

FOUNDATION

FORUM

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THE TERRI SCHIAVO CASE: *Getting Our Affairs in Order*

The Terri Schiavo case certainly attracted the media and focused America's attention on the fighting and heartache that can result when one's legal and personal affairs are not in order. In truth, the Schiavo case is only the tip of the iceberg of an epidemic of procrastination. Most studies show that between 60-80% of Americans die without even a will in place, much less having living wills and durable powers of attorney for health and financial affairs. Some avoid dealing with the inevitable because they don't want to make the decisions, but they just might be leaving anguishing choices to their families and the courts who have to guess what they would have wanted. It does not have to be like this!

If there is any good out of the Schiavo case, it might be that it alerts us all to question what we would want done and perhaps spurs us to action. There is lots of help available. In Tennessee, for example, hospitals have free living will forms available (they must be properly witnessed and executed). There are dozens of sites available on the internet and most local bar associations have useful information. The Foundation makes available *The Personal Information Record* booklet as a free tool to assist you in the process of "getting your affairs in order". The Foundation urges



families to talk about these issues (spouses, siblings, parents, and children). We also urge you to seek guidance from an attorney or other advisor and to execute the documents you need in order to be prepared. Over the past few years, the Foundation has worked with several churches on special programs and workshops to help people deal with these planning

issues. We have even had some churches provide copies of the state's living will for those wanting to witness and notarize the documents after the program. The attendees appreciated the opportunity!

PEACE OF MIND CHECKLIST

- ☐ Write a Will
- ☐ Examine Your Insurance Needs
 - ☐ Disability
 - ☐ Life
 - ☐ Long-Term Care
- ☐ Plan for Incapacity
 - ☐ A Durable Financial Power of Attorney
 - ☐ A Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare
 - ☐ A Living Will

THE WELLS IN LIBERIA

A Stewardship Story

Researchers have found that the word “love” appears in the Bible 714 times and the word “give” appears 2,172 times! We all understand the importance of love, but the act of giving obviously is also a major component of our journey as growing Christians. I am blessed to work with people who have found a way to mix a passion for loving others with the joy of giving.



Martin & Evelyn
Caldwell

A few months ago, I talked with one of our donors, Evelyn Caldwell, about the best way to use a grant from The Thomas Wilson Mission Fund Endowment. She established this fund in memory of her dad to honor him for the wonderful Christian home he provided for his children despite being a widowed father. Mr. Wilson set a high priority on supporting foreign missions, so Evelyn and her husband, Martin, established this fund in the 1980's to carry on his example of Christian stewardship.

In past years, distributions from the fund had been added to conference mission initiatives or sent to help other Global Board of Ministries initiatives. Evelyn listened politely as I shared a couple of options for the distribution. None of it “melted her butter.” She was a bit frustrated at the process and said, “doesn’t anybody just do something simple like dig wells?”

The donor had spoken. We started searching for a more hands-on and direct use for her gift. Within just a couple of days an email just happened to arrive from Mary Zigbuo, a missionary at the Ganta Mission Station in Liberia. Mary wrote about the hope and the hardships in Ganta in the aftermath of the Civil War and destruction in Liberia. Much of the simple infrastructure that had been in place before the strife had been destroyed. In Ganta, a village of around 30,000 people located about 128 miles from Monrovia, there is a great shortage of clean and safe drinking water. Many people came to the Ganta Mission Station for assistance, but only two hand pumps were available. Mary went on to describe the need for two wells to be hand-dug, protected by concrete pipes and sealed with new hand pumps. The new wells would be supervised by quarter chiefs and would be available for three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon for those coming to fetch safe drinking water. She added that it would cost \$4,500 to complete the project...the exact amount we had available in the fund!



DIGGING THE WELL

FOUNDATION FLASHES

- ♦ On January 10, Roger presented a program at First Cleveland United Methodist Church on the Foundation and the services we provide for churches to the Cleveland District Ministers. Thanks to District Superintendent, **Rev. Charles Lippse** for the invitation and to **Rev. Gordon Goodgame** for the hospitality.
- ♦ On January 16, Roger spoke at both services at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Johnson City. Special thanks to **Rev. Carol Wilson** and **Scottie & Mitzi Myers** for their warm hospitality. The church also offered an additional workshop the following week on Christian financial planning.
- ♦ On January 23, Roger delivered messages to two services at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Louisville, Tennessee. Thanks to **Rev. Mike Ogle** and wife, **Ida**, and to Foundation board member, **Charles Stewart** and wife, **Lori**, for this opportunity and a really fun lunch afterwards. The church has an endowment and scholarship fund already invested with the Foundation.
- ♦ On February 13, Roger delivered the guest sermon at two services at Keith Memorial United Methodist Church in Athens. After church a special presentation on investment options/endowment building was made to the trustees/finance committee. Special thanks to **Rev. Mike Hubble** (former Foundation board member) and to current board member **Carter Runyan**.
- ♦ On February 16, Roger provided a Wednesday evening program to First Farragut United Methodist Church on "*Getting One's Affairs in Order*". Special thanks to **Rev. Richard Edwards** for a great evening and wonderful meal..
- ♦ On February 22, Roger met with **Jerry Hodge**, who is leading up the Endowment Committee at First Maryville United Methodist Church about Foundation services and ideas to increase the effectiveness and impact future ministry at the church.
- ♦ On February 28, Roger was in Abingdon to assist **Clarence & Betty Dishman** with the closing of some real estate included in their Charitable Remainder Trust. This trust will benefit the Dishman's during their lifetime and ultimately benefit several ministries associated with the United Methodist Church.
- ♦ On March 17, Roger and Brenda had a wonderful visit with **Robert & Carolyn Hudson** at Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church. Bob was given a special "*thanks for your time*" award from the Foundation board for his years of dedicated service.
- ♦ On March 20, Roger provided a Sunday evening program for St. Paul United Methodist Church in Etowah, Tennessee. Thanks to **Rev. Charles McKinney** and wife, **Pricilla** for the invitation. St. Paul United Methodist Church is looking at using the Foundation to assist with the stewardship of a special youth endowment.
- ♦ On March 21, Roger arrived just in the nick of time to provide a workshop "*They Say You Can't Take It With You*" to 25 or so attendees during Jubilation. Everyone left with some thought provoking materials to read later, plus our PERSONAL INFORMATION RECORD booklet and other materials. Special thanks and congratulations to **Rev. Bob Bostick** for this rapidly growing and successful ministry geared for Holston Seniors.

