

Partners IN PLANNING

Fall 2020

Planting, Harvesting, and Sharing:

Joe Timberlake's Kingdom Legacy

By Andrew Shaughnessy

It was 15 years ago when Joe Timberlake first heard MTW Director of Estate and Gift Planning Bruce Owens give a presentation on biblical stewardship and MTW's estate planning program. When Bruce asked him to consider going through the estate planning process, Joe thought that it wasn't necessary at first. After all, his will was current, as well as his wife's. But after some careful thought and prayer, he decided: "Why not? Perhaps I could learn something."

After completing the process, Joe and his late wife, Peggy, realized that they could make some important changes to support their church, global missions, a local urban

"As a faithful Christian, Joe values wise, biblical stewardship."

ministry, and several other projects, all while helping ensure that their needs were still taken care of.

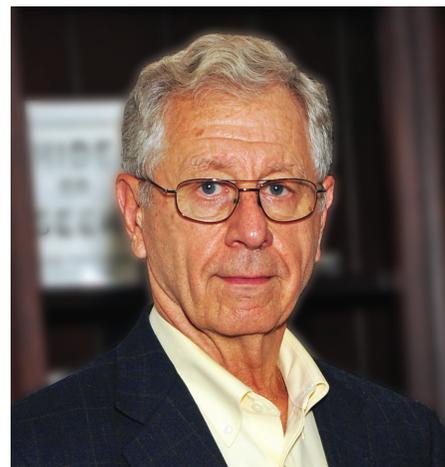
"My experience with Bruce and the MTW Center for Estate and Gift Planning was truly outstanding and an eye opener," Joe said. "We were able to update our

wills, increase our short- and long-term giving goals, and minimize taxes at the same time."

A Lifetime Love for Global Missions

As a veteran businessman—with 30 years of experience running a wholesale food business under his belt, plus more as a consultant, Joe values efficiency and the way estate planning tools can help minimize taxes and maximize giving.

As a faithful Christian, Joe values wise, biblical stewardship—being able to provide for his family and generously support his local church and beloved global missions projects.



The way Joe tells it, during his first two decades of marriage, he and Peggy were in a denomination with very little interest in global missions. Eventually they joined a PCA church, one that placed a far higher value on the Great Commission. During their very first year as members, the Timberlakes hosted a young missionary family that was raising support to

2020 Stewardship

Is It Time to Update Your Estate Plan?

There's no good way to sugarcoat it: these are trying times. Between the pandemic, political unrest, and economic fluctuations, more and more people are pondering their mortality, thinking about their legacy, and looking to update their estate planning documents. In fact, many financial publications are reporting a tremendous increase in estate planning legal services since March 15. This isn't fear at work; it's wisdom.



After all, stewardship in general, and estate design in particular, are ongoing processes.

Even in a typical year, the variables in all our lives are constantly changing. And whenever there is a significant change in your property, your plans, or the people included in your estate, it's time to review and update your estate plan.

Changes in Property

If you have acquired or transferred real estate specifically mentioned in your existing estate plan, or

if property you own has significantly changed in value, you may need to update your estate documents. Relevant changes include the purchase of additional life insurance, receiving an inheritance, or your retirement plan substantially changing in value. If your estate plan's details regarding your property are not up to date, then your financial house might not be in order.

Changes in Plans

As life and time roll ever onward, variables shift and your desires for the distribution of your estate can change. This could include a change in a business relationship; wanting to adjust the charities,

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missionaries, or churches to which your estate will contribute; or perhaps a child's or grandchild's needs have increased or decreased. The broader economic context constantly changes too, and up-to-date estate planning strategies can take advantage of the latest fluctuations in interest rates or relevant tax law.

Changes in People

It's a simple fact that the people in our lives, and our relationships to them, change. And when that happens, you may need to update your estate documents.

This could be a change in marital status for yourself or a family member, a child or grandchild being born or reaching legal age, or the death of a beneficiary. Ask yourself: Do you have the right people in places of responsibility? Have you arranged your affairs in a way that will minimize family conflict after you pass?

A Christian View of Estate Planning

To the secular world, estate planning concerns the creation, conservation, and use of resources in order to secure the maximum benefit for you and your family now, during disability or retirement, and at death. The Christian certainly considers these things, but also asks God what He wants them to do with what He's given them. A Christian view of estate planning means recognizing that God is the owner of all and that each of us is called to play a part in the advancement of His kingdom.

