

Planned Giving: How to Help Baxter Institute While Helping Yourself

Thank you for your interest in Baxter Institute and its mission to train God's people to take the Gospel to Latin America. There are few organizations whose mission is any more critical to the future of the church in the Spanish speaking world than Baxter.

Many Christians have a strong desire to help Baxter Institute maintain and strengthen its mission, but do not have the resources or the understanding of how to deploy those resources in a way that is most effective for Baxter and for themselves and their families. Too often it is thought that giving to organizations like Baxter is an **'either/or'** proposition—you can either (a) give your resources to Baxter, or (b) you can use it during your lifetime or give it to your children, but not both. Fortunately, past Congresses have seen fit to create a number of beneficial techniques that allow you to **'both'** fulfill your charitable inclinations **'and'** fulfill your stewardship responsibilities to yourself and your family.

Those tax-advantaged techniques are often called Planned Giving or Charitable Estate Planning. Here is how we define Planned Giving: *"The art of making a gift that helps both the charity and the donor after carefully weighing and accommodating the donor's resources, needs, and wishes."* The key concept is that the donor comes first and charity second.

If you would like to be able to benefit yourself and Baxter, read on.

Among the primary benefits of these charitable giving techniques are the following:

- Most provide a substantial contribution deduction, **saving current income taxes**.
- Many provide **enhanced fixed or variable income** for life or a term of years (much of it tax-free).
- Some can provide **income for your heirs**.
- **Asset protection** from future creditors.
- Reduction of your **taxable estate**.
- **Residences** can be used for your lifetime, while taking a current income tax deduction. A better option than the hyped Reverse Mortgage.
- All **capital gains taxes** can be avoided on disposition of highly appreciated stocks, real estate, businesses, and other assets.
- Assets can be **managed professionally**, thus relieving you of that burden.
- **Provide first for you** and your family, and secondarily for Baxter—there will be no pressure to do otherwise.
- Can be **coordinated professionally** with your other estate planning objectives.
- A permanent **legacy** in your name that will provide perpetual support for the values you believe in and have supported during life.
- Ultimately a **win-win proposition** for everyone except the IRS!

Planned giving techniques work for almost anyone in a broad range of circumstances, but some of the people for whom the techniques are most helpful are: (i) people who are about to liquidate a highly appreciated stock position or real estate asset, (ii) an entrepreneur looking to divest ownership in a company he or she created, (iii) a real estate investor looking for

management relief, (iv) a person on the nearing or in retirement, (v) a person who likes to minimize taxes, (v) a person who is asset rich and cash poor, or (vi) a generous-hearted person who cannot afford to part with certain assets.

A well-planned gift will be done in a way that primarily fulfills the donor's desires and needs and secondarily benefits the charity. The donor and donor's needs are the first priority to the professionals who assist Baxter Institute as we seek to offer security, peace of mind, professional advice, and ethical treatment—returning good for good to the Baxter benefactors.

Baxter is committed to preparing as many men and women as possible to reach the lost in Central and South America and other Spanish-speaking countries. The fields are ripe unto harvest, but the workers are few. Friends of Baxter are encouraged to think seriously about how they might remember Baxter in their estate, financial, and tax planning.

Please contact Baxter President Steve Teel and let us know if you would like more information or to talk to someone about these tax-advantaged techniques, if you would like a private visit with a professional advisor, or if Baxter can otherwise be helpful to you in your planning.

--- *Mike E. O'Neal, JD, CPA*
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