September 25, 2014

Leave a Pathwork Legacy with a Bequest

You can help the International Pathwork Foundation pass along the insight and inspiration of the Pathwork lectures to other people. This can be achieved by the inclusion of certain words in your will, revocable trust, retirement account beneficiary designation, or other estate planning documents. While making such a gift is relatively simple and straightforward, we nonetheless recommend that you consult with both an estate planning attorney and an accountant. Such consultations will ensure that your wishes will be followed exactly as you intended after your death, and also inform you about the tax consequences of your gift.

“At the same time, you will not take your gifts and treasures for granted, which in itself is a sign of spiritual shallowness. The gift has lost aliveness because one link in the chain is missing: giving. You violated the law of chain reaction. Contemplate your treasures. Then you will revitalize them, and they will bring you joy and pleasure which you had never realized or had lost. As with happiness in general, so it is with all other desires: love, strength, health, freedom. Whatever is desired for self-indulgence will dissolve, wither; but what is desired to give to others will sprout and multiply for the giver and for the receiver.” (Lecture #5)

There are a number of different types of bequests that you may wish to consider. They include (1) dollar denominated gifts, (2) percentage of estate gifts, (3) specific asset gifts, (4) residuary gifts, (5) contingent gifts, (6) restricted gifts, and (7) life income trusts with a charitable remainder. This type of bequest list is not comprehensive, but instead intended to be suggestive of the options available. Each option mentioned here is briefly discussed below.

Dollar Denominated Gift: With a dollar denominated bequest, donors make a gift to the Foundation stated as a specific dollar (or other currency) amount. An example of the words you might use in a will is: “I hereby give, devise, and bequeath $X to the International Pathwork Foundation, of Madison, Virginia, to be used for its general purposes.”
Percentage of Estate Gift: With a percentage of the estate gift, after all the debts of the estate have been paid, the total assets to be distributed are tallied-up. A specific predetermined percentage of this total is then distributed to the Foundation as a gift. An example of the words you might use in a will is: “I hereby give, devise, and bequeath X% of my total estate to the International Pathwork Foundation, of Madison, Virginia, to be used for its general purposes.”

Specific Asset Gifts: With a specific asset gift, donors make a gift of certain property such as cars, stocks, mutual fund shares, bonds, and real estate. After transfer to the Foundation, the sale and further handling of the asset is entirely the responsibility of the Foundation. An example of the words you might use in a will is: “I hereby give, devise, and bequeath all my Microsoft stock held in my Charles Schwab account, to the International Pathwork Foundation, of Madison, Virginia, to be used for its general purposes.”

Residuary Gift: The residue of your estate is calculated after all taxes, debts, settlement costs, and explicitly stated gifts to other beneficiaries have been made. What remains is the residuary, and with this type of gift, that remainder is conveyed to the Foundation. An example of the words you might use in a will is: “I hereby give, devise, and bequeath the residuary of my estate to the International Pathwork Foundation, of Madison, Virginia, to be used for its general purposes.”

Contingent Gift: With a contingent gift, a certain condition must prevail in order for a gift to a Foundation to be made. For example, if a certain beneficiary is no longer alive, the assets that would have gone to that beneficiary could be instead transferred to the Foundation. An example of the words you might use in a will is: “If my nephew X is no longer living at the time of my death, I hereby give, devise, and bequeath all assets that would have gone to him under this will to the International Pathwork Foundation, of Madison, Virginia, to be used for its general purposes.”

Restricted Gift: Unless stated otherwise, the bequests mentioned above will be used by the Foundation in the way that is most needed at the time when it is received based on the objectives of the Foundation, notably (1) disseminating both the lectures and Pathwork teachings worldwide, and (2) protecting the trademark, copyright, and other intellectual property rights of
the lectures. The Foundation recommends that this general-use approach be used if the time of the gift is expected to be far in the future, since it is hard to know what will be happening then. But if you had other objectives in mind, your gift could be restricted, so that it is used expressly and only for those objectives. An example of the words you might use is: “I hereby give, devise, and bequeath $X to the International Pathwork Foundation, of Madison, Virginia, to be used exclusively to make videos about the Pathwork lectures that will be posted on YouTube and other websites.”

**Life Income Trusts:** You, or you and your spouse, can receive income from a trust for your life, at which point the remainder of the assets in the trust can be donated to the Foundation. Not only do these arrangements provide the peace of mind associated with guaranteed income for life, but they also provide an immediate tax deduction to the donor. The words required to set-up such a trust are complicated and extensive and cannot be succinctly stated here, but to get more details, you can ask your estate planning attorney or your accountant about charitable remainder trusts.

All gifts, whether made now or later, that are sent to the International Pathwork Foundation are tax deductible. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts to the Foundation can thus be used to reduce gift tax, estate tax, and/or income tax. Unlike your individual beneficiaries, who may need to pay capital gains and income tax, the Foundation will pay no tax on the assets you give to it. Likewise, gifts to the Foundation will reduce your taxable estate, and thus can reduce its estate tax obligation. Your money can thus go far with a donation to the Foundation. If you wish to make a gift now, via the Internet, click here [insert link].

For further information about bequests and planned giving to the International Pathwork Foundation, please contact us at PO Box 725, Madison, VA 22727 USA; phone 540-948-5558.