

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



This year, I experienced the passing of both my parents, within 48 hours of each other. It was difficult in that losing a parent is always a sorrowful event. It was also inspiring, because my parents decided to leave a significant portion of their estate to kingdom causes.

Not long before my father died, he and I had a long conversation about their estate plans. Dad believed his Will was his last opportunity to give—and to be an example to his children. He asked me to communicate his rationale to the rest of the family.

The family meeting after the funeral was a rich experience. Not only was I able to share the plan, but also mom and dad's heart around it.

Our family is fortunate in that none of us children needed our parents' resources. While we appreciated the portion we received, we were even more blessed by the legacy we've inherited.

My parents prioritized giving during their lifetime and also in their estate plans. Kingdom causes were clearly very important to them.

In this issue of Stewardship Spotlight, you'll read about the importance of family meetings and considering your children in your estate plan. I hope you find these articles helpful.

If you'd like to have a conversation in a safe place with someone who understands these issues from a distinctively Christian worldview, one of our planners would love to talk to you.

Serving the Lord with you,



James Bakke J.D.
Executive Director

IMPART YOUR LEGACY IN A FAMILY MEETING

As you plan how to best pass your God-given resources to the next generation, ask yourself these questions:

- » Are your heirs prepared to steward their inheritance?
- » Will their financial decisions reflect your values and legacy?
- » Will they follow the same biblical stewardship principles you've followed?
- » Will they know how to navigate your estate plan?
- » Will they understand the reasons behind your giving decisions?

An ideal way to make sure you can answer "yes" to these questions is to hold a family meeting, where you share your heart and expectations.

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CLAIM YOUR FREE GIFT!

Barnabas Foundation has complementary copies of Ron Blue's book: *Splitting Heirs: Giving Money and Things to Your Children without Ruining Their Lives* for the first 15 readers who email info@BarnabasFoundation.com.



THREE WAYS TO INCLUDE YOUR CHILDREN IN YOUR PLANNED GIVING STRATEGY

Show your children where your treasure and heart reside (Matthew 6:21) through these planned giving strategies.

Add a “Child named Charity” to your plan...then divide your estate evenly between all “children.” For example, if you have two children, give one third of your estate to each child and distribute the final third to one or more Christian ministries. This leaves a significant portion for your children while making a powerful statement about your values.

Name your children as advisors of your Stewards Fund account. You decide which assets to give to this donor-advised fund, and as advisors, your children will be able to make gifts from the account to ministries they believe will honor you and the Lord.

Make a gift that supports a Kingdom cause and then reverts to your children. When you put your assets into a charitable lead trust, the income it produces goes to charity. After a period of time, the trust and its income go to your heirs. This enables the ministry dear to your heart to count on consistent, long-term support, and then provides income to your family when you're gone.

ASK BARNABAS FOUNDATION

Q: Can I buy more time to make year-end gifts to charity?

A. Your concern is understandable! The holiday frenzy makes it challenging to thoroughly research charities, decide gift amounts, and gift any assets—all by December 31.

The Stewards Fund, Barnabas Foundation's donor-advised fund, is a convenient solution. Through it, you can make a single, tax-deductible gift to Barnabas Foundation now and decide later how to distribute the funds to the ministries close to your heart.

You establish a Stewards Fund by gifting assets to Barnabas Foundation. We even accept non-liquid assets such as real estate and tangible personal property. Barnabas Foundation will invest the assets to grow your Stewards Fund, while ensuring your chosen ministries receive the amounts you designate.

The Stewards Fund also makes it easy to give to multiple charities, since you give to one account and then recommend how to distribute the funds.

To learn more about setting up a Stewards Fund account, contact us at info@BarnabasFoundation.com or call 888-448-3040.

FAMILY MEETING

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Recount stories of family history.

Share when your family began to follow Christ. Whether you are a first-generation Christian or a fifth, testimonies help establish the biblical basis of your financial decisions.

Review biblical stewardship principles.

Make sure your children and grandchildren understand that God owns everything; we are managers of the resources entrusted to us, and we are to use them for His glory.

Discuss your family's legacy.

Share the values your family is known for and that you expect your heirs to carry on this legacy.

Reveal the charitable gifts you have included in your estate plan.

Explain how they align with your personal or family legacy—how they reflect your heart.

Talk about practical matters.

Clarify important details, such who is the executor of your estate, where your Will is stored and, of course, who gets what.

Having this discussion now is a loving way to reinforce your values—and can diffuse any potential misunderstandings or strife for your loved ones after you've gone to be with the Lord.



3801 Eagle Nest Drive, Suite B
Crete, IL 60417-1993

BarnabasFoundation.com
1.888.448.3040

