

## HELPING OUR CLIENTS CREATE THEIR OWN UNIQUE LEGACY

# JAMES AND JERILYN SMITH

### WHERE WE CAME FROM

**W**e met during the semester we were students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. However, after that semester, James transferred to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Jerilyn left to go as a US-2 missionary to Akron, Ohio. By the end of Jerilyn's US-2 term, we were engaged and married December 1982. After James completed seminary, he was called as pastor of Riva Lake Baptist Church in Winchester, TN where he served from 1984-1987. We were appointed as International Mission Board missionaries in 1987, and spent a year in language school in Costa Rica before serving as church planting missionaries in Loja, Ecuador until 1998. We returned to the US because James felt called to be a Director of Missions. He served in that role for two years in Macon, GA and for eleven years in Clarksburg, WV. Directional changes at North American Mission Board eliminated most of the funding for his position, so he accepted the role as Church Planting Catalyst with the WV Convention of Southern Baptists for two years. However, his heart was still in serving as Director of Missions, so he sent out resumes and in God's perfect timing was invited to serve with the Tallapoosa Baptist Association, where we have served since July 2014.

### PLANNING FOR OUR FAMILY THROUGH LEGACY CONVERSATIONS

We had prepared a will through a lawyer before we went overseas as missionaries. However, we did not update that for many years, and when we finally did update it, we used a computer program and did it on our own because of finances. However, we never had complete confidence that it would stand up in court if challenged. When we heard about the offer of free estate planning through the Baptist Foundation we jumped at the opportunity. It was a wonderful experience for us! We scheduled a phone interview with a representative of PhilanthroCorp so he could gather our information and ask our goals and desires for our estate. He then sent us everything in writing for us to review and make any desired changes or corrections. We talked with him again by phone to fine-tune our plans, and then he connected us with a Christian attorney who drew up all our documents according to those plans. There was no pressure on how we should leave our estate or feeling of judgment based on the size of our estate. Everyone was very supportive and dedicated to fulfilling our desire to leave an inheritance for each of our children and grandchildren, but also to give to Christian ministries that are dear to us, to help extend God's Kingdom. What we appreciated most was they were able to show us how to plan the estate so that our heirs would pay less in taxes and the ministries would receive the greatest possible benefit. There is a wonderful peace of mind that comes from knowing that we have made provisions for a lasting legacy after we are gone.



James  
and  
Jerilyn  
Smith

Director of  
Missions

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*As Director of Missions, James has invited representatives of the Baptist Foundation to both our weekly Ministers' Conference and to the Annual Meeting of our association, so that they could share information about this opportunity. He has encouraged our folks to use this great service.*

*We are grateful to our state Baptist Foundation and PhilanthroCorp for helping us achieve our desire of leaving a lasting legacy of God's faithfulness and goodness."*



Tallapoosa  
Baptist Association



Tallapoosa Baptist Association