

# Legacy

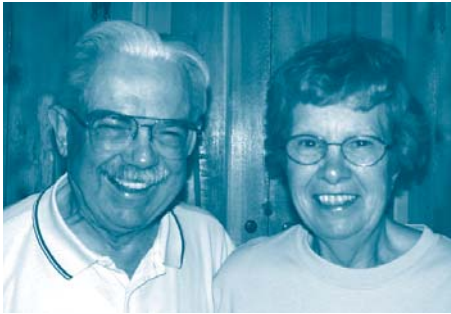
“Listen to counsel...  
that you may manage  
your life wisely.”

Proverbs 19:20

Charitable Estate Planning  
Ideas and Stories of our  
American Baptist Family  
Summer 2004

Volume 20, Number 1

## A LITTLE BECOMES A LOT



Douglas and Helen Hill

Many American Baptists know the Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Hill, former Executive Minister of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. He and his wife, Helen, are now retired in Ohio and spend part of their summers in Michigan.

Many years ago, before they were married, Helen obtained some stock. She tells the story with a chuckle, “In 1951, I was driving my father’s car to church and had to get some gas at a remodeled service station. They were having a grand opening, and I won a prize – either \$75 or 5 shares of some Mobil Oil stock. My father suggested that I take the stock. Later, we purchased ten shares of one more stock.”

That was the extent of the Hills’ stock investment experience. But in the years that followed, through stock splits and reinvested

dividends, the five shares grew to more than 440 and the ten shares became more than 900! One of the companies even developed another “spin off” company. Helen recalls, “There were a number of times when we could have used the money by cashing in that stock, but we lived within our means and never did. Decades later it had compounded so much that if we had cashed it in, there would have been a large payment in capital gains tax.”

What did the Hills do? Helen explains, “We always wanted to give something to Parchment Valley, the West Virginia Baptist Conference Center at Ripley, where people learn of Christ, renew their spirits, and have some fun. And we had seen our American Baptist international mission work through four different mission tours in the 1980s and ‘90s. We were sold on American Baptist mission before those trips, but we developed an even deeper appreciation by seeing what we did.”

Helen and Doug had learned about the American Baptist Foundation’s services over the years and knew that they could use their appreciated stock to fund a charitable gift annuity (CGA). Doug explains, “The results of our CGA decision will help to fund ministry in West Virginia and around the world for years to come.”

“It leads to a win-win situation,” Helen adds, “since we receive a regular check from our annuity for the rest of our lives. And what remains will go to Parchment Valley and International Ministries. Although our eventual gifts may only be a ‘drop in the bucket,’ if there are enough drops from everyone, they can amount to something!”

A little can become a lot – whether you think about stock in a company or investment in American Baptist ministry and mission. You may want to consider a CGA for yourself. ■

*We hear many mystifying words and phrases when it comes to planned giving. Most of these relate to investments. Some of us have active stock portfolios, while others have retirement savings and additional monies in mutual funds. This summer’s issue of **Legacy** gives you a chance to read of American Baptist leaders who have used their personal investments to “practice what they preach.” They – who have encouraged us to support the ministries and mission of our faith family – do so themselves, both in the present through ongoing giving and in the future through planned giving. While reading of their decisions, may you consider following their example and turn to the American Baptist Foundation as you design the financial portion of your own legacy!*

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