

2016 Annual Report



... His Power at Work in the Church
Throughout All Generations!

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“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or

Imagine, according to
His Power, that is
at Work within us, to him be glory
in the Church and in Christ Jesus
Throughout
All Generations,
for ever and ever!”

Ephesians 3:20-21



Imagine

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26



I *Imagine*, the theme of this year's annual report, can be a powerful word. Since the beginning of time, man's *imagination* has led to many great inventions such as the wheel, printing press, telephone, automobile, airplane and Internet. Being created in the image of God, we have been given the capacity to "*imagine*" and be creative.

Imagine with me the tremendous difference committed Alabama Baptists could make if we all viewed estate planning through the lens of

Biblical stewardship. The average American's net worth is made up of 9% cash and 91% non-cash assets (our home, cars, farm, retirement account, insurance, etc.) Scripture such as Psalm 24:1 and others clearly tell us God owns everything and we are to be his stewards, or managers. And yet, studies reflect that 96% of every gift to the evangelical Christian church comes from cash assets, leaving only 4% coming from non-cash assets. This statistic clearly reveals most committed believers have never considered estate planning as managing God's resources. For a clear explanation of this idea please see the following video at <https://vimeo.com/214056204>.

Beginning in 2006, our staff began to *imagine* how we could equip Alabama Baptist churches to serve their members by offering an efficient professional service that would help them review and complete a Christian minded

MISSION

To give Christians an easy way to create generous Kingdom gifts for their favorite ministries and administer those well until Jesus returns.

CORE PRINCIPLES

- To have an academically sound institutional investment management process equal to anyone in the secular world providing similar services.
- To be as technologically sound as anyone in the secular world, of similar size, providing similar services.
- Focus on ministry and development.

estate plan. In recent years, Alabama Baptists have consistently given over \$550 million in undesignated gifts to their local church. If we are average, 96% of these gifts came from only 9% of our net worth. We have consistently *imagined* a time when more and more Alabama Baptist churches and their members are served with holistic estate planning viewed through the lens of Biblical stewardship. We can *imagine* a time when many churches routinely educate their members to consider this significant financial stewardship opportunity. In the last five years we have had approximately 500 couples in Alabama take advantage of the estate planning service made available through their local church and The Baptist Foundation of Alabama. These faithful stewards have put plans in place reflecting significant future contributions to Kingdom work through their church and other ministries around the world. In addition, they have prayerfully provided for their families and addressed sometimes complicated family issues in a meaningful manner.

We can *imagine* the time when Alabama Baptists, through legacy planning, can literally change the world. If you are interested in learning more about this world impacting Kingdom stewardship opportunity, please contact us and allow us to "*imagine*" with you the impact you and your church can have through legacy planning.

It is a great privilege to continue the long history of serving Alabama Baptists through the ministries of the Foundation.

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Imagine

a day when every Alabama Baptist ministry is fully funded to achieve its Great Commission assignment.



In March 2005, Miss Stella Leigh White stepped into Heaven after a life of serving her Lord. A longtime member of Clayton Baptist Church in Clayton, Alabama, Miss Stella left a significant Christian legacy that continues to live on today in a number of powerful ways.

Miss Stella spent her childhood in Mount Andrew, Alabama. Her father, a rural general physician, delivered many babies in the area. It is believed that his fee for baby delivery was \$10 or 40 acres of land. More often than not he was paid in land. At his death, he had amassed meaningful real estate holdings which he passed along to his only child, Miss Stella. She used the income from this land to

provide significant financial fuel to grow God's Kingdom, both while she was alive and after her earthly life ended.

Miss Stella lived a simple life, maintaining a modest home and lifestyle. She was a school teacher who never married or had children, but teaching and reaching children for Christ was her passion. During her life, she gave of her time to lead children in Mission Friends, where she taught them about missionaries across the world, for over 25 years. During this time, she touched generations of children for Christ, influencing several of her students to enter the ministry and laying the foundation for a strong Christian walk in countless others.

