



Have you always wanted to leave an endowment to your church or favorite ministry? You can!

by John Hawkins, Director of Planned Giving



Hawkins

A gift of life insurance may be a way to do this which can bring satisfying philanthropic rewards in the Lord.

As an example, for the price of a modest monthly life insurance premium, you can leave a considerable future gift to create an endowment at the Lutheran Foundation of Texas (LFOT) upon your death, that will benefit your congregation or other Lutheran mission programs.

There are basically two choices for giving life insurance to benefit ministry in the Lord. The first one is to leave a *permanent gift*, whereby you name LFOT as the owner of your life insurance policy. This can be done in one of two ways:

- a) You purchase a life insurance policy and name LFOT as the owner, with your endowment fund as the beneficiary.
- b) You relinquish ownership of an existing life insurance policy to LFOT, naming the Foundation as the owner, and your endowment fund as the beneficiary.

In either case, you continue to pay the premiums and the gift is irrevocable. In doing this, the following advantages would be realized:

- You receive a charitable income tax deduction.
- You can take deductions on your premiums.
- You can specify how you want the gift to be used (e.g., scholarships for Lutheran seminary students, support for your Lutheran school, mission outreach, etc.)
- You may specify that your gift be used to create an endowment named for yourself or in memory of loved ones.

The second way to make a life insurance gift is through a *promised gift*. This is where you retain full control of the policy during your lifetime, and provide insurance proceeds for ministry after your death. There are two ways to do this:

- a) You purchase a new life insurance policy and name LFOT, trustee of your endowment, as the beneficiary, or
- b) You change the beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy to LFOT. The Foundation then would direct the proceeds to your endowment upon your death.

In either case, you continue to pay the premiums. A promised gift of life insurance provides these advantages:

- You retain control of your life insurance policy, and can change your mind later.
- You can specify how you want the gift to be used (e.g., scholarships for Lutheran church work students, support for your Lutheran school, or missionary outreach).
- You may specify that your gift is to be used to create an endowment named for yourself or in memory of a loved one.

LFOT is available to provide more information on leaving a legacy via a life insurance gift. Please feel free to contact the Foundation at 800-880-3733, or contact me via e-mail at johnh@lfot.org. You can also get more information via our website at www.lfot.org. See the “Gift Plans for Individuals” section on our website.