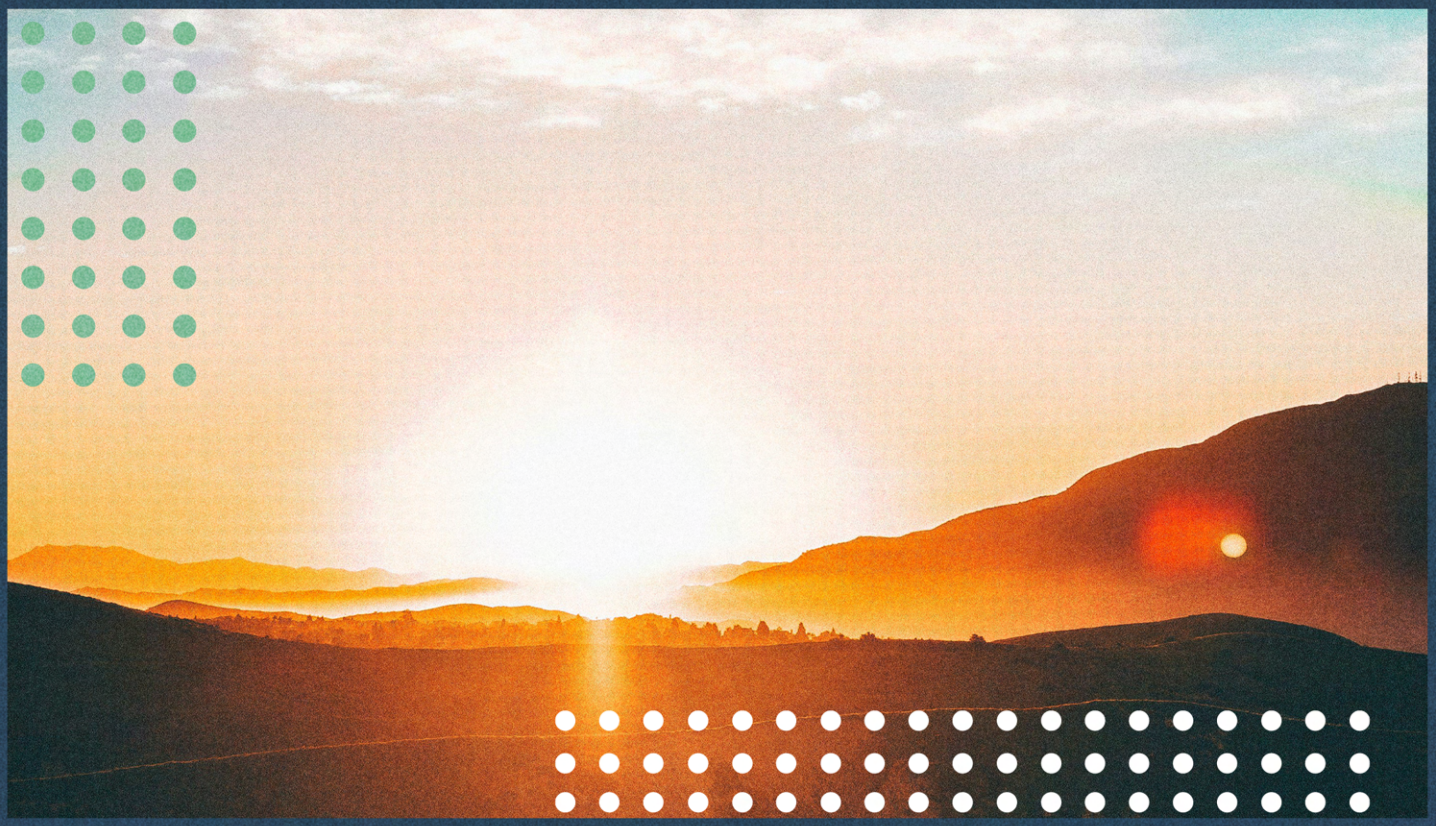
LEGACY BUILDERS MINISTRY PRESENTS:

FINAL *Wishes*



PLANNING BOOKLET

MY FINAL WISHES

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MY FINAL WISHES

We plan and prepare for most of the big events of our lifetime, yet few of us prepare for that final event. Making final arrangements can be overwhelming for your family, and it may be difficult for them to make clear choices. When a death occurs, there are many decisions that will have to be made in a very short period of time. By completing these pages, you will spare your family the added burden, both emotionally and financially, of having to make these decisions for you.

