



Seeking God's Answers for a Missionary Opportunity

Jim Roszell and Bob Clark recently visited All Nations College in Thika, Kenya on a teaching trip. While there, they took a tour of the local prison, and a mission opportunity presented itself. Bob Clark explains here.

We were first introduced to the prison two years ago. It's both a male and female prison, and it's fully sustainable. They have a working farm for raising their own vegetables. They have cows and chickens. They produce furniture that people from the community can come and purchase. They apparently have made furniture for quite a few government officials. They do all the work without a single power tool. They also have a facility by which children can come and spend some time with their parents, especially their mothers, who are in prison.

There's nothing healthy about this place. The conditions are deplorable. Men sleep in barrack-style large rooms. When they move the prisoners, they are bound together. When they stop, they have to squat until they're ready to move

again. Why do they do that? Control, so that no one decides to try to run.

There's a guard who is a pastor as well as a student at All Nations College. He has worked several times with us to try to get us into the prison. Now we have to wonder if the prison would be a good place to teach. Because Jim and I visit All Nations College together, maybe we could trade off mornings and afternoons. One of us would be at All Nations College while the other is at the prison.

There is a chapel and a chaplain. He's a great guy and is in favor of trying to help these people so the recidivism rate declines.

Maybe the classes we teach wouldn't be deeply theological but instead focus more on life. Maybe we start with the simple question—Do you have a plan to live your life in such a way that you don't come back here? Whatever their answer, it will be a short walk from there to the Gospel.

Sometimes you look at those problems and think, *how do I even begin to get my arms around this?* We have an opening. We have an opportunity. Now the question is *Lord, what, if anything, should we do, considering everything else we're doing in Thika?* We're still trying to figure that out.

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Estate Planning Helps Your Family After You Are Gone

By Carlo Hansen, ITEM Board Member

Have you considered what will happen to your assets once you are gone? While this isn't exactly a pleasant topic, not thinking about what happens to our stuff after we die can cause hardship for our loved ones who are left. Estate planning is a way of intentionally planning for what happens to our assets after we die. This brief article will help our ITEM partners consider some aspects of estate planning.

What is estate planning?

Estate planning is the process of designating who will receive your assets and handle your responsibilities after your death or incapacitation.

The key question to ask yourself is: How do you want your assets distributed when you die or are incapacitated?

Here are some steps for basic estate planning.

1. Inventory your stuff and estimate its value.

You may think you don't have enough to justify estate planning. But once you start looking around, you might be surprised by all the tangible and intangible assets you have.

2. Establish your directives.

A complete estate plan includes important legal directives.

A trust might be appropriate. With a living trust, you can designate portions of your estate to go toward certain things while you're alive. If you become ill or incapacitated, your selected trustee can take over. Upon your death, the trust assets transfer to your designated beneficiaries, bypassing probate, which is the court process that may otherwise distribute your property.

A medical care directive, also known as a living will, spells out your wishes for medical care if you become unable to make those decisions yourself. You can also give a trusted person medical power of attorney for your healthcare, giving that person the authority to make decisions if you can't. These two documents are sometimes combined into one, known as an advance healthcare directive.

A durable financial power of attorney allows someone else to manage your financial affairs if you're medically unable to do so. Your designated agent, as directed in the document, can act on your behalf in legal and financial situations when you can't. This includes paying your bills and taxes, as well as accessing and managing your assets.

A limited power of attorney can be useful if the idea of turning over everything to someone else concerns you. This legal document does just what its name says: It imposes limits on the powers of your named representative. For example, you could grant the person the power to sign the documents on your behalf at the closing of a home sale or to sell a specific stock.

Think carefully about to whom you give power of attorney. They may literally have your financial well-being — and even your life — in their hands. You might want to assign the medical and financial representation to different people, as well as a backup for each in case your primary choice is unavailable when needed.

In future articles, we'll offer additional ideas about how you can plan ahead so that your estate will be a blessing to the people and organizations you care about. In the meantime, it's not too late to start planning.

You should always consult a tax professional or financial advisor for advice about your particular situation.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for Jobbe Lammers, wife of ITEM board member Dr. Warren Lammers. She is dealing with pancreatic cancer.
2. Pray for Debbie Richards, wife of ITEM Board member Dr. Jeff Richards. She has Parkinson's disease.
3. Pray for the pastors conference on Christ-centered preaching scheduled for April in Ukraine.
4. Praise God for the more than 1,300 people watching the Revelation class in Indonesia.