

THE STEWPOT

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Faithful Laura

Estate Planning that Moves Mission Forward

By Tony Reyes

Laura's journey into estate planning began at a pivotal time in her life when she attended a church meeting where they introduced the Total Member Involvement (TMI) initiative. This global movement called for every church member to actively engage in spreading the gospel, emphasizing that every believer has a role in fulfilling the Great Commission. Laura, deeply moved by this call to action, began to reflect on how she could ensure her commitment to spreading the gospel would continue even after her lifetime.



Several questions began to pop up in her head. What will happen to my loved ones when I'm no longer here? How can I ensure that my assets are distributed according to my wishes? What legacy will I leave behind for my children and grandchildren? How can I continue to support my church and charitable causes after I'm gone? These were the questions that began to weigh heavily on Laura's mind.

In the quaint town of Willow Creek, Laura was known for her unwavering faith, generosity, and her deep commitment to the Great Commission. As a pillar of the community, she was always ready to lend a helping hand or offer sage advice. She firmly believed in the biblical principles of stewardship, and

**STEWARDSHIP IS REVOLUTIONARY GENEROSITY. IT INVOLVES THE 7 T'S:
TIME, TEMPLE, TALENT, TREASURE, TRUST IN GOD, THEOLOGY, AND TESTIMONY.**

these beliefs guided every aspect of her life, including how she managed her resources.

Laura's reflection deepened when she attended a sermon at her local church about the importance of biblical stewardship. The pastor emphasized that everything we possess is entrusted to us by God and that it is our responsibility to manage these blessings wisely and use them to spread the gospel. Laura was particularly struck by Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it," the parable of the talents from Matthew 25:14-30, and the Great Commission from Matthew 28:19-20, which illustrated the importance of using one's resources for the greater good and to make disciples of all nations.

Inspired, Laura decided to take a closer look at her own life and legacy. She realized that estate planning was not just about

distributing her assets after death but about leaving a legacy that reflected her faith and values and furthered the mission of spreading the gospel. She wanted to ensure that her family was provided for, her values were upheld,

and her community and church continued to benefit from his generosity even after she was gone.

Laura began by creating a Last Will and Testament. She specified how her assets would be distributed, naming her eldest son, David, as the executor. She also designated guardians for her minor children, ensuring that they would be cared for by trusted family members who shared her values.

Understanding the importance of avoiding probate, Laura also established a Living Trust. This allowed her to manage her assets during her lifetime and ensured a smooth transition of her estate after the Lord called her to rest. She appointed a trusted friend as the trustee, outlining clear instructions on how and when her assets should be distributed to her beneficiaries.

Laura knew that life was unpredictable, so she created a Durable Power of Attorney, authorizing her daughter, Mary, to make financial decisions on her behalf if she ever became incapacitated. She also prepared a Healthcare Power of Attorney, designating her husband, John, to make medical decisions for her if she was unable to do so. Additionally, she completed a Living Will, specifying her preferences for life-sustaining



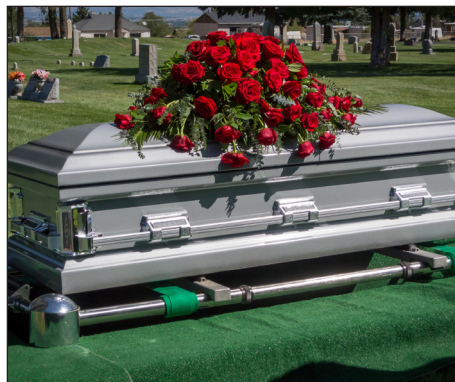
treatments and resuscitation, ensuring her family would not have to make difficult decisions without knowing her wishes.

To provide further clarity, Laura updated her Beneficiary Designations for her life insurance policies and retirement accounts, ensuring they reflected her current wishes. She also wrote a heartfelt Letter of Intent, sharing her funeral arrangements and personal messages for her loved ones. This letter provided comfort and guidance, ensuring her family knew how much she loved them and what she envisioned for her legacy.



One of Laura's deepest concerns was the future of her minor children. She formalized Guardianship Designations in her will, selecting her brother and sister-in-law, who were deeply rooted in faith, to raise the children if necessary. She also signed a HIPAA Authorization, allowing her family to access her medical records and information, ensuring they could make informed decisions about her care.

Laura meticulously compiled a Financial Inventory, listing all her assets, including bank accounts, investments, real estate holdings, insurance policies, and debts. This comprehensive list was a valuable tool for her executor and beneficiaries, providing a clear picture of his financial situation.



Understanding the importance of a peaceful transition, Laura included detailed Funeral and Burial Instructions in her estate plan. She expressed her wish for a simple service that celebrated her life and faith and specified

that she wanted to be buried next to her husband in the town's cemetery.

Finally, Laura addressed the management of her digital life with a Digital Assets Plan. She listed her online/social media accounts, provided login information, and designated Mary to manage her digital assets, ensuring her online presence would be handled with care.



But Laura didn't stop there. Her passion for the Great Commission and the love for her church drove her to ensure that a portion of her estate would continue to move the mission forward. She allocated funds in her trust specifically for missions and charitable organizations dedicated to evangelism and discipleship. Laura also set up an endowment to support her



church's outreach programs, ensuring that her resources would continue to make a difference in the world, bringing others to Christ long after she was gone.

As Laura completed her estate plan, she felt a deep sense of peace. She had taken the necessary steps to honor God with the resources entrusted to her, provide for her loved ones, and leave a lasting legacy that reflected her faith and passion for the Great Commission. She shared her plans with her family, ensuring they understood her wishes and felt prepared for the future.

Years later, when Laura peacefully passed away, her family was grateful for the foresight and care she had shown. Her estate plan not only provided financial security but also offered clear guidance during a difficult time.

Her legacy of faith, wisdom, and love continued to inspire and bless her family, community, and countless others around the world through her support of the Great Commission.

For more information on the different Estate Documents and what they accomplish, go to willplan.us/documents. The SDA Church will cover the cost of creating these documents if you have charitable intentions.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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