A gift of peace we can give to those we leave behind is to make our wishes known in writing.

Every adult should complete this book for their own peace of mind and for the benefit of their family. You are doing this for them. Please complete this document on a computer or in pencil so that changes can be made in the future.

This book contains the personal wishes of:

Date last updated:

FUNERAL AND BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The first decision a family has to make when a loved one passes away is which funeral home to call. You can relieve the stress on family members by making this decision on your own in advance.

Funeral Home:

Contact Person:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Telephone:

Fax:

Website:

Have funeral arrangements been pre-paid? Yes No

Where is the funeral home contract located?

Notes:

DEATH CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

Full Name:

Maiden Name:

Date of Birth:

Birthplace:

Sex:

Race:

Social Security Number:

Full Name of Father:

Birthplace of Father:

Full Maiden Name of Mother:

Birthplace of Mother:

Marital Status:

Spouse's Name:

Occupation:

Employer:

Type of Business:

Years at Occupation:

Education (Years Completed):

Residence Address:

Military Service:

City, State, Zip:

(Year) to (Year):

County:

Branch of Service:

Years in County:

Served Where?

Death certificate information varies from state to state. Additional information may be required to complete the death certificate. ***Veterans*** *death benefits may be available to you.* ***See page 29***.

ORGAN DONATION

Organ donation has become more popular and accepted. Each year, thousands of people benefit from eye and other organ donations. This is a very personal decision that should be discussed in advance with your family. This will avoid conflicts and allow organs to be taken promptly by medical professionals.

Organ donation is governed by state regulations. In most states organ donation can be indicated on your driver's license or by filling out and carrying a special organ donation card. Visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website at *organdonor.gov* or contact your local hospital or medical association. Your health care provider should also be able to assist you to make an informed decision.

ORGANS TO BE DONATED:

Eye donor:	Yes	No
Organ donor:	Yes	No
Entire body:	Yes	No

Special Instructions:

Where is additional documentation for this decision (if any) located?

DISPOSITION OF BODY

There are many choices to consider when making decisions for final disposition of the body.

1. Embalming is for the temporary preservation of the body and allows viewing of the body for relatives and friends. This may include a full funeral, graveside service, burial without a funeral service, entombment in a mausoleum, or cremation.

   For those choosing cremation following a funeral service, most funeral homes have a rental casket available.

2. Immediate cremation with no services.
3. Immediate cremation followed by a memorial service, with or without the cremated remains being present.
4. Immediate burial, either without services or followed by a memorial service.

These choices may be very difficult for family members when they have no idea what you may have wanted.

Note: Questions concerning state and/or federal laws and regulations of funeral practices may be answered by consulting with your local funeral director. Each choice creates various decisions that will need to be made. These will be covered on the following pages:

I WOULD LIKE:

Immediate cremation

Immediate burial

Embalming followed with cremation

Embalming followed by burial

Special Instructions:

DISPOSITION OF CREMATED REMAINS

Choosing cremation requires decisions about final disposition of cremated remains. Cremated remains are customarily returned to the family in a cardboard or plastic container unless an urn has been purchased and provided to the crematory or funeral home.

Urns are available in many styles, shapes, and sizes. Most funeral homes have a display and/or catalogs of available choices.

Cremated remains can be buried in a cemetery lot, placed in an above ground columbarium niche designed for cremated remains, given to the family for scattering, or they may be kept by the family. Check state laws regarding scattering.

Most cemeteries allow one set of cremated remains and one casket to be buried in one lot, or two cremated remains in one lot. Call or visit cemeteries to make an informed decision.

Special Instructions:

CEMETERY

Making a trip to the cemetery and selecting a burial plot is one of the most difficult issues facing a family making funeral arrangements. Choosing your final resting place and having it purchased in advance is another act of love that you can accomplish long before the need arises. Today's mobile society can make this decision difficult. Your family may be faced with:

1. Burial where you currently live
2. Burial near family members
3. Burial in another state
4. Burial in your hometown

This is a difficult decision without your guidance. Most cemeteries give you an option of earth burial or above-ground entombment in a mausoleum. If these are choices you want to consider, you will need to inquire at the cemetery of your choice. Many cemeteries have sections designated for religions, veterans, etc. Be aware that many older or smaller cemeteries may not have a mausoleum.

