

3 Simple Questions to Protect Your Future

In a small town, the volunteer fire department's telephone was answered by the police station who would in turn sound the fire whistle to rally the volunteers to duty. One morning, the chief of police had just arrived when the fire department phone rang. He picked up the phone and said, "Fire Department." A voice on the other end of the line frantically said, "Send the fire truck!" and immediately hung up. Realizing that someone's house was possibly at stake, he devised a plan to keep the caller from hanging up so quickly if she called back. Sure enough the phone rang a second time. Picking up the phone he quickly asked, "Where's the fire?" The lady on the other end screamed, "In the kitchen," and slammed the phone down again. (Source: "A Patient Faith" by Nathan Johnson)



Sometimes even our best intentions can miss the mark if we don't have all of the facts. The same is true with Estate Planning. Many well-meaning individuals have left their family members with a heap of details to sort out after their death, either because of an out-of-date Will or none at all. So what can be done to ensure your Will is in tip-top shape? Begin by considering these three primary areas: family, finances and ministry.

- **Has your family situation changed?** Perhaps your family has recently grown, or a loved one has passed. Also consider the level of responsibility your children exhibit. Would they exercise wise stewardship? Maybe they're already financially sound and do not need the funds.
- **Has your financial situation changed?** Sometimes life milestones occur that cause your financial status to shift – this could include retirement or the selling of a business. Other factors that impact a shift are tax laws. Consider checking into how recent changes could affect your Estate Plan.
- **Does your current Estate Plan reflect what's most important to you?** Proper Estate Planning is a wonderful way to communicate a heritage of faith. Plus, a Will is an ideal opportunity to bless the ministries that are close to your heart – like Central Minnesota Christian School – while leaving a legacy for your family.

Proverbs 21:5a says "Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity..." You'll probably agree that making sure your Will is up-to-date falls into the category of "good planning." By asking the three questions above and taking special care to be sure your Will reflects what matters most, you will be well on your way to protecting the future of your family and the ministries you love.

The information in this bulletin is broadly educational in nature. Please consult your own advisors.

PLEASE CONSIDER INCLUDING CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN YOUR WILL

- I'd like to learn more about updating my Estate Plan.
- I have included Central Minnesota Christian School in my Will, Trust or Estate Plan.

Name _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ E-mail _____

Reply with enclosed envelope or call our friends at Barnabas Foundation toll-free (888) 448-3040.

Central Minnesota Christian School is a member of Barnabas Foundation. The Foundation's goal is to help caring Christians make tax-wise decisions and strengthen support for ministries close to their hearts.