

# The Current

A monthly newsletter of Elim Christian Fellowship

March 2009

Elim Christian Fellowship  
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## For Today...MANAGING YOUR MONEY

by Dorothy Herbert

Allison Benson, 10 years old, is learning a respect for money, how to budget, how to pay bills, and how to save! She has learned to hate debt and is already saving for her first car so she will be able to pay cash when the time comes. Where did she get this knowledge? She's been learning these important lessons from her parents!

Other people have been learning from them, too. Allison's parents, David and Hania Benson facilitate the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University, a 13 week course (one session per week) here at ECF. "We took it two times in a row when Chris and Wendy Jackson taught it and believed so strongly in its value, we decided to take it over when Chris and Wendy needed a break. We have already run five classes over a two year period and are still excited to bring it to others."

David noted, "We weren't always good with money. We were seriously in debt when we learned about the course. We needed to change our spending habits." He said he liked the course immediately and explained that Dave Ramsey's approach in the DVD presentations is down to earth and very practical. Amazingly, the Bible contains 700 scriptures about money and Jesus talked more about money than about any other subject. Dave Ramsey has put this wisdom into easy to understand terms and because it is God's wisdom, it works!



David, Allison, and Hania Benson

The course is divided into two sections – the first is how to beat debt and the second is on building wealth. Contrary to some teachings and to scripture, God doesn't want us to be poor. He wants us to have enough for our own needs and to be able to give generously to those in need. He has also asked us to tithe - to give 10% of our income to our church. When we do, he promises to give back abundantly. Following these principles, Dave Ramsey's budget lists "giving" as a first item, not the last. Here are some of the subjects covered:

1. Renegotiating debt – how to talk to creditors and get debt and/or rates reduced.
2. Budgeting - forms are simple and cash is placed in envelopes for each bill.
3. Spending – How to find bargains and the best mortgages and insurance.
4. Saving – establishing an emergency fund and other savings.
5. Selling unneeded items to help pay down debt.



Cost of the course just under \$100, a special low price that Dave Ramsey gives to churches. Normal cost is \$150. This includes a workbook, a book of Dave's financial principles, CD's of each session, budgeting forms and envelopes. The brochure says that the average "University" student eliminates \$5300 in debt while saving \$2700. David and Hania say that this is while the student is taking the course.

What have David and Hania achieved? They have cut up their credit cards, pay cash for everything and have paid off all debt except some school loans and their house and they are working hard to eliminate these. "Since we get together every two weeks to plan our budget, we no longer fight about money. Our marriage is much stronger now and we can devote all that time and energy to building our marriage instead of fighting about money."

They also added that God has given them a vision of the ECF church body being entirely debt free. David said "Imagine how much we could do for our community if money worries had no place in our lives!"

Come to the FREE PREVIEW on Wednesday, March 4 at 6 pm. Proverbs says that the borrower is slave to the lender. David and Hania are no longer slaves to debt and credit cards. They are now on the road to financial freedom. You can be too! FMI, call them at 512-5433.

# Valentine's Day

"You can't give away anything you don't have."



On a chilly February 14th a dozen couples gathered at Elim to watch the movie, Fireproof, an action-packed love story. It's the third feature film from Sherwood Pictures, the movie making ministry of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia. The movie stirred the emotions of each one present, sometimes with laughter, often with tears as the marriage of Caleb and Catherine was going up in flames on the big screen. A "Love-Dare" experiment presents the truth that "you can't give away what you don't have."

story and photos  
by Ellen Baum

## FIREPROOF—What's It About?

*At work, inside burning buildings, Capt. Caleb Holt lives by the old firefighter's adage: Never leave your partner behind. At home, in the cooling embers of his marriage, he lives by his own rules.*

*Growing up, Catherine Holt always dreamed of marrying a loving, brave firefighter...just like her daddy. Now, after seven years of marriage, Catherine wonders when she stopped being "good enough" for her husband.*

*Regular arguments over jobs, finances, housework, and outside interests have readied them both to move on to something with more sparks.*

*As the couple prepares to enter divorce proceedings, Caleb's father challenges his son to commit to a 40-day experiment: "The Love Dare." Wondering if it's even worth the*

*effort, Caleb agrees—for his father's sake more than for his marriage. When Caleb discovers the book's daily challenges are tied into his parents' newfound faith, his already limited interest is further dampened.*

*While trying to stay true to his promise, Caleb becomes frustrated time and again. He finally asks his father, "How am I supposed to show love to somebody who constantly rejects me?"*

*When his father explains that this is the love Christ shows to us, Caleb makes a life-changing commitment to love God. And with God's help he begins to understand what it means to truly love his wife.*

*But is it too late to fireproof his marriage? His job is to rescue others. Now Caleb Holt is ready to face his toughest job ever...rescuing his wife's heart.*

from [www.fireproofthemovie.com](http://www.fireproofthemovie.com)



After the movie there were

Valentine desserts and sparkling cider along with a very special



announcement. Earlier in the evening Phil proposed to Lorena and she said "yes." Lisa Lamontagne planned a special

announcement of the engagement complete with a rendition of "Going to the Chapel" lip-synced by Lorena's ladies-in-waiting.



A small-group meeting for couples is being held Tuesdays at 7 pm starting Feb. 24 at the Kidd's home.



