

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Almost every successful person I've ever interviewed attributes their success, at least in part, to difficult times in their lives. They recount times of financial strain, business reversal, family

crisis or other setbacks that threatened to be their ruin.

I'm not sure what it is about adversity, but somehow God uses it to bring out His best in us. In these times, we learn discipline, a new level of hard work and most importantly, trust and reliance on God.

In Scripture, we see countless examples of God working through impossible situations in the lives of His people. The Apostle Paul said it like this: "That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (1 Corinthians 12:10, NIV)

What is demonstrated in Scripture has been lived out by so many of you. I'm very thankful for the stories you have shared with us illustrating God's faithfulness — through the good times and the challenging. You'll read one of those stories in this issue of Stewardship Spotlight.

We would love to hear more of your stories! It's our joy to learn how God has blessed you, and we are honored to assist you in sharing those blessings with others.

Grateful to serve you,



James Bakke, J.D.
Executive Director

SWEETNESS FROM THE STRUGGLE

Tom and Dee Little, Stewards Fund Clients

Retired and blessed with an ever-expanding family, Tom and Dee Little know they are living the good life. They enjoy travelling together whenever they can, especially to take part in the important life milestones of their grandchildren.



"For the rest of our lives, we'll be at some sort of graduation," says Tom. "It stretches out every May and June as far as I can see. And then there are marriages and also the births of great-grandchildren. So yeah, that's cool."

The path for the Littles hasn't always been so smooth.

About 25 years into their marriage, Tom was forced out of a Fortune 500 company, and he and Dee struggled just to stay afloat.

"I started out in a series of businesses, the first four of which were unsuccessful," Tom recalls. "We had some very, very, very hard economic times. I remember having two kids in college, and my total income for the year was less than \$1,000. That was in the days before credit cards! It was a struggle to stay out of debt and to keep things going."

In the midst of their struggles, Tom and Dee relied on the unifying power and peace of their faith in Jesus Christ.

"We knew God was in control, and that He was going to see us through," says Tom. "We did make it through, and now He has blessed us beyond all belief!"

Tom's fifth business venture – one in which he bought, sold and leased IBM main frames – turned out to be the one that changed the trajectory of their lives.

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SWEETNESS FROM THE STRUGGLE

Continued from front

Today, Tom and Dee take great pleasure in funneling their blessings into Kingdom impact. One way they accomplish this is by giving to their church and other favorite ministries through Barnabas Foundation's Stewards Fund. "Our prime objective is furthering the Gospel," says Tom. "That's where our physical and financial efforts go."

Tom and Dee recognize much of the sweetness of their present life is the harvest from their struggle.

"Experiencing the lean times shapes us for when we have times of plenty," concludes Tom. "Our barometer for goodness and mercy isn't dependent upon what's in our checking account, but by God's faithfulness and God's abiding presence."

3 Perspective-Changing Strategies for Challenging Times

- 1. Look up.** Refocus your thoughts on the Father who loves you from whom all blessings flow. Pray to Him. Read from His Word. Intentionally carve out time and attention to dwell in His presence.
- 2. Look in.** What does God want to teach you in the midst of this struggle? How is He challenging you to grow? Don't miss the lessons readily available to you right now in this moment!
- 3. Look out.** Consider the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of those around you. How does God want to use you to bless others in your church, your community and around the world? It's often in blessing others that we, in turn, are blessed.

ASK BARNABAS FOUNDATION

Q: If I move, does my estate plan need an update?

A. If your will was valid at the time you created it, it does not necessarily become invalid just because you move to a new state. However, such a move could complicate the settlement of the estate if your will is not updated. In addition, often with a move comes other life changes that may warrant a review. Finally, each state has its own power of attorney and power of attorney for healthcare documents. Therefore, even if your will or trust does not need any revisions, you may need to update those items.

Have Questions?

Call us at 888.448.3040 or email info@BarnabasFoundation.com to ask a planner.

DOES YOUR WILL REFLECT YOUR VALUES?

Does your will reflect your faith and values? Does it communicate to your family what matters most to you?

If it's been a while since you last reviewed your will, we would be happy to help you.

To discuss your particular situation, or to request your free copy of "7 Reasons to Review Your Will," call 888.448.3040 or email info@barnabasfoundation.com.

7 REASONS TO REVIEW YOUR WILL
Life changes—and your will should, too. As your situation and goals change, your estate plan should evolve to reflect your needs.

- 1. Family** YES
Have you or your children recently married, remarried or divorced?
Have you gained family members either through birth, adoption or marriage?
Do you need to determine a trusted guardian for your children?
Have you experienced the death of someone dear to you?
Have you or your loved ones experienced a significant injury or life-altering illness?
Are you concerned about the financial maturity of your heirs?
- 2. Charitable Relationships**
Have you become more involved in your church or a particular ministry?
Does your will reflect your Christian values and priorities?
- 3. Career**
Has your employer or income level changed?
Do you have new business ventures?
Have you recently retired or are you planning to retire soon?
- 4. Assets**
Has your estate experienced a significant increase or decrease in value?
Have you bought, sold or moved a business?
Have you bought or sold property?
Have you changed the beneficiaries on your insurance policies or retirement assets?
- 5. Location**
Have you or those listed in your will moved?
- 6. Tax Law**
Have state or federal tax laws changed since you last reviewed your will?
- 7. Time**
Has it been more than three years since you last reviewed your will?

Talk with a Planner
Through Barnabas Foundation, you have access to complimentary will planning services with someone who understands tax-wise charitable planning from a biblical perspective. We'll help you review your will and make important, God-honoring decisions in an atmosphere of complete confidence and trust.

Start your conversation today by calling Barnabas Foundation at 888.448.3040 or emailing info@BarnabasFoundation.org.

if you answered "yes" to any of these questions, it's time to review your will!

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