

The View from Mount Nebo
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Moses was standing on Mount Nebo, gazing toward Jericho, Gilead, the land of Judah, as far as the Western Sea. It must have been quite a sight. He was so close to the finish of the long forty-year journey from Egypt through the wilderness to the promised land, but not close enough. God told him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants;' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." So near, and yet so far. Moses died there, but he could glimpse the future.

My father-in-law is fond of quoting his mother Clare, who would say of one of her grandchildren, "I'd like to be a mouse in the corner" watching how one of them would "turn out" at some milestone moment in life. (She would be pleased, by the way.)

Like Moses and Clare, none of us gets to see how things will "turn out," at least from an earthly perspective. But then "sight" and "vision" are two very different things, aren't they? Even though we can't see the future, we can embrace a *vision* for the future and take steps today to help ensure the vision will come to pass. What's your vision for the future of your family, for the future of your church?

Sadly, most Americans don't take advantage of the simplest way to invest in the future of their family and institutions like the church that have helped shape them into the people they are today – they don't make a will of their own. According to current statistics, over half of us will die without a will or estate plan. And without a will of one's own, the legislature and courts determine what will happen to one's assets – and scarier still, one's minor children – after he or she is gone. That's why it's just as important for parents of young children to have a will as it is for grandparents to have one.

How's the view from your Mount Nebo? What do you see as you gaze ahead toward the promised land? What will you do now to make the future better for your family and your church? If you haven't already done so, make a will, and prayerfully consider how God can use a portion of your estate to further the work of the Kingdom after you're gone. If you already have a will, thank you. And please consider a bequest to your church if you haven't already made one. It's a simple matter to add a bequest to an existing will.

Albert Schweitzer said, "No ray of sunshine is ever lost, but the green which it awakens into existence needs time to sprout, and it is not always granted for the sower to see the harvest. All work that is worth anything is done in faith."

Moses, and Clare, would understand.

As the stewardship voice of the Florida Conference, the Foundation is ready to help you, your family and your church with anything related to comprehensive Christian stewardship, including information on wills and estate planning. For more information please call, click or write us at 1-866-363-9673 toll-free; www.fumf.org; or PO Box 3549, Lakeland, FL 33802.