATES

**S**cripture shows us clearly that God is the owner of all that we consider to be our own.

Psalms 24:1, 1 Chronicles 29:11, and Genesis 1:1 plainly spell out that God is the owner; other verses throughout the Bible tell us that we are to be good stewards of His assets.

We should seek His guidance to distribute our possessions to those individuals and organizations who will continue to use them for God's Kingdom purpose.



**“AS CHRISTIANS, AT THE TIME OF OUR DEATH OUR ESTATES SHOULD BE GIVEN TO INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS THAT WILL CONTINUE TO USE THEM TO REFLECT OUR CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLES.”**

RAY LYNE,  
LIFESTYLE GIVING, INC.

**“WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!”**

MATTHEW 25:14-30

The Louisiana Baptist Foundation has been assisting donors with Charitable Gift Annuities, Bequests, and other charitable giving arrangements since 1944. Please call to learn more about Multiplying the Ministry God has placed on your heart.

***This information is not to be substituted for legal advice. Consult a knowledgeable legal professional to assist you with your estate planning needs.***

A planning booklet is available from the Louisiana Baptist Foundation for a nominal charge. Please contact the Foundation for more information.

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## CHARITABLE BEQUESTS

There are several ways of making charitable gifts or bequests through a Last Will and Testament.

*Specific Property*—You can designate a certain piece of property such as real estate or specific shares of stock that will support a ministry of your choice. These types of bequests should be worded very carefully.

*Specific Amount*—A particular dollar amount can be designated as a gift to your church or other ministry organization.

*Percentage*—A percentage of your estate can be designated for ministry purposes. This ensures that all bequests remain in proportion as the total value of your estate changes during your lifetime.

*Residual estate*—After making gifts of specific property or amounts to family or friends, a portion or all of what remains (commonly referred to as the residue or residual) can be left to benefit your church or other ministry you choose.

## THE CASE FOR A LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

A properly drafted Will allows you to:

- *Control a lifetime accumulation of property.* Your Will allows you to make the decisions on who will receive the assets that God has allowed you to possess throughout your life.
- *Provide and care for family or friends who may have a monetary need.* Often, for various reasons, there are family members or friends who need your support even beyond your lifetime. Drafting a Will allows you to meet that need as much as possible.
- *Make gifts to family and friends.* You can be a blessing to your family and friends by making gifts to them through your Will.
- *Make gifts to ministry organizations including your local church.* Many Christians miss the opportunity and blessing of leaving a gift to benefit God's work by not having a Will. A gift to ministry will not happen unless it is put in writing through a Will or other charitable gift arrangement.
- *Minimize possible disharmony among family.* Prior planning can help dispel conflict that may occur when your clear wishes are not spelled out in a legal manner. A Will can help keep peace in your family after your death.
- *Provide proper care for children or other minors in your care by naming a guardian.* Children are our most precious asset. A guardian or tutor can be named to continue raising your children in a Christ-like manner.
- *Select the person or persons to see that the provisions in the Will are carried out.* The executor or administrator named in your Will is responsible for making sure that your final wishes are carried out as you planned.



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***Advancing the Kingdom***

One dollar at a time. One ministry at a time. One life at a time.