MTW's Center for Estate and Gift Planning has been helping people steward God's provision for over 25 years. Our desire is to serve people and help them find God's plan of stewardship for the distribution of their estate. To this end, we offer a no cost, no obligation, biblically-based estate design service tailored to your personal goals of providing for your loved ones and making a difference for the kingdom.

We Can Help You ...

- Leverage tax dollars into gifts for your church and ministries
- Care for your family through your estate plans
- Protect your estate plans from failure due to interpersonal family conflict
- Put biblical stewardship at the center of your estate plans

Whether you already have an estate design in place and simply want to review or update your plan, or if this is your first time and you would like learn more about MTW's estate design services, please feel free to call Beth Billingsley at 678-823-0028 or email her at beth.billingsley@mtw.org. *Design your legacy today.*



Because You Loved Us

By Dr. Lloyd Kim

When I was serving as an MTW missionary in Cambodia, a colleague of mine was reaching out to local factory workers. Every day, thousands of these workers would flood the streets after work. My colleague rented out a place right next to the factory and offered free English classes. On the first day, 20 young women showed up, eager to learn English. She was very excited; so excited, in fact, that she asked them: "How many of you would like to do a Bible study with me?" Not a single one raised their hand. They were there to learn English, not to study the Bible.

But my colleague persevered. She loved them and cared for them. If any had needs, she would give generously. If they needed a place to stay, she would invite them to stay with her. After a year of classes she asked them again: "How many of you would like to do a Bible study with me?" Every single one of them raised their hands.

"Why now?" she asked them.

And they said: "Because you loved us. You cared for us. Now we want to know the God that you serve."

In 1 Timothy 6, Paul charges the wealthy to set their hopes in God, not their bank accounts; and to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share with the needy.

When we put our hope in Christ, then we're free to live with purpose, to carry out and carry forward Jesus' mission. And doing good and being rich in good works is one way that the kingdom of God advances. How? The good works that we do demonstrate the good news of the kingdom of God. Simultaneously, the gospel that we preach and proclaim explains the generosity that we practice. In fact, generosity itself—this readiness to share and to give—is a sign of the kingdom.

While this blessing is not exclusively given to those who are wealthy, the wealthy have a unique opportunity to give generously to the work of the kingdom. Living and giving intentionally for the kingdom is what it means to truly live, to live the abundant life, and to carry out God's purpose for us. ■

Lloyd Kim



deploy to the mission field for the first time.

“That’s when we realized that we needed to do more with our giving and stewardship than just support our local church,” Joe explained.

“We got involved with the church’s missions program, which Peggy co-chaired for more than 10 years.”

As Peggy helped lead their church’s global missions efforts, Joe started working more and more with MTW. He served as a member of MTW’s board for six years, as treasurer for two years, and continues to serve as an advisor and Ambassador today.

“The more we became involved with MTW, the more we were able to give as a result of the estate planning we had done with Bruce,” said Joe. “We realized that supporting missions was the only way to reach the unreached peoples of the world with the gospel, strengthen existing ministry programs, and help new Christians grow in their faith.”

Tending His Garden

These days, you can often find Joe tending his garden at his home in Georgia.

“I enjoy a large garden, yes indeed,” he said. “I grow a lot of vegetables

Joe has approached life in much the same way as his garden—working hard, stewarding his resources, and generously giving of the fruit of his labor.

to give away ... I’m probably the most popular person in church on Wednesday nights!”

A top-notch, high yield garden like Joe’s requires hard work, patience, wise

stewardship of resources, and planning ahead. Gardeners know how to work hard and cultivate abundance, and Joe has approached life in much the same way as his garden—working hard, stewarding his resources, and generously giving of the fruit of his labor. Now, after a life of faithful stewardship, Joe has been able to pass on the love for the gospel and global missions that he and Peggy shared—a genuine kingdom legacy.

“This coming January, one of our granddaughters will go on the mission field short-term, following in her mother’s footsteps,” said Joe. “Perhaps our emphasis on missions had a small part in that as well. If MTW is to reach the goal of dramatically increasing the number of missionaries, we all need to encourage others to become missionaries and support them when they do.” ■

We trust you have found this issue of **Partners in Planning** to be helpful. We look forward to answering any questions you may have about the information shared here.

Please take time now to complete the response card to receive information on our estate design and gift planning services. We are here to help you in any way we can.

Please write or call our office to let us know how we can be of assistance.

For will and estate planning purposes, our legal name and address are:

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