But she offered more than just her time; she gave her money to not only single handedly pay for the construction of a children's building at her church, but also to fill it with the books and resources needed to teach children how to live out the Great Commission. And at her death, she chose to leave perhaps her most significant Christian Legacy—a fund with The Baptist Foundation of Alabama to benefit the International Mission Board (IMB). Since the creation of this fund in 2005, the Stella Leigh White Endowment Fund has generated over \$1.2 million for the IMB to

use in sending missionaries to virtually every nation on the globe. Her generous gift at the end of her life provides substantial funding to spread the Gospel of Jesus around the world. On this side of Heaven, we may never know the impact of Miss Stella's generosity in reaching the lost. Truly, Stella Leigh White has left a Christian legacy that will live long beyond her earthly life.

The Legacy of Stella Leigh White

imb INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD



"We are greatly humbled by Miss White's commitment to reach all peoples with the gospel by stewarding all God entrusted her. Her generosity will continue to touch the lives of billions as IMB missionaries step into some of the darkest reaches of the earth with the gospel."

Chris Kennedy
Director of Development, IMB

"All who went to Clayton Baptist Church thought fondly of Ms. Stella Leigh, as I did. She sacrificed and gave herself to missions because it was part of her heart and part of who she was. She was a vital leader in our church and a remarkable lady."

Tommy Gaither
TBFA Board Director



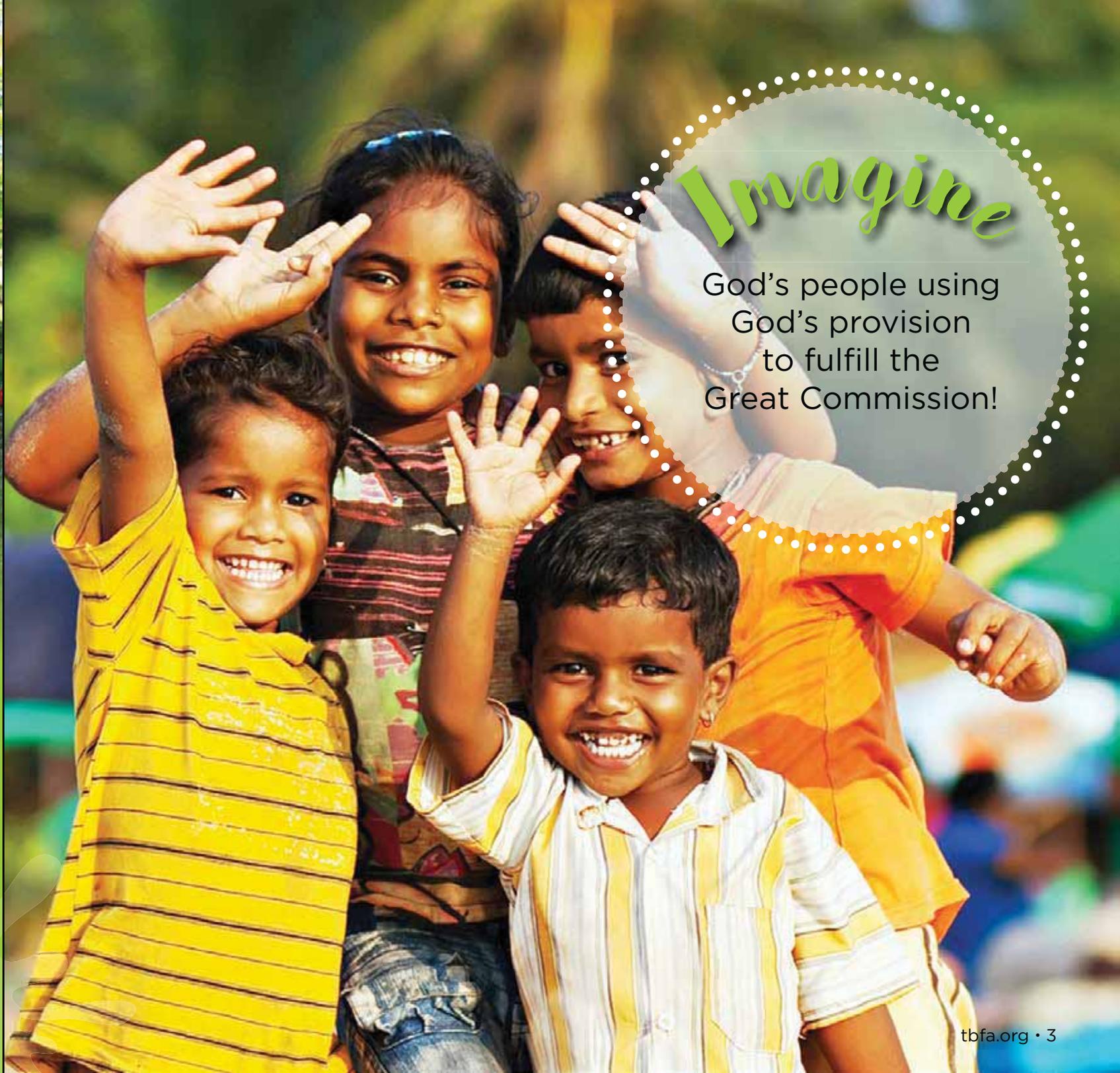
"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to **His power** that is **at work** within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!" Ephesians 3:20-21

