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Meet the Bradshaws : Texas couple invests in Liberty's future

April 01, 2009 ¦ Mitzi Bible

Mike Bradshaw, a real estate investor, and his wife Tonia live in Frisco, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. Though they have never been to Liberty Mountain, they have become partners in the ministry and share in the same vision of Liberty University founder Dr. Jerry Falwell.

“I’ve been an admirer of Jerry Falwell for a number of years, first starting to take notice during the Reagan years,” Mike Bradshaw said. “Dr. Falwell would take a stand on what he believed in when others stayed silent.”

The Bradshaws have stayed tuned in to Falwell over the years, watching the services broadcast from Thomas Road Baptist Church. They keep up with the happenings at Liberty University by watching television and through Dr. Jack Graham, pastor of the 27,000-member Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, where they attend. (Graham is a member of Liberty’s Board of Trustees and has travelled to LU for meetings and to speak at the school’s convocation.) The Bradshaws have also had a chance to see Liberty’s ministry teams perform at their church.

Mike Bradshaw said he always enjoyed when Falwell visited his church and is excited for what the man accomplished at Liberty and for the ongoing progress there and at TRBC.

“I think probably as much as anything I’ve admired the fact that he established the law school and is training these young lawyers up to go out and fight for what we believe in. … I think that’s absolutely needed in this day and time.”

Mike Bradshaw said the growth at Liberty is what prompted him to fund three deferred charitable gift annuities through Liberty’s Planned Giving Department.

He said the benefits are twofold: “It accomplishes putting your money in things you believe in and it’s an investment with a future return. An additional benefit is the tax deductions.” For the Bradshaws, this means the annuities will serve as a guaranteed retirement fund.

He said working with Everett Foutz, a planned giving officer at Liberty, has been a great experience. “Everett is outstanding. He’s such a nice guy and he stays in contact with us; he visits us, he will call, see how you’re doing on your birthday, call at Christmas — he’s very active and has an interest in how we’re doing.”

The annuities are an investment the Bradshaws are proud of.

“We feel like this organization is a good cause. It’s on the right track. We did the deferred gift annuities because we believe in the organization and what they’re doing.”

For more information on Planned Giving to Liberty University, go to www.lugiving.com or call (800) 543-5309