Your final gift to BMS... can help children like Joshua

How leaving BMS World Mission a gift in your will can change lives
Life-saving care for newborn babies. Justice for those who never had access to it. And education for refugee children.

BMS World Mission can do this work because of the amazing support we receive. A significant amount of that support comes through gifts in wills. These offerings enable us to work among some of the most marginalised and least evangelised people in some of the most fragile places on earth, and we are so very grateful.

We know that your priority when making a will is your loved ones. It is for us too. We do not take lightly any gift you choose to make, because we love the people you can help by leaving a final gift to BMS. Your act of love will be cherished, as God cherishes the people you choose to bless – within your family and beyond them.

Any gift you choose to make will be honoured.

It will leave a lasting legacy.
BMS can help you to make a difference

BMS works in the places God calls us to. We’ve been doing it for over two centuries and each one of us feels blessed to be able to serve. That is why we treat each gift in a will with the respect it deserves. We also appreciate that making a will is one of the most important things you’ll ever do, and one of the most challenging, raising many questions. Do you need a solicitor? How much will it cost? What about Inheritance Tax? What if you already have a will and want to make a change? There is so much to take in.

To help, this pack contains the answers to frequently asked questions, an easy to understand explanation of legal terms, and a guide on how to make a will. We hope that reading these pages will help you, and that you will get in touch with our Legacy Officer if you have any questions.

Even if you’ve already decided whether to consider BMS in your will, we think you’ll find the stories on the following pages inspiring. They share just a little of how God has moved through the work people like you are making possible.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5: 16
Our values
Love
Faith
Integrity
Excellence

The big picture
The highest goal of all we do is to bring people to faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and an experience of the abundant life that only he can provide.

Our promise to you
- We’ll use your gift wisely
- We’ll make it count
- We’ll use it for what you intend
- We’ll work sensitively and carefully with executors, lawyers and your family
What does the Bible say about your will?

Gifts in a will are a natural part of Christian giving, and the Bible has much to teach us about writing a will which reflects our Christian faith.

God calls us to be good stewards
“Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.” Proverbs 3: 9

Because everything belongs to him
“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” Psalm 24: 1

And we can’t take it with us!
“For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.” 1 Timothy 6: 7

So we’re called to pass on his kingdom to future generations
“He commanded our ancestors to teach their children… even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God.” Psalm 78: 5-7

We’re to leave an inheritance for our families first
“A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children.” Proverbs 13: 22

And to use our means to bless those less fortunate
“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me… Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25: 35-40
Joshua is full of potential. He is a bundle of joy. He is treasured. His life is different from how it was before, and the gifts of BMS supporters have made his transformation possible. Joshua was born in northern Uganda, and was diagnosed with Down’s syndrome. When he was two years old, his life began to change. His parents discovered that his diagnosis didn’t mean that his life was hopeless – they started to dream for his future. Joshua began to learn to communicate. He developed a love for music. It all started when a BMS speech therapist, entered their lives. Legacies helped to make this happen.

We want to keep transforming lives for generations, which is why we’re asking you to consider us in your will.
"We know that every gift to BMS makes a difference. That’s why we’re remembering BMS in our will. For the churches that will be planted when we’re gone; for the lives in countries we can’t talk openly about. For all the ways that God will use our final gift to bring the love of Christ where it is needed most."
– David and Janet Kerrigan

“We’re proud that my parents are choosing to make a difference for the future in this special way. We think our kids will be proud of them too!”
– Becky and Dan Parnell, David and Janet’s daughter and son-in-law
Putting your family first

We believe your loved ones should come first when you make your will. This is as important to us as it is to you.

We would only want you to consider BMS if you’re happy that the needs of your loved ones have been met.

What about Inheritance Tax?

Because BMS is a charity, your gift to us in your will is deductible from your taxable estate, helping to reduce the tax burden on your loved ones. There are also rules that reduce the rate of Inheritance Tax on people who leave ten per cent or more of their estate to charity. For more information, see the FAQ document included within this pack.
Seeta’s story

Seeta’s life was transformed when a local BMS church planter came to her village in India’s Sundabarns. From a Hindu background, Seeta now plants churches, prays for healings and leads people to Jesus.

“I used to worship many gods. Then I met one of the church planters and he told me about Jesus. I accepted Jesus and was baptised. But when I first tried to share the good news with my village they turned against me. Even my husband would beat me, and I was banned from using the village well.

“But today, through prayer, I have planted 25 churches. I have led 150 people to Jesus in one day. I have prayed for the sick and they have been healed. Jesus is all I have. And Jesus is enough.”
Why we’re remembering BMS in our wills

We have seen BMS work being effective in so many areas and wish to further this work for years to come!
— Ursula

I have made a bequest to BMS. I did so as I saw and still see an open and honest determination to show God’s love in word and deed in the ministries of BMS. That makes me proud of being a Christian of a Baptist persuasion.
— Isobel

Leaving a gift in our will to BMS is like leaving a gift for our family. Having worked in Brazil where the emphasis was winning people to Christ, that is a part of our heart. We can still see that happening at BMS today, and we want to continue to support such work.
— Eric and Jean

Gifts in wills are crucial to our work

Gifts in wills help us work in places we need to be. They can account for as much as 20 per cent of our annual income*, meaning as much as one fifth of our work is dependent on these gifts. Thanks to our supporters’ generosity and faithfulness we’re able to help pregnant refugees, homeless women, children whose education has been torn apart by conflict and the sick. And we’re able to share the gospel with people across the world.

How we make your gift count

When you give to BMS World Mission, you can trust that we will use your offering prayerfully and wisely. Our promise to you is that we will make every penny of your gift count. We work hard to keep our governance and fundraising costs to a minimum, so that for every £1 that you give, 96 per cent will be spent directly on our charitable activities*.

*Based on data from our latest published accounts at time of printing
Dear Lord,

Please give me wisdom and your grace in making this decision.

Please use me as a blessing to the people I love and help me to extend my love to neighbours you would have me bless and generations not yet born.

Amen

Pray before you give
Pray before you make your will
Thank you for taking the time to consider why final gifts and legacies are such a blessing. We know you’ve got lots to think about when making a will. We’ve put three simple suggestions below that we hope will help.

1. Read the FAQ document in this pack.

2. Talk to a solicitor. They will be able to help write or amend your will to meet your wishes. If you do not have a solicitor, The Law Society (www.lawsociety.org.uk) is a good place to start.

3. Talk to the BMS Legacy Officer. Please don’t hesitate to contact them on 01235 517628 or by emailing legacies@bmsworldmission.org with any questions, big or small. If you would prefer to write a letter, the address is:

   Legacy Officer, BMS World Mission, PO Box 49, 129 Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8XA.

Thank you for considering a legacy for BMS in your will, and thank you for caring for all the people God will reach thanks to your final kindness. We believe you’re sowing seeds of hope for future generations. We know you’re helping to alleviate suffering and injustice, and enabling people to know the love of Christ. Thank you.

Thank you for being part of BMS.
Sustained by God’s love for over 200 years.