

LEAVING A LEGACY

Engaging People. Embracing Christ.



A NOTE FROM JAMES

YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AT RESONATE

I always love thinking about finances as a way we love and serve the Lord. One way to serve through your finances is through creating a financial plan that reflects your faith! As you'll read in the article right next to this column, Herb and Dori made a values-driven plan for their money that serves as an enduring example for their family and their whole community. I thank God for donors like Herb and Dori and like you, too, who care so much about God's mission.

Thank you for your faithful support for Resonate. If you'd like to talk about the ways you can leave a legacy for your loved ones, you can contact me anytime at jvanderlaan@crcna.org.

Building a Bright Future Through a Legacy of Faith

A true story of two faithful Resonate donors.

Herbert "Herb" and Doris "Dori" Vander Mey's faith in Christ guided their values and commitments throughout their lives—and it's their faith that shines through in their legacy today and is helping to build a bright future for mission.

Both Herb and Dori were thankful for the difference the gospel made in their lives and how God had blessed them through their work. They sought to "give back" to the work God was doing through giving to various ministries, including Christian Reformed Home Missions, Christian Reformed World Missions, and now Resonate Global Mission. The Vander Meys were especially passionate about church renewal and equipping Christian leaders for God's calling in their lives.

Herb was a lifelong member of La Grave Avenue CRC in Grand Rapids, Mich., where Dori joined him after they married in 1951. Their community remembers them for their generosity and passion for mission.

Resonate is thankful for the difference Herb and Dori have made in their giving throughout their lives and through their estate. Their legacy of faith shines through today—and helps



to build a bright future—in Resonate's work of planting churches and equipping pastors and leaders in more than 40 countries around the world.

Have you considered your will as your testimony? Proper estate planning is a wonderful way to communicate a heritage of faith and to bless the ministries that are close to your heart—like Resonate Global Mission—while leaving a legacy for your family. But it can be a lot of work.

You don't have to do it on your own! We invite you to work with our partners at Christian Stewardship Services to make your legacy gift planning experience not only helpful but also full of peace and hope for the future. We want to ensure that the people and charities you love will benefit in the way you want—so that your legacy of faith will live on and inspire generations to come.

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 A Ministry of the Christian Reformed Church

Resonate
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Share Your Beliefs and Values: More Than Just a Will

A spiritual letter may be one of the most meaningful gifts you can leave to your family and friends. Sometimes referred to as an “ethical will,” it is designed to pass your Christian values, life lessons and blessings from one generation to the next.

Writing Your Letter

Writing a spiritual love letter may feel daunting at first. However, if you view it as a love letter to your family, the process can be spiritually deep and satisfying. Furthermore, since this is not a legal document, the content, length and form are completely up to you. There’s no wrong way to go about it! Here are a few reflection questions to guide your writing.

Beliefs and Values

- What do you believe about God?
- What does it mean to be a family?
- What are your convictions about God’s mission?
- What are your guiding principles for handling money?

Life Lessons

- What lessons did you learn from your grandparents, parents and other mentors?
- What were some of the defining moments of your life, and what did you learn from them?
- For what life experiences are you most grateful?

Messages of Hope

- What message of hope and encouragement do you wish to leave



to your loved ones?

- What did you most appreciate about your family and friends, and how did you grow closer to God because of them?
- What is your greatest hope and prayer for your family? What spiritual blessing do you want to give them?

Sharing Your Letter

Once you’ve completed your spiritual letter, make sure to save it along with your will, in a safe location where your personal representative knows where to find it. In doing so, you will leave your family a tangible gift of love, hope and encouragement they can carry with them in the years to come. **But don’t forget: the best way to pass on your legacy is to live it!** Talk with your family about the things you’ve written down—if you like, contact me for a simple worksheet you can use to share your estate plan with your family.

Our partners at Christian Stewardship Services: helping Christians make tax-wise decisions

As a valued supporter of Resonate Global Mission, you have the opportunity for a confidential consultation with our partners at Christian Stewardship Services (CSS) at no cost to you.

CSS is a Christian charity that helps Christians make tax-wise decision regarding the transfer of their financial resources, as well as offering stewardship education!

If you have questions about updating your will or estate plan, or about making non-cash gifts like the following, I would be happy to talk about how CSS can help you craft a lasting legacy of faith and generosity:

- Bequests
- Gifts of stocks, securities, or appreciated property
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Gifts of life insurance
- Gifts from the sale of a business, home, farm, etc.

With decades of experience in helping Christians with estate- and gift planning, CSS professionals will meet you in the comfort of your home to explore and develop a plan that addresses your needs.

For more information about Resonate or how to update your will or estate plan with our partners at CSS, contact James VanderLaan at jvanderlaan@crcna.org or (519) 500-0393.

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