His Power at Work



"Having been to India several times, I have seen firsthand the impact that international mission projects can have on largely unreached people groups. Generous gifts left by Alabama Baptists like Stella Leigh White are making a difference for Christ in lives across the world. All of us at The Baptist Foundation of Alabama are humbled and grateful to play a role in these missions efforts."

John E. Ashworth
Chief Administrative
Officer



Imagine

God's people using
God's provision
to fulfill the
Great Commission!

Imagine

a day when every Alabama Baptist church has a vibrant Legacy Ministry.



The word **LEGACY** conjures a picture of transferring treasures to the people we love. Your legacy consists of your finances, relationships, possessions, reputation and most importantly-- your faith in Christ. Jesus makes it crystal clear that we are managers of the gifts God temporarily entrusts to us. We all possess a Kingdom assignment which includes the sacred responsibility of wisely managing our talent, time and treasure. Jesus explained that one day we will all pass through the doorway of death and enter His radiant presence. I have no higher aspiration than to hear my Lord say: *'Well done good and faithful servant. You got it right. You used your earthly resources to make an eternal difference. Now, enter the joy of your Master.'*

Imagine how God would be honored and His Kingdom advanced if Christ-followers consistently included in their **LEGACY** planning a tithe of their financial estates. Sadly, only 40% of Americans create a Will. Even more tragic is the fact that only 2% of those people make any type of Kingdom provision in their estate plan. There is a better way!

Contact *The Baptist Foundation of Alabama* and take the steps to create your Kingdom-advancing estate plan. Then become an advocate for Christ-centered estate planning within your church family. Ask God to help you serve as a catalyst within your sphere of influence that would help make Kingdom-oriented estate planning the standard practice for your teammates.

Instead of cursing the darkness, let's lift up a bright new **LEGACY** light. Start by using the simple tools from *The Baptist Foundation of Alabama* to create your plan and help others do the same. Decide now to join me in constructing a Christ-honoring **LEGACY** that will make an eternal difference as you translate your earthly resources into Kingdom blessings!"

Dr. Jay Wolf, Senior Pastor, FBC Montgomery



"Now, our estate will live on not only in the lives of our children and grandchildren, but through the ministries which we have designated as the beneficiaries of the 'Kingdom' portion of our estate.

We are hopeful that Laine and Graham will follow our example and choose to make an impact for the Kingdom when it is time to plan their estates."

David and Angie Martin



"There is a great amount of comfort that comes with planning. Not only does it allow you to check an important task off the list, but it also allows you to count your blessings and name them one by one. We were literally able to list God's past, present, and future presence and provision in our life. God has blessed us tremendously.

