BARNABAS FOUNDATION

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

At this unique time in history, most Americans have accumulated wealth at a level greater than ever before. Eventually, we'll all have the privilege and responsibility to transfer these resources into the hands of the next generation.

It's a privilege because we're entrusted with amazing wealth, and we live in a country where we can choose how to give it away. And with the recent tax law changes, more can be passed on without any tax bill.

It's a responsibility because we're called to manage our God-given resources well — which entails making sure they are placed in the hands of wise stewards.

This issue includes ideas for imparting biblical stewardship to the next generation. If you'd like to have a conversation with someone who understands these issues from a distinctively Christian worldview, we'd love to help.

Serving the Lord with you,

James Bakke

James Bakke, J.D.
Executive Director

HOW PREPARED ARE YOUR HEIRS?

4 Ways to Teach Stewardship to the Next Generation

One of the greatest gifts you can share with your loved ones is a godly perspective on money and generosity. After all, there is great freedom and joy in handling finances God's way.

But how exactly do you prepare your heirs to manage their resources well? Here are four great places to start...

1. **Financial Literacy**: Encourage your loved ones to enroll in a basic financial workshop — such as through Financial Peace University or Crown Financial Ministries — to sharpen their skills in budgeting, saving and investing. Better yet, consider paying their registration as a gift toward their financial health and peace of mind.

2. **Work Ethic:** Teach your children the satisfaction that comes from a job well done. Don't be quick to swoop in and help when tasks are difficult. Share stories about overcoming personal and professional struggles. Talk about work as an opportunity to honor God, and not just as a means to an end.

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MORE INFLUENCE THAN YOU KNOW

Did you brush your teeth? Have you eaten your veggies?

Whether it's our children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, we routinely prompt our loved ones to consider choices that will form their lifestyle and character for the better.

But the most important question we can ask them is: *Are you sharing?*

While we often reserve this question for little ones, the sentiment remains true no matter the age. It's a question of faith formation, of growing stewardship.

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MORE INFLUENCE THAN YOU KNOW

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Michael J. Wolthuis
Stewards Fund Client

Michael J. Wolthuis, who has a Stewards Fund account through Barnabas Foundation, routinely gives to a variety of charitable organizations. When asked what inspires his generosity, he's quick to offer several examples from his upbringing.

"Both of my parents were always committed to giving to 'the work of the Lord,'" Michael explains. "And my grandfather — even in his retirement, when some really bad financial times hit — still made giving his priority over his lifestyle."

His aunts and uncles were also influential. "Around age 18, instead of sending money in a birthday card, they asked my cousins and me to choose a charity. Then they'd make a donation to that charity in memory of my grandmother Wolthuis."

Michael's story illustrates an important truth...

We each have an opportunity and responsibility to pass the baton of generosity to the next generation. You have more influence than you know.

HOW PREPARED ARE YOUR HEIRS?

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3. **Generosity**: Discuss your charitable giving openly, explaining why these organizations are dear to your heart. Uncover your loved ones' passions, encouraging them to donate to related charitable causes. If your children or grandchildren are young, teach them to set aside funds in a "giving jar." If they're older, consider having them help you manage a portion of your Stewards Fund account.
4. **Values:** Regularly talk about your personal and family values, explaining the biblical or personal reasons these mean so much to you. More importantly, model these values in your everyday living. Make sure your actions match your words.

ASK BARNABAS FOUNDATION

Q: Are there any life milestones when I should consider updating my will?

A. People commonly update their wills at important life occasions, like having a child or losing a loved one. But there are other subtle transitions that have implications on your estate plans.

- **Family**. Have you or your children recently married, remarried or divorced? Have you gained family members through birth, adoption or marriage?
- **Charitable Relationships**. Have you become more involved in a particular ministry?
- **Time.** Has it been more than three years since you last reviewed your will?

These and other life transitions warrant a close review of your plans!

For answers to these and other frequently asked questions, email us at info@BarnabasFoundation.com.

7 Reasons to Review Your Will

Email info@BarnabasFoundation.com to request your free copy of **"7 Reasons to Review Your Will."**

7 Reasons to Review Your Will

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