

HELPING OUR CLIENTS CREATE THEIR OWN UNIQUE LEGACY

WALTER & SUZANNE BLACKMAN

WHERE WE CAME FROM

In 1978, Suzanne was a student at the University of Alabama taking summer classes at Jacksonville State University for her degree in Education. I was stationed at Ft. McClellen, just outside her hometown of Weaver, Alabama. We were both members of FBC Weaver and got to know each other when we played volleyball together for the church league. For me, it was love at first sight, but for her, the Lord eventually made it known to her I was the one she was to marry. In May 1980, we were married at FBC Weaver.

Suzanne was raised in a Baptist church, and went forward during a service, but the pastor only had her fill out a card and she was baptized. It wasn't until she was in High School, listening to evangelist Junior Hill, that she realized she was lost, and needed to be saved. She gave her heart to Christ, later joined FBC Weaver, and began to grow spiritually. I was also raised in a Baptist church. My mother read Bible stories to me every night, and one night, when I was seven, I realized I was lost. With some instruction from my mom, I invited Jesus to be the Lord and Savior of my life. I was active in church, but my parents divorced, and my church split over the pastor, and I dropped out of church. While in Army Basic Training, the Lord spoke to me, and in a chapel service, I went forward and reaffirmed the Lordship of Christ in my life. While at my first duty station at Hunter Army Airfield, the Lord called me to ministry.

God was working a plan in both of our lives to prepare us for the time He brought us together. We finished our degrees at the University of Alabama and headed to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where I received my Master of Divinity. I was called to serve a church in Natchez, Mississippi as pastor for four years. Next, I was called to FBC Marion, Mississippi where I served nearly 10 years. Finally, I was called to East Highland Baptist Church where I have been serving the past 17 plus years as their senior pastor. My wife and I have served together as partners in ministry, raised four children, and now have two wonderful granddaughters.



BEFORE PHILANTHROCORP ESTATE PLANNING

Years ago, Suzanne and I executed a simple will. However, the will became outdated and did not reflect our entire desire to give to the Lord. We wanted to give both to our children and to God's work, and in the simple will, left ten percent of our estate to the church. But we knew we could do more, and yet as busy as we were, we never took time to follow through on it.

THE PROCESS OF WORKING WITH PHILANTHROCORP

Bill McCrary with The Baptist Foundation of Alabama stopped by my study at church. After a brief conversation, I asked if we could put a plan in place to give our estate away twice---to have monies paid to the children for a time, and then later to the Baptist entities of our choice. He explained what we could do and put us in touch with Philanthrocorp. We worked on goals, and listened to advice. We realized that while in life, we did not have much. At death, we could leave more than we thought to our children over their lifetime; and in time, with perhaps nearly double the original amount given, we may give more than we could have ever hoped for to those Baptist entities. When we were ready, the process was turned over to an attorney who prepared the will according to our wishes. Every conversation, and every part of the process was helpful and delightful. There was no attempt to talk us into anything we did not want, but to find the way to express our desire to give generously to the Lord's work and still provide for our children. This process helped Suzanne and me to become focused on our goals as believers to give to the Lord generously as we have done in life. It also was a great time for us to sit our children down and talk with them about what we were doing with our estate should we die. It further communicated to them our testimony of our faith in the Lord and the importance of His work.



Walter
and
Suzanne
Blackman

Pastor
East Highland
Baptist Church

"If someone truly wants to give the Lord all they can, for as long as they can, and still provide for their children, this is the process to be involved in. Philanthrocorp exceeded my expectations in every way to help Suzanne and I achieve a much needed goal--to fund God's work and let our lives speak about our faith long after we are gone. I am grateful to The Baptist Foundation of Alabama, Philanthrocorp, and Robert Burton, who was our attorney, for the outstanding job they did for us and for the peace of mind to know that when we go--our giving to the Lord and to our children continues on."



East Highland Baptist Church