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my legacy
story

Eternal Truths and
Personal Memories
for Those Who Follow



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My Legacy Story

Eternal Truths and Personal Memories for Those Who Follow

I care about you deeply. And because of that I want to ensure you understand the things that were of utmost importance to me. This is my personal gift to you describing things of eternal value. Also included are things that will help simplify plans and decision-making at my passing—allowing you to move on and pursue all that God has for you. It is my hope that these two gifts, when combined, will allow you to continue on in the full knowledge that:

- ◆ you were loved,
- ◆ that a sovereign, all-powerful and all-loving God places incredible value on you, and
- ◆ that I did my best to remind you of these things, and took care of as many personal considerations while I was living.

SECTION 1

The Journey of a Lifetime

Important elements of my life that I may have never shared, but want you to know about.

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SECTION 2

God's Plans with You in Mind

A description of how you can know God and His plan for you. In my life as in my passing, this is the only thing that gave me hope.

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SECTION 3

Picking up and Moving Forward

Practical information and plans that you will find helpful.

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I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old—what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done. *Psalms 78:2-4*

DIRECTIONS TO THE AUTHOR: If you do not have responses for every question, move on. Not every question will connect with something significant, and it is far more important to focus on stories of significance.

Suggested Questions

Where were you born? _____

Where are some places you have lived? What do you remember most about them?

Where did you go to school? Who were your best friends at the time? Can you remember any ideas that shaped your life?



As a child, what did you most enjoy doing? _____

What was your first memory of church and your spiritual journey?

Where were you baptized? _____

Describe your parents and your grandparents.



As a child, what was your favorite Christmas? _____

As a child, what was your favorite birthday? _____

Growing up, what was your most memorable vacation or trip?

Did you have a favorite subject in school? Did you have a favorite teacher? In what way did that teacher have a profound effect on your life?



From your earliest recollection, what was it you wanted to be when you grew up?

What was your most meaningful activity growing up? Was it in sports, in music, in some other area? What are some key memories from those activities?

Is there a story behind what you were named? _____

What are some awards you earned in your life? _____

Who was your favorite uncle, aunt or cousin and why? _____



What was the best advice you ever heard? Who gave you that advice?

How did you meet your spouse? What do you remember about your first date?

How did you become engaged?

Where did you go on your honeymoon?

Describe your first house.



How are you like your spouse? How are you different?

What are some special attributes you saw in your spouse? How did those affect your plans and thoughts?

What are some special attributes you saw in your children? How did those affect your plans and thoughts?

How did you secure your first job and what was it?

Was there any major changes in your job and career, and how did you adjust to that?



Have you ever encountered any famous people? How did it happen?
What was it like?

What was your favorite hobby? Why was it your favorite?

Did you ever write or record anything? What was it for?
If so, do you know where a copy is?

Is there anything else about you, your spouse or your family you would like to write?



He thinks about you.

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that

full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand.

When I awake, I am still with you. If only you would slay the wicked, O God! Away from me, you bloodthirsty men! They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.

Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD, and abhor those who rise up against you? I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalms 139

An all-knowing God pays infinite attention to you. Just you. This started before you were born. His plans and hopes for you started before time. Life's challenges and people around you can tempt you to doubt these truths...but these truths remain. They are unchangeable as God is unchangeable.

He Loves You.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

From the beginning, God knew we could not be successful in this life on our own. Because we are faulty and frail, He knew that we would require a perfect substitute to accept the full blame and punishment for our shortcomings. That is why Jesus, (Who is fully God) came to earth (Who was fully man) and died on the cross.

He wants to set things right in your relationship.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Knowing that we cannot become perfect on our own, all we need to do is acknowledge that we need Him, and Jesus can heal us and bring us into fellowship with God. In heaven, because He has accepted the blame and punishment we deserve, He can present us to God as perfect, pure, clean. And we can enjoy that celebration for eternity.

We may experience pain and sorrow in this life, but in the end we share the same experience as Jesus for Eternity.

Romans 8:16-17 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Want to know more? Visit www.sbc.net/knowjesus.



HERE IS A LIST OF MY PERSONAL FAVORITE VERSES:

Verse _____

Why it is important to me:

A time in my life when this was most significant to me:

Verse _____

Why it is important to me:

A time in my life when this was most significant to me:

Verse _____

Why it is important to me:

A time in my life when this was most significant to me:

Verse _____

Why it is important to me:

A time in my life when this was most significant to me:



How I came to know Jesus Christ as my Personal Savior?

Was there a time in my life when I took another step, I committed in a deeper way to make Jesus Lord of my Life?

Were there particular verses that I prayed for my kids? At what times in their lives was that most significant?



What would a specific blessing you would ask for your children and their children be? Would that be a different blessing for different children?

When did you learn your spiritual gifts and what are they?

Who are the three people who had the most important influence on you in your lifetime?

Was there ever a moment when you knew "I am right where God intends me to be, and I am doing what He wants me to do?" Describe that situation.



What was the hardest thing you ever experienced and what did you learn through it?

What are some ways and times when you sensed God's provision for you?

In your personal giving, where did you experience the most joy?

Are you assured and confident that you will go to heaven? What do you base that answer on?



"If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." *1 Timothy 5:8*

In the preceding sections, I have recorded important spiritual truths and events or memories from my life...many of which were shaped by my faith. I wanted to provide for you that spiritual legacy. After my passing on, I wanted to address practical and material considerations as well—so that I can steward or care for both. Here is a summary of some important information that will save you time in getting on with your life.

Here is a list of Bank and Investment Accounts. Where I have an online account, I have listed the password:

COMPANY	ACCOUNT NUMBER	PASSWORD

Here is a list of Email Addresses and Social Networking Sites (like Facebook), along with Passwords. (Some would call this, when combined with any online accounts an "electronic will.")

WEBSITE	USER NAME/ID	LOG-IN/PASSWORD



Here is a list of Strongbox and Safety Deposit Box locations (if applicable, key location):

BANK	ACCOUNT NUMBER	PASSWORD/NOTES

Here is a list of Estate Planning Documents, and where they can be found:

- Last Will and Testament _____
- Living Will _____
- Living Trust _____
- Durable Power of Attorney _____
- Electronic Will (if separate from this document) _____
- Legacy Will (if separate from this document) _____
- Other _____



Here is where you can find letters I have written to you, that I wanted you to read at my passing:

Here is a list of things I would want included in my Funeral:

My Preference of Funeral Home

Favorite Music to be included

Suggestions for musicians and/or soloists

Favorite Scriptures to be included



Poems or Readings I would like read _____

Photos of me and my loved ones I would want on display (indicate where they can be found)

My first and second choice of Pastors/Ministers to officiate

In lieu of sending flowers, I recommend these charities or benefits

Other elements I would want included _____



A brief testimonial message I would like read to those who are able to attend. It could include things such as the following:

- Give a brief history including birth date, place of birth, parents, grandparents, siblings.
- Where I grew up and what my childhood was like.
- Where I went to school.
- Professional, career or ministry accomplishments.
- Who I married—when and where, children and grandchildren, and how long I was married.
- Significant life accomplishments.
- Personal interests, hobbies, achievements.
