A PERSONAL TESTIMONY...
ABOUT WAITING TOO LONG

She was the only mother I knew since my own mother died six weeks after my birth. My grandmother raised me until Dad remarried. Dad and my step-mom never had children and she raised my brother and me as if we were her own children.

When Dad died, he had a Will and his every wish was carried out. For years, I tried to get Mom to execute a Will but she kept putting it off. Six months before her death, she told me how she wanted her assets distributed. After certain items were sold or given away, the assets were to be split 50/50 between me and my brother.

When she died, much to my surprise, a Will was found. The signature did not look like her writing and everything went to her brother.

We could only surmise what happened here, but since we were step-children, we had no standing to contest the Will. Because she waited until her competency was diminished and because she had never adopted me and my brother, her boys did not receive what she intended.

This true story demonstrates the importance of drafting a Will before the mind is eroded by disease and a person is easily influenced by others. It also shows the value of considering the legal adoption of children you are rearing so they will not be left out.

Do not delay in preparing your Will. Make an appointment with an estate planning attorney this week.

If you would like further information about having a Christian Will, contact the Office of Strategic Endowed Giving, Brenda B. McCollum, J.D., Director, Florida Baptist Convention, 1230 Hendricks Ave. Jacksonville, FL 32207. (904) 396-2351 extension 3030 or 1-800-226-8584 extension 3030.