

What's Inside

Foundation Focus is a quarterly newsletter to help you understand our church's **Legacy Foundation**, why it is so important for the future of our church and its ministries, and how you can participate.

This issue includes:

- Two Advantages of Our Legacy Foundation
- 5 Secrets of Good and Faithful Servants
- Estate Planning Q & A
- Naming our Church in Your Will

Two Advantages of Our Legacy Foundation

Our **Legacy Foundation** provides the opportunity for our church to:

1. Receive creative non-cash gifts—such as stocks, real estate, life insurance, retirement funds, and business interests.
2. Receive and manage estate gifts for special opportunities and extraordinary ministry projects.

YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

5 Secrets of Good and Faithful Servants

Do you have kids or grandkids that like to keep secrets? A secret, the dictionary reports, is something hidden from view. That's a good description of the hearts of "good and faithful servants" that Jesus described in Matthew 25. Although motivations of the heart are not always visible, Jesus takes notice and ultimately commends them. Here are 5 "secrets" of good and faithful servants that we trust will be an encouragement to you as you grow in your walk with the Lord.

- 1. Good and Faithful Servants Maximize God's Resources.** Have you thought about ways you can maximize the financial resources God has given you? For example, did you know you can increase your tax benefit and stretch your giving dollars to the Lord's work when you transfer appreciated assets (such as stocks or mutual funds) directly to our church rather than donating the proceeds after selling them? If you have owned securities for more than a year, your tax savings are significant because you receive an income tax deduction for the fair-market value (what it's worth today, not what you paid for it). Additionally, you will not pay any capital gain tax upon the transfer.
- 2. Good and Faithful Servants are Trustworthy.** Just like the master in the Parable of the Talents went on a journey and entrusted his property to others, so God entrusts His property to us. What has God entrusted you with? There are many things! He trusts you with the time He's given you today, relationships with your family and friends, financial resources and possessions, the creation around you, the gospel message, and so much more.

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YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

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3. **Good and Faithful Servants Know Their Abilities.** Isn't it interesting that the man who went on the journey gave something to each of his servants "according to their ability?" God knows what your talents and abilities are because He gave them to you! There's no point in comparing your abilities to someone else – God wants you to use what He's given you! But do you know what your gifts are? If you need some help identifying or fine-tuning the gifts God gave you, check out "Discover Your Gifts" by Faith Alive Publishing at www.faithaliveresources.org
4. **Good and Faithful Servants are Action-Oriented.** You may have heard there are three kinds of people in the world – those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened. The "good and faithful servants" made things happen. They didn't put things off until tomorrow. They didn't wait until they were in a better mood or were less busy. Instead, they went "at once" to put their master's resources to work for him. Is there something God is asking you to say, do, or give today?
5. **Good and Faithful Servants are Self-Starters.** What would the average employee think if the boss went away for a long time? What would the average teenager think if mom and dad went on vacation without the kids? Party time! Right? Not so with the good and faithful servants. The master went away "for a long time." And with no one watching, or giving them reminders, or holding their hands, the good and faithful servants took responsibility and got to work, day in and day out, until their master returned.

Ask Barnabas Foundation Estate Planning Q & A

Q. Do young families need a Will or an Estate Plan?

A. As Christians, each of us is a steward of whatever God has entrusted to us - which includes our children. Most parents with minor children fail to realize the importance of having an Estate Plan in place (A Will is a simple Estate Plan).

Typically, young families have two primary questions regarding the care of their minor children. First, who will physically care for our children if we are unable to care for them? Second, how can we make certain that our finances will be managed appropriately on behalf of our children?

Both of these concerns are easily addressed through Estate Planning. Guardians (those who care for minor children) and trustees (those who manage and distribute money and property) are named in an Estate Plan, eliminating the need for the state to decide who should be responsible for the children and the assets. An Estate Plan, for both young and old, is the best way to make certain that our most treasured gifts are taken care of in a way that is pleasing to God.

Have a gift planning question for Foundation Focus? E-mail it to jzack@barnabasfoundation.com

Legal Language for Naming Our Church in Your Will

If you decide to support our church with a gift from your estate, please contact our Foundation Committee. They will indicate which specific program funds within our **Legacy Foundation** are open for contributions. If you do not designate a specific fund, the Foundation Committee will decide which **Legacy Foundation** fund will receive your bequest.

Additionally, please provide your attorney with the following language to include in your bequest documents.

1. **If you did not select a specific program fund**, use the following language:

"I bequeath _____ (% or dollar amount) of my estate to Granite Springs Church for the Granite Springs Church Legacy Foundation."

2. **If you did select a specific program fund**, use the following language:

"I bequeath ____ (% or dollar amount) of my estate to Granite Springs Church for the (Name of the Fund) of the Granite Springs Church Legacy Foundation."