

Smart Money Tips

Taxes & Your IRA

Lifetime Gifts of IRA's

Generally, charitable gifts from IRA monies make poor gifts during your lifetime. By withdrawing money from your IRA, you must still pay the tax on the withdrawal. And although you will receive an income tax deduction for the gift, it will not be enough to fully cover the tax.

Charitable Gifts of IRA's

Although lifetime gifts from IRA's are not recommended, gifts of IRA's to charitable organizations at death can be beneficial. If you plan on making gifts to charity in your estate plan, consider making them from your IRA instead of other assets. Your beneficiaries must pay tax on the IRA, but a "tax-exempt" charitable organization does not. By making your favorite charity a beneficiary of the IRA, you save your heirs tax dollars while supporting your charity.

Please consult your attorney, accountant or other financial advisor to see how a gift of an IRA might benefit you.

The Martin & Gracia Burnham Foundation

In Support of: Missionary Aviation Tribal Missions The Persecuted Church Muslim Ministries

March 2007

A Note from Gracia



A few days ago, on my 48th birthday, I was awakened from sleep by the phone ringing. I thought it might be one of my friends calling to wish me a Happy Birthday. It was the Associated Press wanting a statement about the death of Solaiman, one of the leaders of the Abu Sayyaf. He was apparently killed in a gun battle with the Philippine military several hours earlier.

In my estimation, Solaiman was the most dangerous of the Abu Sayyaf leaders. He was the mastermind of the raid on Dos Palmas where Martin and I were taken hostage. He had a real hatred for the West. His dream was to get to the U.S. and "wreak some havoc" in his words.

Always before when I would hear about the death of one of these guys, my heart would

sink and I would think, "Oh no! Another guy's day of grace is over!" But not with Solaiman. When I heard the news, I felt a great rush of relief. That reaction surprised me and still does today.



Solaiman and Martin spent hours and hours talking. His hammock was always hung very near to ours as he was, sort of, in charge of us. He was well educated and spoke good English so the two of them would pass the long, boring hours talking about ideology and religion and life in America. One day, the three of us were talking and we – again – were weaving the gospel into our conversation. I said something like, "Solaiman, we believe that Jesus paid for our sins so we don't have to." Solaiman replied emphatically, "I'll pay for my own sin." I find no pleasure in the fact that Solaiman will, indeed, "pay for his own sin" now. But I also see his death as a great vic-

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The REAL Lifetime Achievement Award . . .

For the last 3 years, The Martin & Gracia Burnham Foundation has supported the Ibaloi translation team. The Ibaloi are the Philippine people with whom Paul & Oreta Burnham (Martin's parents) have worked for 30 years. The translation team consists of 4 native Ibaloi who work full time translating Old Testament Scriptures, dictionaries and

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Some Old Testament
Ibaloi Translation work

**The
grass
wITHERS,
the
flower
fades,
but the
word of
our God
will last
forever.
Isa. 40:8**

A Note from Gracia

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tory for Southeast Asia's war on terror. I commend the Philippine military for keeping after these guys.

Naturally, the events of that day, with all the media interviews and phone calls from government offices in Washington D.C. brought back lots of memories of our captivity. I was reminded, again, of all the folks that worked hard trying to get us home. I thought about all those who prayed diligently for us. I thought about everyone who has been so supportive of me since I've been home.

I thought a lot about Martin - and how he died well. None of us know the length of the race that we are to run. We are not

told in the beginning. And on every man's tombstone there is a dash between the birth date and the death date. I've heard it referred to as the "dash between the dates". Every tombstone has that small hyphen that represents a life. We get only one dash. No one gets two. There are no "do-over's". And everyone dies.

I am again encouraged to live a life worthy of the Lord. The only thing that will last in eternity is what you and I do for God here on earth. Let's make the "dash" that we are given, one that counts! Your gifts to the Foundation are doing just that. They are making eternal differences in many lives. For that, I sincerely thank you.



Martin's gravestone - something significant happened in his life between the dates as represented by a cross.

Lifetime Achievement Award

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other Bible study aides. Your gifts to the Foundation have provided salaries for four people enabling them to have computers and needed equipment. This has resulted in the translation and printing of 13 different books of the Bible! And so . . . the winner of the "lifetime achievement award" goes to . . . **The Ibaloi Translation Team!**



Sherwin & Wilfred attend a translators workshop sponsored by Wycliffe. Michelle works on the Ibaloi Bible Dictionary.

Have you ever wondered about how many verses there are in the book of Genesis? There are a total of 1533. If a translator would average 13 verses per day (a good estimate according to Wycliffe Bible Translators) and he worked 5 days a week for 8 hours a day, it would take him just under 5 months to enter the text into a computer and be ready to print a first draft! Of course, the weather must cooperate. . . no hurricanes, the power must remain on, the computer must not crash, the translator and the one providing him with information cannot get sick or have family members who need care OR. . . any one of a hundred other interruptions which we call life!



Paul Burnham teaching the Ibaloi during a recent trip to the Philippines

"We only get one dash. No one gets two. There are no do-over's."

For Donations
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