Cemetery of Choice:

Address:

Phone:

City, State, Zip:

Earth Burial:

Mausoleum:

If pre-purchased, where the paperwork can be found:

Special Instructions:

GRAVE MARKERS

Before purchasing a grave marker, find out the type of markers the cemetery of your choice will allow. Some will allow only flat markers; others will allow upright or flat markers. Many funeral homes have displays of available markers, or you can visit a monument company where they are made. There are many types: granite, marble, other stones, bronze, or other metals. Markers can be pre-purchased and installed at the cemetery with names and birth dates already inscribed, or your family can wait until the time of need to complete inscriptions.

Inscriptions can be as simple or detailed as you desire. Pictures, emblems, or other details can be added.

Marker selected and paid for: Yes No

Marker already inscribed: Yes No

If not already purchased, type of marker you prefer:

Special designs or inscriptions preferred:

Other instructions:

CASKET/VAULT SELECTIONS

If you have chosen to be buried or entombed, a casket will need to be selected. There are many choices available, including types of metals, woods, or fiberglass. There are sealing and non-sealing caskets. Interiors include a wide variety of fabrics, colors, and designs. Visit your funeral home of choice for help in making these decisions.

Describe your casket preference:

Most cemeteries require an outer receptacle in which the casket will be placed for burial. Check with the cemetery directors for guidance in making these choices.

Describe your preference:

If your choice is entombment in a mausoleum, most do not require an outside container other than the casket. Again, check with the cemetery directors for advice.

PREPARATION OF BODY

BURIAL CLOTHING

Funeral attire is a personal choice. If you have never been comfortable in a dress or suit and tie, this may not be your choice for burial. You may prefer something casual like your favorite golfing attire with, perhaps, your favorite golf club at your side. Or maybe you would prefer a favorite shirt and jeans. Remember, the choice is yours.

The process of going through the closet of a loved one to select funeral attire can be very stressful for family members. You can relieve that stress by making your choices known.

Describe the burial clothing you would prefer:

HAIR

Describe how your hair should be styled. A recent photo can be very helpful.

Do you have a regular hair dresser who should be called to style your hair?

Please give name and phone number:

COSMETICS

Makeup instructions: foundation color, lipstick color, eye shadow, blush, etc.

Fingernail polish? Yes No Color: _____

Other instructions:

Note: a favorite perfume or aftershave is nice to have available. Your familiar scent can have a very comforting effect for your family.

JEWELRY

Many people prefer to have jewelry on the body during visitation and funeral, then removed before burial.

Jewelry preference:

Return jewelry to (name):

OBITUARY INFORMATION

NEWSPAPERS AND NOTICES

List the newspapers in which you, your family, and friends would like your obituary to appear. If you do not know the name of the paper, list the city and state. Include places where you lived, worked, or were involved in community, business, or social activities. You may also want to include places where there are people who should be aware of your death. Newspapers typically charge for obituaries and may charge more if they have to prepare it.

Newspaper Name: City/State:

Newspaper Name: City/State:

Newspaper Name: City/State:

Newspaper Name: City/State:

Newspaper Name: City/State:

PHOTO

Many newspapers include a photo of the deceased with the obituary for a fee.

Would you like a photograph included? Yes No

Place your selected photograph with this booklet or a note where it is kept.

OBITUARY INFORMATION *(CONTINUED)*

Preparing your obituary in advance is a good idea for several reasons. It gives you a chance to reflect on your favorite events and memories. You can tell your story your way, taking another burden off your family. It also helps evoke positive memories for your favorite people during their grief.

Either attach a copy of the obituary text you have written to this booklet or outline your thoughts below:

Obituary Text or Outline:

Special Accomplishments:

OBITUARY INFORMATION *(CONTINUED)*

Career Overview:

Community Service:

Military Service and Citations:

Special Events, People, and Places:

Church Information:

OBITUARY INFORMATION *(CONTINUED)*

SURVIVORS:

Include names of survivors and city/state where they reside. If the name is not gender specific, please indicate.

