

## **Partnering with Grace Fellowship International through Estate Planning**

“If the Lord called you home today, do you have a Christian will that biblically provides for your loved ones and favorite ministries? You see, most of us think of writing our will as just a legal process, but when you consider that God is the owner of all and we are just His stewards (Psalm 24:1), our perspective should change. We must recognize that the purpose of our will is to transfer stewardship of all the things God has entrusted to us. So, it’s not only important to have a legal will, but it’s also important to have a will that is prayerfully designed from a scriptural perspective.”<sup>1</sup>

### **A Bequest in a Will**

Perhaps the easiest and the most common way of making a planned gift is through your will. Yet some 50 to 70 percent of all church members die without a will. If you die without a will, the state will divide your assets among your spouse and children (regardless of their age); appoint an administrator that may cost the estate large fees; and appoint guardians for your minor children who may or may not have been your choice. The state makes no charitable contributions, and it will insure that your estate pays as much tax as possible.

By making a will you appoint your own administrator; you name the guardians of your minor children; you control applicable taxes; you can create a family or charitable trust; and you can share your resources with your family, church, or other institutions as you choose.

A bequest in a will can take the form of a set amount of money, a percentage of an estate, a specific asset, a trust, or the naming of Grace Fellowship International as a contingent beneficiary. Sample language for including the ministry in your will might be: "I give, devise and bequeath (state amount, asset or percentage of the estate) to Grace Fellowship International, Post Office Box 368, Pigeon Forge, TN 37862 to be used [specify or leave open] as the governing board deems appropriate."<sup>2</sup>

If you need assistance in creating or updating your will, the staff at GFI would be happy to assist you.

<sup>1</sup> Guy Burgo, EHFC, <sup>2</sup> Adapted from an Anglican statement. Online wills education and preparation service is available (such as <https://www.legalzoom.com/wills-guide/importance-of-wills.html>)

**Sample codicils to include Grace Fellowship International**

**CHARITABLE DONATION**

As codicil and amendment to my will, dated \_\_\_\_\_, and witnessed by  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and  
\_\_\_\_\_, I, \_\_\_\_\_ declare the  
following:

I bequeath \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (or Alternative Gift) \_\_\_\_\_  
to the charitable organization known as Grace Fellowship International (Post Office Box 368,  
Pigeon Forge, TN. 37868). In the event that the above mentioned organization no longer  
exists at that time, my executor, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name), shall  
designate another charity as beneficiary to receive said gift.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Witness

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**LIFE INSURANCE BEQUEST**

As codicil and amendment to my will, dated \_\_\_\_\_, and witnessed by  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and  
\_\_\_\_\_, I, \_\_\_\_\_ declare the  
following:

My executor shall be directed to pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Grace Fellowship International  
(Post Office Box 368, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868) for my insurance policy number  
\_\_\_\_\_ as established with \_\_\_\_\_  
insurance company on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Witness

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Witness

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Witness

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**PERCENTAGE ALLOCATION OF ESTATE**

As codicil and amendment to my will, dated \_\_\_\_\_, and witnessed by \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, I, \_\_\_\_\_ declare the following:

My executor shall sell off all properties of my estate and allocate the cash proceeds to my beneficiaries as follows:

Grace Fellowship International Box 368, Pigeon Forge, TN \_\_\_\_\_%

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Address Percentage  
\_\_\_\_\_ %  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Address Percentage  
\_\_\_\_\_ %  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Address Percentage  
\_\_\_\_\_ %  
\_\_\_\_\_

These percentages shall be calculated after all debts and charges to the administration of my estate have been settled, including the payment of all appropriate taxes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date