



Fertilise the Future

Leaving a gift in your will to Crosslinks



BCMS
Crosslinks

Purpose beyond the grave

There is a story about a little boy whose three-year-old cousin died. The boy's parents tried to comfort him: 'Death is perfectly natural. When you die, your body goes into the earth and enriches the soil and helps things grow. Remember, you've watched *The Lion King*.' The little boy ran out of the room screaming, 'I don't want to be fertiliser!'

The little boy was 'closer to Jesus' point of view of death than his parents were. He was grieving, death is not right. It's not the way it ought to be. It's not the way God made the world.¹

Yes, death is not the way it ought to be – and because Jesus' tomb was empty that first Easter, we have hope beyond the grave of an eternal, perfect life with God. But we can also have purpose beyond the grave. Believers who depart this world can 'fertilise' the work of the gospel through leaving a financial gift.

The ministry of Crosslinks has benefitted significantly over the years through those who choose to be generous in their death. Countless ordinary disciples of Jesus have funded and fertilised the work of taking the gospel to the nations.



Many of us are not able to serve the Lord overseas. Yet all of us, young and old, can serve God's global mission as we pray and as we give. Will you join those who have gone before and are currently enjoying their heavenly reward? Will you facilitate others going overseas to lead churches and train pastors in the majority world?

Even in our death, we can serve our risen King, who will one day welcome all his people with the words, 'well done, good and faithful servant' (Matthew 25:23).

¹ Tim Keller, *On Death*, p. 41.



The information in this leaflet is designed to help you think through the reasons for leaving a gift in your will towards the gospel work carried out by Crosslinks, and the practical steps of how to do so.

In 2022, Crosslinks celebrated 100 years of taking God's word to God's world.

Over the last century, 1,420 men and women have been sent out through Crosslinks. Their ministry and the ongoing gospel work of Crosslinks is funded through generous gifts from supporters, churches and trusts.

For many people, a gift in their will is the largest gift they will ever be able to make. In 2021, gifts in wills made up 16% of Crosslinks' income; over half a million pounds.

'We are very grateful for the bequest we received a couple of years ago. We thank the Lord Jesus for the person who gave generously, though they hadn't met us, enabling us to expand our outreach amongst the communities we serve.'

John, a project partner coordinator serving in a sensitive location

Some gifts in wills are directed to specific mission partners (and go towards their personal and ministry costs). Others support some of the many Crosslinks projects and theology training bursaries.

Wherever it is directed, each gift makes a significant difference to gospel work across the globe.



If you are considering leaving a gift to Crosslinks in your will, thank you. Here are some practical steps to help with the process:

🍃 **Work out your assets (and debts)**

Assets may include property, cash savings, shares, bonds, life policies and pensions. Debts may include mortgages and loans.

🍃 **Pray about who to remember in your will**

This may be family and friends, churches, charities or other causes. If you would like to make a gift to Crosslinks, you will need to include our address (251 Lewisham Way, London, SE4 1XF) and registered charity number (1164474).

Choose the type of gift you wish to leave

🍃 **Your solicitor or will-writer will be able to explain the different kinds of gift you can leave in a will. These include:**

- ✿ a pecuniary gift: a fixed sum of money
- ✿ a residuary gift: a gift of the remainder of your estate after all other gifts have been made and debts cleared. This could be the total of the remainder to one beneficiary, or a percentage of it to more than one.

🍃 **Choose an executor for your will**

Ask someone you can trust to carry out your wishes.

🍃 **Write a will**

You can write your own will, but using a solicitor or professional will-writer helps ensure your will meets legal formalities and remains valid. It's wise to review and revise your will after a major life event.



All gifts in wills, large and small, help us continue to take God's word to God's world.

If you intend to leave Crosslinks a gift in your will, please let us know by returning the card included with this leaflet. This allows us to thank you, to keep you up-to-date with any relevant communication and to plan for the future gospel work we'd like to do.