♦ Future Programs:

April 6	Tennessee Wesleyan College
April 7	Buckner Memorial UMC in Madisonville
April 12	Webb's Creek UMC
April 17 & 20	Middlebrook Pike UMC

April 26	- Kingston UMC
April 27	- Asbury UMC in Greeneville
May 12	- Fancy Gap UMC
May 17	- Church Street UMC

ENDOWMENTS: OPPORTUNITIES TO CREATE A LASTING DIFFERENCE

The Holston Conference Foundation Endowment program continues to grow because more and more of our churches and individuals recognize the benefits of creating their own endowment funds. Some churches create the stewardship guidelines for targeted needs before any funds are in hand to attract designated and planned gifts from individuals in the future. Some individuals prefer to launch their own endowments to benefit a specific church program or ministry or to benefit several needs. Some individuals establish funds now so they can see them work, while others establish endowments through wills or charitable trusts.

Why do these people choose to create or add to endowment funds for the church? There are a number of reasons, of course. Here are five you may wish to consider:

1. Durability

The idea of creating a perpetual stream of financial support makes sense to people who see a similarity between retirement funds and endowment provisions. They like the concept of a fund that is guarded and invested separately from other assets so the principal of the fund will stay in tact. Only the income or a percentage of the value will be used to support the chosen ministry.

2. A Positive Legacy

When donors attach their names to an endowment fund or add funds to a church established endowment fund, they create an enduring legacy that will outlive them and influence succeeding generations. Other family members and friends will be reminded of the person's values and commitments. Endowment funds can also be used to honor the lives of others who have made a significant impact on the donor and/or the church.

3. Perpetuate Gifts

Many donors see an endowment fund as a means to underwrite their own regular giving. For example, an endowment fund of \$20,000 could create an annual gift of \$800 - \$1,000 forever. It's a great way to "leave your mark" and strengthen the church or a specific area of ministry.

4. A Firm Foundation

Endowments should be properly invested in a diversified long-term mix of socially responsible assets to provide maximum return and minimal risk. Written guidelines should be in place to provide appropriate stewardship. Annual payouts from endowment funds permit a church or ministry to plan more confidently for the future. A church or ministry with a strong endowment is simply more stable financially.

5. Personal Satisfaction

There is something wonderfully fulfilling about doing something good that lasts, something that really makes a difference. Other kinds of giving are important, but creating or adding to a fund that will benefit others for centuries is truly satisfying.

If you would like to learn more about creating or supporting an endowment, fill out and send in the form below.

CLIP AND MAIL

- ☐ Creating an endowment fund
- ☐ Personal estate planning
- ☐ Creating and properly investing permanent endowment funds at my church
- ☐ Scheduling a program or seminar at my church

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

HOLSTON CONFERENCE FOUNDATION

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HITTING WATER

At the last Annual Conference I shared the story of the wells, which were to be built. Now the wells have been completed and clean water is quenching thirsts in far off Africa, in the name of Jesus Christ, through the generosity of a grateful daughter around the world in Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee. While the whole project cost \$4,500, no one can really place a value on what it is worth!

There are more donor stories yet to be told and more giving opportunities to share. Call us if the Foundation can help with your stewardship journey.



I was thirsty, and you gave me drink.
MATTHEW 25:35



Each year **THE THOMAS C. WILSON FUND** will provide funds to help dig a well(s) and you can help. Your gift to the Holston Conference Foundation (and simply noted "*for wells*") will be added to the fund and used to help dig a well and provide clean, safe water to thirsty families around the world.

Become a well digger for Christ!



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Methodist Church Foundation, Inc.
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

EPHESIANS 2:10

GRANTS FOR SENIOR PROGRAMMING

DEADLINE – MAY 30TH

The Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church Foundation is calling for proposals from Holston Conference associated churches, agencies and programs that provide *educational, recreational and spiritual programming for the elderly*. Each calendar year the Foundation's MARGARET LOVING TRUST has funds available to fund special programs geared toward older adults. This year the Foundation has \$55,000 available. The Trusts' guidelines state that no part of the grant funds should be used for the maintenance, operation, or construction of physical facilities. We are open to your creative ideas and welcome challenge or matching fund opportunities. Typical requests run from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars.

Grants will be considered for single year activities or spread over a maximum of three years. Multi-year grants should demonstrate the ability of the program to eventually stand on its own through fees or other support. Past grants have helped start senior choirs, craft programs, senior libraries, widow/widower support groups, nursing home visits, health education and many interesting and useful services.

The Grants Committee requests that you submit a brief summary proposal of the project and budgeted need to the Foundation's Knoxville office. We have a preliminary grant application form available, but welcome request letters or applications in any format. Call Rita for the application or Roger with your questions. Any funds remaining after the Spring awards will be made available in the Fall.

Please contact us by mail or e-mail if we have your name or address wrong on the mailing label, or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list. If you would prefer to receive the *Foundation Forum* by e-mail, please let us know...we would be pleased to save the mailing costs.

HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOUNDATION, INC.

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