We are so grateful to The Baptist Foundation of Alabama and PhilanthroCorp for helping us to be faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us, not only now, but even when we have stepped into Heaven."

Walter and Cathy Norris



"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to him be glory **in the Church** and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!" Ephesians 3:20-21

In the Church



"Today, dozens of churches around Alabama are partnering with The Baptist Foundation of Alabama to help church members unlock the legacy God has placed in their hearts. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve these congregations and for the Kingdom impact the Lord continues to create. We look forward to helping many more churches engage in Christian generosity through Legacy Ministry in the future."

J. Rodney Bledsoe
Chief Development Officer

Imagine

all Alabama Baptists creating estate plans that honor their families and their faith!

Imagine

a day when scholarship money is available to assist any Alabama Baptist student called to serve in ministry.



Samford University is a premier nationally ranked private university deeply rooted in its Christian mission. Founded in 1841 by Alabama Baptists who understood the importance of higher education built around faith and values, Samford is the 87th-oldest institution of higher learning in the United States.

For 175 years, Samford has been transformed through the leadership and generosity of Alabama Baptists across the state. Because about 90 percent of Samford's students receive some form of financial assistance, this financial support is vitally important.

Today, Samford enrolls 5,471 students from 47 states and 29 countries. Samford continues to increase its influence globally by graduating students capable of addressing the profound challenges facing today's society.

In 2017, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Samford #4 among regional universities in the South and #3 for a strong commitment to teaching. *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* ranked Samford #40 in its 2017 ranking of the best value private universities. Samford is ranked #87 nationally and #1 in Alabama by *The Economist* and is the top-ranked university in Alabama in a national ranking conducted by *The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education*.



Grace Pike
Senior Religion Major and Preministerial Scholar
Vestavia Hills, Alabama

"When I first visited Samford University as a prospective student, I knew that it was where I wanted to go to college. As big as my dreams to attend such a fine institution were, my family and I knew it would be impossible without financial aid. Only through receiving the Ira Skelton Memorial Scholarship and others like it have I been able to come to Samford, where the opportunity to thrive spiritually, socially, and intellectually is given to me daily. As I continue pursuing my education, I am constantly filled with gratitude that every amount of scholarship I receive is not only helping me fulfill my present dream, but is also an invaluable investment in my career and future."

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus **throughout** all generations, for ever and ever!" Ephesians 3:20-21



"The Baptist Foundation scholarships have helped to provide a way for me to further my education as well as to grow as a person in vital aspects of life. As a nursing major, I am preparing to serve others physically as well as to serve them through my relationship with The Lord. Seeing the impact which I am given the opportunity to have on others' lives is a huge catalyst in my motivation to continue my studies each day. The Foundation scholarships have helped to provide this possibility and I am excited to see where the Lord takes me from here. Being called to serve those in third world countries through medical missions, I am forever grateful for the avenues the foundation has provided, allowing me to take each step towards the call that Christ has placed on my life. It is an honor to share with others the impact that the Baptist Foundation scholarships have had on my life, after seeing how they also provided meaningful opportunities for my dad while he attended Samford."

Raegan Camp
Senior Nursing Major
Trussville, Alabama



"As a pastor of a cooperating church of the Alabama State Board of Missions I see the continual struggle of being faithful stewards of the monies God's people and churches give to ALSBOM and the Cooperative Program. There are often more ministries needing funding than there are dollars to go around. Because of the investment by The Baptist Foundation of Alabama in my life as a Samford student, I am able to lead the church I serve to give faithfully so others can benefit from these scholarship funds. One of those is my daughter Raegan. The funds provided to our family by TBFA aid Raegan in obtaining a nursing degree to fulfill the calling of ministering to those in need, particularly children dealing with cancer. Through the faithful giving of others two generations from my family have benefitted from TBFA, and our hearts are eternally grateful for the ministry this entity has given to us."

