

# LEGACY



A Newsletter from Azusa Pacific University’s Office of Gift and Estate Planning

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## A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

By Fran Banks Newman, Ed.D.

Azusa Pacific University continues to be a life-changing experience for Don and Rosie Bowers. The couple met on campus when APU was still known as Azusa College. Don accepted the Lord as his Savior shortly after arriving as a student. The couple went on to graduate, and recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on campus.

Rosie, whose three sisters and several cousins also attended APU, grew up in a loving Christian home. At the tender age of 12, she accepted the Lord and claimed the verse from Philippians 1:9-10: “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ.” To this day, it remains one of her favorite scripture passages.

**“It’s a win-win situation for us, and most importantly, for the kingdom of God.”**

Don was called to the ministry. Throughout Southern California, he served as a pastor at several churches, as well as on APU’s staff as director of church relations/alumni liaison and in the Office of Estate Planning. Today, he is an associate pastor at the Cucamonga Christian Fellowship Church and chaplain at APU’s Murrieta Regional Center.

Rosie taught in public and Christian schools, and always had her own leadership ministries—directing women’s groups, leading Bible study classes, and teaching—in the churches the Bowers family attended. An avid reader who loves to write, Rosie took a break from teaching to raise their four children, who have added 10 precious grandchildren to the family.

Don likes to share the unique experience of having the grandson and great grandchildren of Cornelius P. Haggard, the longest-serving president in APU’s history, attend the church where he current serves. Haggard

mentored him and ordained him into the ministry. Don strongly believes that the legacy of leaders like Haggard continues to impact his own grandchildren and great grandchildren and the Church of Jesus Christ.

Don is a living testimony to his own favorite scripture verse found in Romans 12:1–2. “Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Don and Rosie remain very involved in APU activities on campus. They continue their long-lasting friendships from their days as APU students, and have students from their church attending the university. They are especially proud of their granddaughter, Jacklin Elliott, who is enrolled in APU’s pre-nursing program.

The couple also feels richly rewarded with their charitable annuity investment in APU. “In giving a charitable annuity, we receive quarterly payments for the rest of our lives. The interest rates are fixed and not impacted by the economy, and our gift annuity saves us tax dollars,” they explained. “It’s a win-win situation for us, and most importantly, for the kingdom of God.”

The couple also gives annually to APU. “We give because young people’s lives are still being transformed at APU. They are making an impact on our culture as they spread the Gospel around the world.”

The Bowers remain in awe of the dramatic growth of APU’s students, buildings, and programs, and the university’s unwavering commitment to its *God First* motto. They believe APU truly exemplifies academic excellence in a Christian environment that changes lives. They are living proof of it.

## Savvy Living: Dying Without A Will: Who Gets What?

*Dear Savvy Living,*  
*What will happen to my property and money if I die without a will?*

*Signed,*  
*Don’t Have Much*

*Dear Don't Have Much,*  
*If you die without a will, what happens to your assets will depend on the state you live in and which of your family members are living at the time of your death. Here's what you should know:*

### Who Gets What

If you don't get around to creating a will, the state you reside in will create one for you at the time of your death.

The state laws that determine how your estate will be distributed if you die without a will are called “intestacy laws,” and they can vary greatly from state to state, depending on whom you leave behind and whether you have jointly or separately owned assets with your spouse. The best way to find out how your state works is to go to MyStateWill.com, where you can get an exact breakdown of how your estate would be distributed.

### Simple Wills

If you don't like the idea of your state handling your financial affairs after you're gone, you can change that by contacting your favorite charity. They will send you a kit with information regarding wills and probate. If you would like to update your will, we can also assist in locating a local attorney to help you with that.

Savvy Living is written by Jim Miller, a regular contributor to NBC’s *The Today Show* and author of *The Savvy Senior*.

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## Get Involved!



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- ☐ Send me information on how to receive income for life through a gift annuity.
- ☐ Send me information on how to remember APU in my will or trust.
- ☐ I have remembered APU in my estate plan.
- ☐ Send me information on upcoming events: ☐ Drama ☐ Music ☐ Dead Sea Scrolls





## A Fitting Tribute: Marvin and Leota Batt

*By Fran Banks Newman, Ed.D.*  
Many APU students will forever benefit from the Batt Scholarship Fund, established

by Marvin and Leota Batt in honor of their only son, Mark, who died suddenly in 2004, while his son, Luke, was attending APU. The scholarship fund also now stands in loving memory of Leota, who passed away in August 2009. She is survived by Marvin; their daughter, Ava Smalley; and their five grandchildren, including APU alumnus Luke.

