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John W. Thomas

fifteen to a room.”

After several months, the Sabusawas were transferred to a relocation center in Granada, Colorado. There Mari met John William Thomas, an American Baptist home missionary. He was able to arrange for Mari’s release through a student relocation program.

Mari traveled to Philadelphia as part of a program of the American Baptist Home Mission Society (now known as National Ministries). In 1942, she received direct financial aid in excess of \$1,000 from the Society so that she could attend Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

After graduate work at the University of Chicago, Mari worked for the American Council on Race Relations. In 1954, she met James A. Michener, and they were married the following year.

In a letter dated October 18, 1994, Mr. Michener informed National Ministries of the death of his wife on September 25. He also stated that her will included a bequest of \$200,000. It was designated for the establishment of a scholarship fund named the “John William Thomas Fund.”

Today, scholarships from that fund continue to be given to American Baptists attending conferences and other continuing education experiences. They ensure diversity among those participating in such events. The historic commitment to advocacy for displaced persons, like Mari, continues into the 21st century through National Ministries’ Immigration and Refugee Service.

Mari Sabusawa Michener’s life was improved because of an American Baptist ministry. No doubt, your life has been also. Does your will reflect your gratitude to God for American Baptist ministry and mission? You can help sustain the work of your own congregation, National Ministries, and other American Baptist outreach by your decisions. For a confidential consultation at no cost or obligation, please mail the enclosed response card or call 1-800-ABC-3USA x2035.



Mari and James A. Michener



What makes up your estate?

Everyone has an estate and that includes you! Your estate is composed of all that you possess:

- Cash
- Life Insurance & Annuities
- Checking & Savings Accounts
- Real Estate
- Stocks & Bonds
- Mutual Funds
- Certificates of Deposit
- Retirement Accounts
- Tangible personal property
 - household goods
 - vehicles
 - jewelry
 - clothing
 - collectibles
- Business Interests
- Partnerships
- Trusts

Since you have an estate, you should have a will. Through your will you may:

1. Name a guardian for your minor children.
2. Distribute your property to loved ones.
3. Provide support for the work of Christ and his church.
4. Give special possessions to special people.
5. Choose an executor.

As one who seeks to practice Christian stewardship...

jot down an estimate of how much you own for each of the above items. You might be surprised and want to do more than an informal estimate!

If so, just request a copy of the Foundation’s “Will Planning Guide and Personal Inventory” by using the enclosed response card. ■