Ric Camp
1984 Samford Graduate
Pastor, Ridgecrest Baptist Church Trussville, Alabama

Throughout



Imagine

students
in your church
benefiting
from receiving a
college scholarship!



“Samford University cherishes the relationship it has had with Alabama Baptists for 175 years. The generosity of Alabama Baptists has made it possible for generations of students to receive a Samford education that is strongly rooted in our Christian mission. And, we are proud to work with The Baptist Foundation of Alabama to ensure that future generations will have that same opportunity so they can serve churches and communities in our state and around the world.”

Andrew Westmoreland
President

Imagine

a day when all Alabama Baptist churches invest in ways that match their Christian principles.



In recent years Gilliam Springs Baptist Church has recommitted itself to the Great Commission. In connecting with our local community, we determined God wanted us to make efforts to reach segments of our society that no one else was attempting to impact. This has led to our beginning a tutoring ministry which helps kids that often fall through the cracks. It has also led the church to support enthusiastically a new feeding ministry where once a week we offer a hot meal free to anyone that feels they need some help.



In a somewhat similar ministry, our church also partners with one of our local schools in packing and sharing 120 'backpack blessings' containing food to help them over the weekend. Gilliam Springs also now undertakes a variety of more traditional out-

reach events including Springfest in April and our Fall Festival in October. In December, we produce 'Jingle Jam' and invite the community to celebrate Christmas with us in new, exciting, and family friendly ways. Our Upward ministry has been very successful for eight years, which has led the church to construct a Recreation Outreach Center to help expand our offerings to the community. We anticipate the future dividends from our investments with The Baptist Foundation of Alabama to help us pay for this physical investment in our Jerusalem.

On the national level, Gilliam Springs is currently supporting church plants in Wyoming and New York City. We also support mission work in Nashville, Tennessee and Clarkston, Georgia. Internationally, Gilliam has planted a church in Sao Simao, Brazil, and we currently work in Africa, specifically Uganda and Botswana.

The Lord recently allowed us to purchase property near Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe for the purpose of planting a new church and developing a mission center which will expand ministry outreach for hundreds of villages. Gilliam is also beginning work in Vienna, Austria with a church plant reaching Muslims from a variety of countries.

The Baptist Foundation has been a tremendous blessing in helping us with biblically screened investments which will grow our assets toward future Kingdom work all over the world.

The Baptist Foundation has become an invaluable partner in helping Gilliam Springs Baptist Church both think about and plan for our future work expanding the Kingdom of God."

Jamey Pruett, Pastor, Gilliam Springs Baptist Church



"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout **all generations**, for ever and ever!" Ephesians 3:20-21

All Generations



"Investing money requires team work with the right partner. The Baptist Foundation of Alabama and Gilliam Springs Baptist Church have partnered together to grow the church's financial resources with Biblically screened investments. This growth has extended ministries of the church from local, to regional, to across the world; giving Gilliam Springs the responsibility to prayerfully dream about the future the Lord has for them."

Nathan McCarthy
Investment Officer



Imagine

your church
investing its financial
resources in a way
that is Biblically
responsible!

2016 Highlights

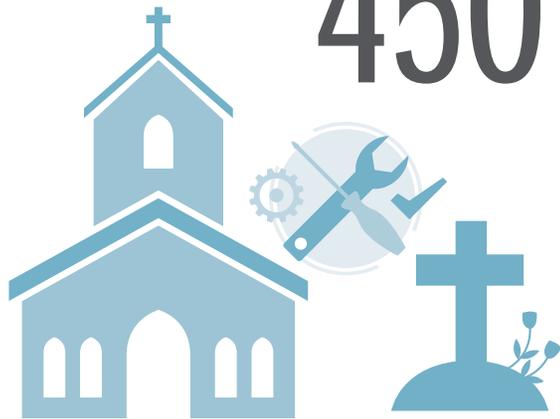


456 **SCHOLARSHIPS** awarded through TBFA by generous donors

CHURCH INVESTMENT FUNDS managed by TBFA

Over

450



Over **\$243** million **IN ASSETS** managed by TBFA



Approximately **\$9** million distributed **TO BAPTIST** ministries/entities

faith kids gifts family work home
LEGACY
conversations
relationships | expertise | resources