Marvin and Leota grew up in Christian homes and always had a deep appreciation for their rich spiritual heritage. Marvin has fond memories of his faith development in Missouri, where he was baptized in the river and attended vacation Bible school. Leota was the local church pianist. Her relatives had come from England on the Mayflower, and her grandfather was a war hero for the North in the Civil War. He survived

as a POW in the legendary Andersonville Prison for two years, and then migrated from New York to Missouri.

Marvin makes it a point to share his spiritual family heritage with his grandchildren. He travels with them throughout the country, and takes special delight in introducing each of the children to their Missouri roots.

Marvin and Leota moved to Glendora in 1961 from northwest Missouri, where Marvin farmed and ran a successful Pillsbury feed store, while Leota worked as a teacher. Their love for travel was born from a trip to New York and Bermuda that they won in a Pillsbury feed contest.

When they first moved, they lived in La Puente, where their daughter, Ava, is now principal of La Puente High School. She followed in the footsteps of Leota, who was a devoted and recognized educator in the Azusa Unified School District for many years. Marvin became a successful entrepreneur in Southern California. Today, he still enjoys working in real estate at his Glendora-based business, Landview Properties, alongside grandson, Luke, and Ava’s husband, Harrison.

Marvin and Leota had a growing admiration for APU’s regional growth and ability to attract students

nationally. They convinced grandson Luke, who was interested in music at the time, to come from Northern California to live with them and attend APU. As Luke became involved in campus activities, his grandparents attended his events and were quickly impressed at seeing how APU was interested in each and every student, preparing them for life after college. Marvin and Leota both felt that APU’s ideals were a fitting tribute to their life and son.

As a lifelong teacher, Leota easily recognized the benefits of an education from APU. While living and working in the area, Marvin has also watched and valued the contributions APU has made to the surrounding communities.

Marvin has truly honored the university by making it an equal member in the Batt family. His son Mark’s inheritance will live on through student scholarships that will benefit APU students for many years to come. Marvin and Leota’s passion for providing opportunities for all students to attend APU will become a permanent part of the university’s fabric.

### Sample Gift Annuity Rates

Age	Rate (%)
60	5.0
65	5.3
70	5.7
75	6.3
80	7.1
85	8.1
90	9.1

*To discover how much you can earn on a charitable gift annuity, call APU’s Office of Gift and Estate Planning at (888) 865-9769.*

## One Thing You Can Always Count On A New Old Faithful?

Even the legendary and magnificent Old Faithful geyser in Yellowstone National Park is not what it used to be—or what it ever was. Due to frequent changes in volcanic and seismic activity, both the duration of eruptions and the intervals between them is changing. While Old Faithful is fairly predictable, it has never erupted like clockwork.

**A gift annuity, on the other hand, is totally reliable.** When you fund one, you can always count on receiving your payment, as it should be. Maybe we need to think of Old Faithful in a new way.

Charitable gift annuity benefits:

- Fixed payments for life
- Income tax deduction
- Capital gains advantages
- Partial tax-free income
- Peace of mind

While stocks and unemployment fluctuate, the reliable charitable gift annuity will remain unchanged. It’s something that can give you certainty, predictability, and security in an otherwise topsy-turvy world.

### Which of the following will not change in the next five years?

- The economy
- Real estate prices
- Gasoline prices
- Your charitable gift annuity

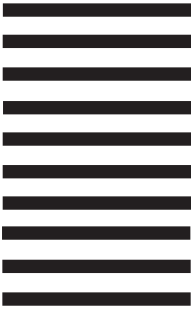
### Answer

**d. Your charitable gift annuity.**

The economy, real estate, and gasoline prices are all guaranteed to change over time. But you can count on your gift annuity never changing for as long as you live.



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## Office of Gift and Estate Planning

To learn more about how you can benefit through giving, contact Azusa Pacific University’s Office of Gift and Estate Planning.

- CALL (888) 865-9769
- CLICK [www.apugifts.org](http://www.apugifts.org)
- EMAIL [stewardship@apu.edu](mailto:stewardship@apu.edu)