

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT The Believers Fund

- **Investment Expertise**—Accounts are professionally managed along with the other assets of BSS.
- **Privacy**—You may decide to give anonymously whenever you choose to do so.
- **Gift Timing**—You may time your gift to obtain the maximum tax advantage or to meet specific needs of your desired charity.
- **Leveraged Giving**—Your gift may grow because it remains “invested” until distributed according to your recommendations.
- **Flexibility**—Using the Believers Fund simplifies spreading non-cash assets among several charities.
- **Simpler Alternatives**—Endowment accounts may be used to meet long-term family stewardship goals, rather than establishing more costly and complex private foundations.
- **Low Costs**—Although we reserve the right to change our policies, BSS currently charges no account set-up or management fees for establishing and handling accounts for individuals, local assemblies, or other ministries. Thus, your Believers Fund account can be established to simplify your lifetime and testamentary charitable giving at little or no cost to you.

Just as with lifetime gifts from a Believers Fund account, all gifts to charity will be attributed to you, or be kept anonymous if you so indicate. Again, distributions will be made only to tax-exempt public charities whose purposes, programs, and practices are consistent with the Christian character of BSS. Any problems with your designated charities will be brought to your attention upon receipt of your written instructions.

Using the Believers Fund as a conduit for charitable gifts upon death is a convenient method of honoring God’s Kingdom as part of your estate plan. Your estate keeps all of the tax benefits of making those gifts directly to the individual charities, but you gain the ability to change those distributions during your lifetime with less hassle and expense.

## Additional Benefits of a Believers Fund Account

In addition to the benefits already discussed, use of the Believers Fund can offer additional tax and planning benefits, such as:

- **Tax Benefits**—Avoid capital gains tax on appreciated assets, maximize deductibility of your donations, and simplify record keeping.
- **Planning Expertise**—You benefit from the knowledge and expertise of the BSS staff in managing and liquidating non-cash assets.

## I Am Interested in Christian Stewardship!

### I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

CHRISTIAN WILLS  
REVOCABLE LIVING TRUSTS  
DEPOSIT AGREEMENTS  
LIFE INSURANCE TRUSTS  
GIFT ANNUITIES  
CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS  
BUSINESS SUCCESSION PLANNING  
USING A DONOR ADVISED FUND  
AVOIDING DEATH TAXES  
AVOIDING PROBATE  
EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS OR MATERIALS FOR MY ORGANIZATION  
OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

### I WANT TO PROMOTE THE LORD’S WORK IN:

FOREIGN MISSIONS  
INNER CITY MISSIONS  
MY LOCAL CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY  
RETIREMENT LIVING CENTERS  
BIBLE CAMPS  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
REHABILITATION CENTERS  
PRISON AND JAIL MINISTRIES  
EVANGELISM  
OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

### MY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTACT:

Regular Mail  Telephone   
E-mail  No Preference



888-338-7810

www.believerstewardship.org

RETURN TO BELIEVERS STEWARDSHIP SERVICES, INC., 2250 CHANEY RD., DUBUQUE, IA 52001-2913  
OR CALL 888-338-7810 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.believerstewardship.org](http://www.believerstewardship.org)

# What is the Believers Fund?

The Believers Fund is one of the best ways to maximize and simplify your charitable giving. It is our donor-advised fund, meaning that it allows you to make one gift through Believers Stewardship Services (“BSS”), which is redistributed to your favorite charities immediately or at a later date. This gives you an immediate tax benefit, yet allows you time to recommend charities you want to support.

You can establish a Believers Fund account by contributing various types of assets. Depending on the type of asset you contribute, you may gain other tax benefits in addition to an immediate deduction for income tax purposes.

# Establishing Your Believers Fund Account

Our goal is to streamline your charitable giving in the most effective and tax-efficient manner. Establishing and using a Believers Fund account requires only five easy steps:

- **Step 1—Open Your Account.** You may do so by contacting us to obtain a Believers Fund Account Agreement to complete and return to our office. You determine if the account will be an individual or joint account, and you may select a name for your account.

- **Step 2—Fund Your Account.** You may then contribute assets to the account, for which you are entitled to an immediate income tax deduction. In general, accounts can be funded with cash, marketable securities, real estate, or privately held stock. Once gifts are made to your account, they are irrevocable.
- **Step 3—Recommend Investment Allocation.** If you wish, you may recommend allocating assets in your account among three different investment options: (a) Money market; (b) balanced fund; and (c) bond fund. Every reasonable effort will be made to honor your wishes for allocation.
- **Step 4—Recommend Distributions.** When you want to support one or more charities from your account, you simply give us written indication of your recommended distributions. Again, every reasonable effort will be made to honor your distribution recommendations.
- **Step 5—Leave the Paperwork to Us.** We prepare and send checks according to your recommended and approved distributions. Since you receive a gift receipt from us when the initial gift is made to your account, you will not need to keep track of additional receipts for tax preparation. We also send you quarterly statements for each quarter there is activity in your account, and a year-end statement summarizing your account's charitable activity.



# Making Gifts From Your Believers Fund Account

Once your Believers Fund account is funded, you may recommend grants to your favorite charities. The process works as follows:

- Using a Grant Recommendation Form (“GRF”) provided by us, you recommend a distribution to a charity. You may even recommend restricting the gift to a special cause within the organization.
- The GRF you sign will indicate that “no goods or services were received” by you from the charity in exchange for the gift.
- You then return the GRF to us.
- We verify that each organization you name is a tax-exempt public charity and that it does not conflict with our charitable mission.
- Distributions to qualified organizations will be made once each week with our usual check batching period.

The gift to the charity will be attributed to you, unless you indicate that it is to be anonymous. Distributions from the fund will be made only to tax-exempt public charities.

All requests for grants to qualified organizations with purposes, programs, and practices consistent with the Christian character of BSS will be honored. More than likely the organizations you recommend will be acceptable, but BSS has final discretion regarding approval of recipients.

# Using the Believers Fund to Make Gifts at Death

Whether you establish an account during lifetime or not, you can use the Believers Fund as a convenient method of channeling charitable gifts upon death. Such gifts may be made in your will, trust, or beneficiary designation form as part of your estate planning.

This is accomplished very simply. The process works as follows:

- You name BSS as the beneficiary for any charitable gifts in your will, trust, beneficiary designations, or other estate planning documents.
- You provide written instructions to BSS indicating how charitable gifts upon death should be distributed.
- Any time you wish to add or delete charities from your list, or you wish to modify the proportionate share going to any charity, you simply revise the written instructions on file with BSS. No formal amendment of your estate planning documents is necessary.
- Upon your death, we will take charge of all assets given BSS in your estate plan and distribute them in accordance with your written instructions on file.