23 Churches and Entities engaged in **LEGACY PLANNING** with TBFA

108 **FAMILIES**



COMPLETED LEGACY PLANNING WITH TBFA RESULTING IN

\$31 MILLION in potential future gifts to **LOCAL CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES**



Imagine

**a Legacy Ministry in your Church!
Let us help your Church start one!**

What does Legacy mean to you? One dictionary defines it as something handed down from one generation to another. Said in another way, our Legacy is something of our lives that remains once we have left this world. Some might think of Legacy only as material possessions left to one's heirs, but Christ tells us it means much more than that. Could our legacy be all of the ways we affected others with our relationships, expertise, and resources during our lifetimes?

Every day, we are each crafting our Legacy. Whether we know it or not and whether we like it or not, the way we live our lives and the choices we make will impact others. So, what will your Legacy be? At The Baptist Foundation of Alabama, we are committed to helping Alabama Baptists create a Legacy that will honor not only their families, but also their faith, through a Legacy Ministry at their church.

A Legacy Ministry is focused on serving the church member by providing comprehensive estate planning services through an experienced and independent CHRISTIAN estate planning firm. The end result is a comprehensive plan and appropriate legal documents that meet the church members' individual goals and objectives as they plan the legacy they will leave.

The Legacy Ministry process helps members examine their assets, liabilities, family needs, and desire to support charities, and then determines the appropriate documents needed to fulfill the legacy they may wish to leave behind.

TBFA legacy ministry

TBFA shares the **VISION**

of equipping the **CHURCH**

where church members have **LEGACY CONVERSATIONS**



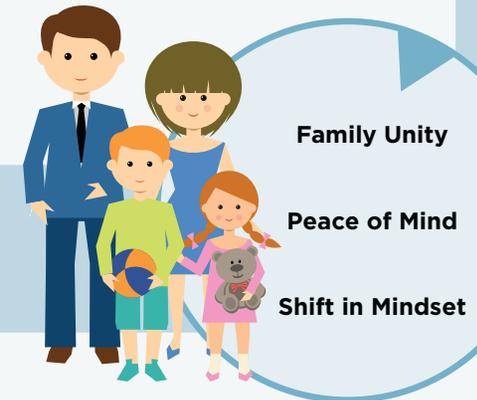
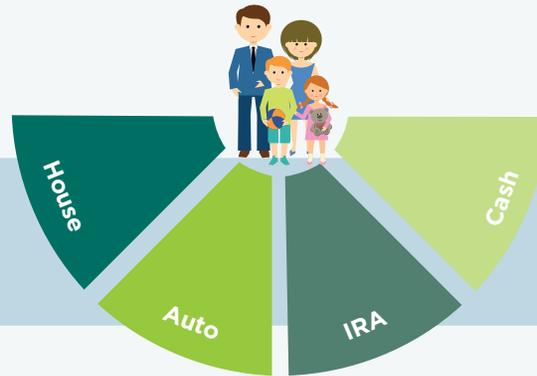
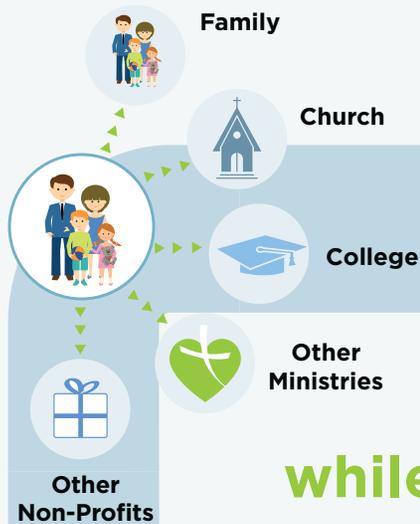
FAMILIES ASK:

- Who is the best manager of assets I will leave behind?
- What skills do I have that I can pass on to others?
- How do I want to pour out to relationships that are important to me?

and create a **CHRISTIAN LEGACY** by providing for

Through Christian estate planning, families bless future generations by **GIFTING**

which give **FAMILIES**



while expanding God's Kingdom!