Parents:

Grandparents:

Sons:

Daughters:

Step children:

Brothers:

Sisters:

OBITUARY INFORMATION *(CONTINUED)*

Step brothers and sisters:

Grandchildren (by name or a number):

Great-grandchildren (by name or a number):

Others to Be Named:

Preceded in Death By (include name and relationship):

NOTIFICATIONS

Family members may be unaware of all the people or agencies to be notified of your death. Please list full names (with middle initials), addresses, and phone numbers of all who should be notified. If more space is needed, use the blank pages at the end of this booklet.

Pastor:

Executor:

Attorney:

Accountant:

Financial Advisor:

Insurance Agent:

Insurance Agent:

Employer:

Retirement Plan:

Retirement Plan:

Retirement Plan:

NOTIFICATIONS *(CONTINUED)*

Veterans Administration:

Social Security:

Medicaid:

Bank:

Bank:

Bank:

Physician:

Other Notifications:

NOTIFY FAMILY & FRIENDS

List Full Name, Relationship, Address, Phone:

IMPORTANT PAPERS & INFORMATION

If the following documents are in a safe deposit box, be sure someone has copies. Safe deposit boxes can be sealed for 30 days or longer following a death. Who has copies of your important documents? Where are they located?

Full Name, Address, Phone:

Where is your will or living trust located?

Insurance Information (list all with policy number and type):

Bank(s) Information (list name(s), addresses, account types and numbers):

Who is signatory on (or can access) these accounts (name, address, phone)?

IMPORTANT PAPERS & INFORMATION *(CONTINUED)*

(List on separate pages if needed, and tuck into this booklet)

Loan Information (list company, address, account number and type):

Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds (attach list if necessary):

Power of Attorney:

Medical Power of Attorney:

Do Not Resuscitate Order (Advance Directive):

Mortgage/Deed(s):

Credit Cards:

Location of bills to be paid:

Jewelry:

Other valuables:

Special Instructions:

VIEWING THE BODY

Whether or not to have your body on view before or during the funeral service is a very personal decision. Your family's level of comfort with the decision is a real consideration. Some choose not to have a viewing while others feel it can help the family accept death and say goodbye. For some a viewing provides time to reflect on memories and private thoughts. Some may wish the viewing be for family and special friends only.

Children may have a difficult time when there is a viewing because they don't know what to expect. While funeral homes can do an excellent job of making the deceased look natural, children may be disturbed by the stillness and coldness of the body. If they will be attending the viewing, try to prepare them for the experience. Even young adults may need preparation. There are other ways young people can say goodbye without participating in the viewing. They can color a picture, write a letter, choose a photograph, or create a special story or poem about the deceased.

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE:

A public viewing

A private viewing (family or invitation only)

A fully open casket

A partially open casket (usually from the waist up)

No viewing

Special Instructions:

FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE

Today's services often depart from past traditions. A more personal touch is preferred, creating a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere for everyone involved. Personalizing the service may require more planning and decisions, but it is well worth the effort to those close to you.

You can decide the type of service to have—or not have a service at all.

YOUR OPTIONS INCLUDE:

Full funeral service with viewing

Full funeral service with no viewing

Graveside service (no viewing)

Other_____

Memorial service after burial (no viewing)

Viewing with no service

No service or viewing

If you are a part of a faith community, contact that church/organization for resources available to your family (location, contact person, phone):.

Special Instructions:

Location of service (address, contact person, phone):

Services to be conducted by (name, address, phone):

Eulogy or memorial statements by (name, address, phone):

PALLBEARERS

Pallbearers carry or walk next to the casket from the hearse to the gravesite. In a military or dignitary's funeral, they may carry or walk with it during a processional. If the bearers will carry the casket, they must be physically able to do so.

Traditionally there are six to eight pallbearers. Honorary bearers who are not physically able to carry the casket may also be appointed.

Pallbearers (name, address, phone):

Honorary Pallbearers (name, address, phone):

READINGS

Select favorite Scriptures, poems, or literary passages.

