



CHARITABLE BEQUESTS

Multiplying Ministries through your Estate Plan

The laws governing our society allow us the freedom to direct the distribution of our assets at the time of our death. A well drafted Will or Trust 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 or Trust, 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 lives. Good stewardship should be practiced not only during our lives but also over those assets that are left at the end of life. Unfortunately, studies show that less than 50% of Americans have a properly established estate plan.

Being Good Stewards of our Estates

Scripture 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.

The Louisiana Baptist Foundation has partnered with *GivingDocs* to provide families with the ability to prepare an estate plan at no-cost that also helps to benefit their church and other ministries. This online application can be accessed at www.givingdocs.com/louisiana-baptist-foundation. Please contact the Louisiana Baptist Foundation for more information or questions.



"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

Hebrews 13:16

"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.



LOUISIANA
BAPTIST
FOUNDATION

The Louisiana Baptist Foundation has been assisting donors with charitable bequests and other charitable giving options since 1944. Please contact us to learn how your gift can be used for *Advancing the Kingdom.*

WAYS OF MAKING CHARITABLE BEQUESTS

- Specific Assets:** You can designate that specific assets (e.g., real estate, stock, etc.) be given to your church or other ministry. 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.
- Specific Percentage:** A percentage of your estate can be designated to your church or other ministry. 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 assets or amounts to family or friends, the remainder of the estate can be left to benefit your church or other ministries.

THE CASE FOR ESTATE PLANNING

- Control the final distribution of your assets.** Your estate plan allows you to make the decisions on who will receive the assets that God has allowed you to possess throughout your life.
- Provide for those in need.** Oftentimes, there are family members or friends who need your support even beyond your lifetime. Drafting an estate plan 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 estate plan.
- Make gifts to your church and other ministries.** Many Christians miss the opportunity and blessing of leaving a gift to benefit God's work by not having an estate plan. A gift to ministry will not happen unless it is put in writing through a Will, Trust, 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. An estate plan can help keep peace in your family after your death.
- Appoint a guardian for minor children.** Children are our most precious asset. A guardian (tutor) can be named to continue raising your children in a Christ-like manner.
- Appoint your estate representative.** The executor or trustee named in your estate plan is responsible for making sure that your final wishes are carried out.

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

 LBInfo.org • 877-523-4636 • contact@LBInfo.org

ADVANCING THE KINGDOM...

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