Millions of Dollars for ministry

Thousands of families in planning

Hundreds of churches represented

Countless lives impacted for Christ



DECEMBER 31, 2016* AND 2015

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

**At the time of printing the annual report, audited statements were not available for 2016. When completed, audited copies of the financial statements are available upon request.*

ASSETS

| | 2016* | 2015 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 316,418 | \$ 244,201 |
| Accounts and bequests receivable | 593,534 | 45,438 |
| Investments | 51,961,673 | 50,970,493 |
| Investments held in charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities | 145,886 | 148,400 |
| Investments held for others | 189,030,214 | 175,479,000 |
| Property and equipment, net | 1,989,734 | 2,030,537 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | \$244,037,459 | \$228,918,069 |

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

| | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Accrued liabilities | \$ 592,583 | \$ 518,006 |
| Liabilities associated with charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities | 7,934 | 39,161 |
| Due to trusts and agencies | 189,030,214 | 175,479,000 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 189,630,731 | 176,036,167 |
| Net assets | | |
| Unrestricted | 24,455,974 | 23,330,167 |
| Temporarily restricted | 5,162,554 | 5,014,646 |
| Permanently restricted | 24,788,200 | 24,537,089 |
| Total Net Assets | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 54,406,728 | 52,881,902 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Liabilities & Net Assets | \$244,037,459 | \$228,918,069 |

TBFA Board of Directors

visit us on social media

Janet Teer
Northport BC

Phyllis Boone
Shades Mountain BC
Birmingham

Michael Lytle
Dawson Memorial BC
Birmingham

Rick Gibson
FBC Tuscaloosa

Spencer Knight
FBC Prattville

William Coplin
FBC Demopolis

Scott White
Redemption Church
Saraland

Diane Kennedy
Spring Hill BC
Mobile

Forest Latta
Spring Hill BC
Mobile

Lawson Swearingen
FBC Fairhope

Morrell Dodd
Hunter Street BC
Birmingham

Alan Taylor
FBC Trussville

Tim Mitchell
Parker Memorial BC

Chuck Ashley
FBC Montgomery

Reyn Norman
FBC Montgomery

Doyle Powell
FBC Montgomery

Bill Harper
Eastern Hills BC
Montgomery

Vicki Martin
FBC Dothan

W. Thomas Gaiter
FBC Eufaula

TBFA Board of Directors are elected to serve 4-year terms. They may serve two consecutive terms.

f Tuscaloosa County Baptist Association
 “We were privileged to have Joey Hocutt, from The Baptist Foundation of Alabama share this morning at our Ministers Conference. TBFA is passionate about equipping churches to have a Legacy Ministry that serves its members by helping them identify the blessings that they have received from the Lord, determine who the next best manager of those resources would be once they’ve gone on to be with the Lord, and implement an estate plan that will ultimately pass on their legacy to the next generation.”

f Baptist Children’s Homes & Family Ministries
 “John Ashworth, Chief Administrative Officer of The Baptist Foundation of Alabama, has some advice for you! ‘For those who are called to get involved with a ministry that is changing lives and expanding the Kingdom of God.’ John suggests, ‘Consider investing your time or money in Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes. You will not find a team of people more dedicated to helping and serving the least of these with the love of Christ than this.’”

f Jay Boyd
 “Thankful for The Baptist Foundation of Alabama and how they are serving Baptists all across our state.”

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Let us Imagine

the ways the Lord will use the faithful gifts of Alabama Baptists in the years to come. And all of us at The Baptist Foundation of Alabama believe God is just getting started. As more and more churches engage in Legacy Ministries to serve their members, the opportunities to expand the Kingdom are immeasurable. We look forward to what His future holds.

Thank you for your Christ-honoring generosity!