

GIVING THE GIFT OF MEANING TO YOUR FAMILY

What do you *most* want to give to your kids and grandkids? For many thoughtful Christians like you, the answer is “meaning.” They don’t want to simply give their *valuables* to the next generation; they want to give their *values*.

Psalm 78 describes a beautiful picture of the older generation passing along “what our fathers have told us” and “what we have heard and known” – deep truths for life rooted in “the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord.”

What Does The Gift Of Meaning Look Like?

If you want to give the gift of meaning to your family, where do you begin? Start by taking out a pad of paper and prayerfully jotting down your responses to some of the questions below that may interest you:

- What are the biblical values I tried to live by?
- Are there any blessings or dreams I want to share with my kids and grandkids?
- What have I learned from my parents, teachers, life experience, etc.?
- Are there any biblical cautions (i.e. deceitfulness of wealth) I want to communicate?
- Do I need to forgive or be forgiven? Any regrets I want to share?
- What has been my approach to personal finances?
- What is my philosophy when it comes to charitable giving?
- Why do I love and support Christian organizations such as Rockford Rescue Mission?

How Do I Deliver the Gift of Meaning?

Once you have organized your thoughts using the reflection questions above, there are three basic ways you can communicate your values and give the gift of meaning to your family:

- **Write It.** The simplest approach may be to organize your thoughts above into a letter. Though not a legal document, this letter could accompany the reading of your Will when the time comes. Others may wish to publish their thoughts in book form, including photos, favorite Bible verses, and other special memories.
- **Say It.** In Genesis 49, Jacob called his sons together to bless them and discuss the future. You can do something similar by calling a family meeting. Summarize your key thoughts from the reflection questions above, gather your loved ones, and then share from your heart with your kids and grandkids. You may want to have a few photos or mementos handy to engage your family’s interest.
- **Record It.** Another creative option is to communicate your values to your family on CD or DVD. This option might have special appeal if family members are scattered around the country (or the world), making a family meeting difficult to organize. Another advantage of this approach is that your kids and grandkids could replay the recording again years later to recall God’s story and work in your life.



PLEASE CONSIDER INCLUDING ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION IN YOUR WILL

- I would like more information about leaving a legacy to my family and Rockford Rescue Mission
- I have included Rockford Rescue Mission in my Will, Trust, or Estate Plan

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Email _____



rockford rescue mission
rescue + recover + restore

Reply with envelope or contact Mick Manne at (815) 316-4189 or mickmanne@rockfordrescuemission.org
Go to www.christianwill.org/rrm to bless your family and RRM with a God-honoring Will.