List name, address, and phone of who will read them:

MUSIC

Choose your favorite types of music and songs. Be creative. Rather than an organ or vocalist, you might choose a string quartet, guitar, barbershop quartet, worship band, or any combination of instruments and vocals you like. Recordings of your favorite artists or can be played or friends, family, or other artists can sing or play.

Favorite Songs:

Musicians (name, address, phone):

Vocalists (name, address, phone):

FLOWERS & DONATIONS

Flowers can create a warm atmosphere at a service. Some people prefer to send donations in lieu of flowers, and you can ask mourners to send donations instead of flowers.

Flower and Arrangements Preferences:

Preferred Florist (name, address, phone):

Church and/or Charities to Receive Memorial Donations (name, address, phone):

SERVICE PROGRAM

The program for a funeral or memorial service typically presents the order of events, speakers, and music for the service. It can provide a lovely keepsake for family and guests. The program should reflect the personality and style of the deceased in a meaningful way.

Personalize the program with favorite pictures, art, graphics, quotations, Bible verses, poems, or special readings. Include drawings by children or grandchildren on the cover. Consider including lyrics for the songs sung during the service or the text of the readings. The whole family can contribute to the design and content.

Program Preferences:

MEMORIAL TABLE

A memorial table creates a personal touch and invites conversation and reminiscences. You and friends and family can choose photos, crafts, stories, newspaper clippings, and other memorabilia for the table. Guests can be asked to bring mementos to leave on the table or to share with the family and guests. The table can be set up at a funeral service, memorial, post-service event, or at a family member's home.

Memorial Table Preferences:

VIDEO

In place of or in addition to the memorial table, families might create a commemorative video. The video is played at the service and provides a special keepsake for family. Copies may be presented to special friends or guests.

The video can contain sequences from other family videos showing the deceased at home, work, or special events. Family or friends may be asked to tell a favorite story or talk about the deceased's accomplishments and good qualities. A photo montage of favorite family photos can define the life of the deceased. Sequences made especially for the video might include an arrangement of the person's awards, medals, or favorite collections. Favorite music or visual sets can be added to the background.

Video Preferences:

POST-SERVICE EVENT

Some families have a reception at their home, church, a restaurant, or some favorite place after the service. Planning in advance with family and friends will help the event run more smoothly.

What type of event is planned?

Where will the event be held (name/contact, address, phone)?

Who are the event planners (names/contact, address, phone)?

OPTIONS FOR VETERANS

Information from the veteran's service records and discharge papers may be required to be eligible for the following services. Such records are available from the National Personnel Records Center and can take up to six months to obtain. For information, contact Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration at *cem.va.gov*.

SURVIVOR BENEFITS

The spouse and children of deceased veterans may be eligible for financial assistance in the forms of dependency compensation, death pension, education assistance, vocational training, life insurance payouts, and home loans. For information, visit *va.gov/family-member-benefits*.

BURIAL ASSISTANCE

In some instances the veteran may be eligible for a burial allowance. Contact the Department of Veterans Affairs at 800.827.1000. Decisions are made case-by-case and based on income.

NATIONAL CEMETERY BURIAL

Veterans may choose to be buried or have a marker in a national cemetery. Spouses may also be buried in national cemeteries. National cemeteries may provide burial space, a concrete liner, park maintenance, and a memorial marker. Vaults can also be purchased; your funeral home should be able to assist with this option. If a veteran is cremated and wants a plaque in a national cemetery, a statement regarding disposition of cremated remains must be attached to the Department of Veterans Affairs plaque request form. For complete information, visit *cem.va.gov*.

AMERICAN FLAG MEMORIALS

Next of kin of a deceased veteran is eligible to receive an American flag, at no cost, from the Veterans Benefits Administration. Only one flag is provided, and it will not be replaced. The flag may drape the casket and then be folded for display. Most funeral homes have appropriate display cases. The funeral director or next of kin may request a flag at *cem.va.gov*.

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATES

Family members of a deceased veteran may request a Presidential Memorial Certificate to honor the veteran's memory. The certificates are engraved and signed by the current president. The veteran's spouse and children may all receive certificates. Visit the web page of the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration at *cem.va.gov/cem/pmc.asp*.

SPECIAL NOTES TO MY FAMILY

NOTES

NOTES

FINAL *Wishes*