

Writing a Will

Reprinted with permission from
the May 25, 1985 edition of
The Biblical Recorder.

Last night Robbie and I sat down in the study at home and agreed on the details of our last will and testament. We have a will now but it is getting dated and much of the world has changed about us since that document was drafted.

Later today I will meet with an attorney who will put our wishes into proper legal language.

At first blush it would seem that writing a will is a negative experience, but in reality it is the very opposite. Sure, most of us do not wish to talk about death and what could happen, the pain, the separation, and loss, but actually when you get serious about writing the will, my impression is that it is positive, never negative.

You assess what you have and that drives you to consider what you are, not just in terms of material possessions, but values, intentions, goals and ultimate commitments. For a believer in Jesus Christ, life does not consist of things possessed, but life must be measured in terms of what can be done with what we have. The key word is stewardship, not just while we are living, but after we are gone, until the end of the age.

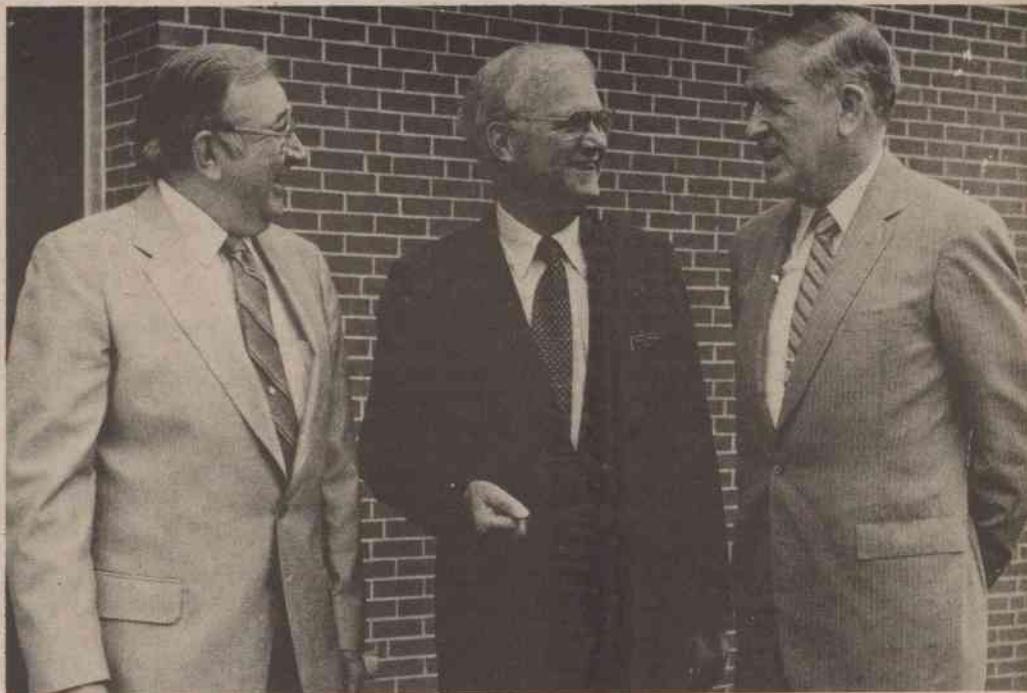
Thinking through the details of a will forces an acknowledgement of persons and things that are loved most, that are most precious now and hence, to be undergirded and extended in years to come. Some priorities are easy to set: spouse, children, parents who are living, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces. But beyond close blood ties there are persons and entities/institutions to be considered.

There are special friends to be remembered. Perhaps there are young people whom we want to help with their education. For devoted Baptist, there are churches, institutions of learning and ministry which must be remembered. These have blessed us and we need to do our part in providing for a continued ministry to others.

Writing a will means we can be certain about the way things are handled after we leave this earth, that our wishes are carried out. Simultaneously, we spare our loved ones of the difficult decisions about how and what to do for the best interest of all. It is an act of kindness to relieve those we love of such painful details and decisions.

If you haven't written a will, or if your will is outdated, contact the Baptist Foundation for assistance. They will understand your wishes to undergird Baptist work and they have expert legal counsel to help you avoid complications with the laws of the state.

Don't put off writing a will. You are delaying a blessing.—RGP



North Carolina Baptist Leaders

Three North Carolina Baptist leaders, from left, John Bunn, president of the Baptist State Convention's General Board; Bruce Whitaker, president; and Norman Wiggins, president of Campbell University and the

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; enjoyed their conversation during a break in the May meeting of the General Board at Chowan.



General Board members of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina from across the state met on campus in May. Here they listen to a message in Marks Hall auditorium. Members were generous in their praise of the college campus, facilities and services. General Board president John Bunn of Sylva expressed appreciation to the President and Mrs. Bruce Whitaker "for the most cordial welcome to the Chowan College campus" and thanked other staff members for their help. Chaplain, Hargus Taylor, was praised for the thorough way he prepared for the meeting and needs of the General Board members as campus coordinator.

Alumnus bequeaths \$10,000 to Chowan

Alumna Elizabeth S. Fleming of Raleigh, Class of 1911, has provided Chowan College with a gift of \$10,000 from her will. She died on July 15, 1984. She was the widow of James Albert Fleming.

At Chowan, her major interests were voice and piano. She participated in concerts and was active in church music. She also played basketball. Mrs. Fleming received a diploma in voice and was one of 12 in her graduating class.

Dedicated Alumna

Dr. Whitaker said, "Mrs. Fleming was a dedicated, loyal alumna

who supported the college in a number of ways over the years to include financial and boosting Chowan in her community."

He continued, "Mrs. Fleming loved this college and fondly remembered and appreciated her experiences as a student. Through her gift she has provided assistance to students of today as well as those who will come tomorrow."

Part of Endowment

Whitaker explained that the bequest will become part of the college's endowment. "As such the income will be used to undergird the

continuing work and service of the college in perpetuity."

Noted President Whitaker, "She was grateful for the Christian educational opportunity she experienced at Chowan College. Through her gift to her alma mater she now helps to provide such opportunities for Christian higher education for future generations of young men and women."

He added, "Her gift in support of general endowment is of the utmost importance in helping Chowan continue its Christian service as one of the nation's finest private, two-year colleges."