Traci, Chris, Tom and Sunday



Lynn and Kevin



Wendy and Chris



Diane and James



Sue and Dave



Lee, Jim, Patti and Belinda



Daniel, Sadie, Harold—foreground  
Vickie & David—back

# March 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Upcoming Calendar

MAR 1	Sunday	Men's service at Kennebec County Jail
MAR 4	Wednesday	Free Preview-Financial Peace University—6 PM
MAR 5	Thursday	Deaf Cell Group—ECF—6:30 PM
MAR 13	Friday	AngelFood orders due
MAR 14	Saturday	Men's Breakfast — 9 AM at ECF
MAR 15	Sunday	ECF Orientation -9 AM
MAR 15	Sunday	Women's Service — Kennebec County Jail
MAR 19	Thursday	Deaf Cell Group—ECF—6:30 PM
MAR 20-22		Tom Brazell at ECF with "Missions" focus
MAR 21	Saturday	Mission's breakfast at the Kidd's with Tom Brazell — — 9 AM
MAR 22	Sunday	Tom Brazell at ECF morning service
MAR 27	Friday	GAPS Inmate Ministry Meeting — ECF — 7 PM All Welcome
MAR 28	Saturday	AngelFood Distribution Pick-up
MAR 28	Saturday	Elim Fellowship Northern NE Meeting—Portsmouth, NH
MAR 29	Sunday	Deaf Church Service (last Sunday in month)
MAY 15-16	Friday- Saturday	Discipling Strong Men Conference (New Beginnings COG—Waterville)
MAY 30	Saturday	All-day Prisoner Mentor Training—ECF

## Weekly Events

Sunday	9 AM	Prayer Deaf Bible Study
Sunday	10 AM	Sunday Service
Sunday	6 PM	Breaking Free at ECF-new class to be announced
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Love Dare (Marriage Meetings) at the Kidd's home — Feb. 24 through March 31
Wednesday	6:00 PM	Financial Peace University — 13 weeks starting March 18
Thursday	6:30 PM	Worship Team Practice
Thursday	7:00 PM	Intercessory Prayer
Saturday	6 PM	Kennebec County Jail services with Bob Tetreault

## I HEAR YOUR HAND

*Hey there, friend, you've got a hand  
Help me see what you said to me  
Don't hide your hand  
My ears are closed I cannot hear  
But we can share the world, don't fear  
Just lend a hand*

*Lend a hand, and I can show you  
How to sing words in the air  
You can share my world of silence  
There's so much I want to share  
I'm reaching out to you  
There's so much we can do*

*Before I knew I walked with you  
Until the day you turned away  
See what I say  
The world that you are hearing now  
Is the same world that I see  
Reach out your hand  
I hear your hand*

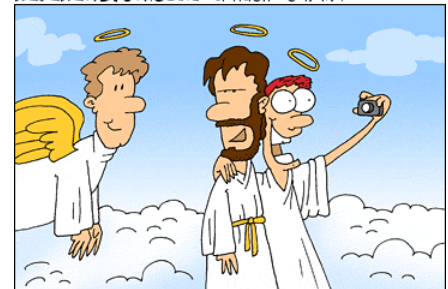
*Lend a hand and I can show you  
How to sing words in the air  
You can share my world of silence  
There's so much I want to share  
I'm reaching out to you  
There's so much we can do*

*You call me Deaf but I can see  
Birds singing, breezes in the trees and  
children laugh  
My world is lonely without you  
Just look at me and smile and clasp my  
hand in yours*

*Lend a hand and I can show you  
How to sing words in the air  
You can share my world of silence  
There's so much I want to share  
I'm reaching out to you  
God can make dreams come true.*

anonymous

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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld 02-16-2009  
I'VE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT HE'S GOING TO  
BE WITH ME FOREVER, BUT HE JUST DOESN'T  
GET IT

# ECF Ministries

## ANGEL FOOD MINISTRY

Save money on food each month, especially on meats. Pay \$30, get \$60 worth of food. Open to all. Food stamps accepted. See Sue Waterhouse for details or call her at 622-7031

## AUGUSTA DEAF FELLOWSHIP

Deaf Bible Study each week at 9 am before 10 am Church service (interpreted). Deaf cell twice per month and special deaf-only service once per month. Pastor Steve Gagnon sg4christ@roadrunner.com or Patti Gardiner interpreter 685-4060.

## BREAKING FREE

Are you walking in freedom from destructive lifestyles? Have your inner wounds from the past been completely healed? If not, you could benefit from our Breaking Free courses. Participants have experienced significant freedom and healing. Start of next group to be announced. Pastor Kevin Kidd 622-7031

## CENTRAL MAINE PREGNANCY SUPPORT CENTER

ECF-affiliated ministry. Offices in Waterville and Augusta. Counseling and other resources. Volunteers and board members needed. Pat Bonney 622-7422 (Augusta office).

## CHILDRENS CHURCH

Building successful kids. Meets Sundays after Praise and Worship. Nursery, Toddlers, Elementary. Making disciples and having fun. Traci Albee 923-3348.

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

A Dave Ramsey course that helps families control their finances with goals to eliminate debt and build wealth. Wednesdays — at 6 pm for 13 weeks starting February 18. David and Hania Benson 512-5433.

## GAPS (Greater Augusta Pastors' Society)

A growing coalition of Evangelical and Pentecostal pastors and churches in Kennebec Valley committed to partnering efforts and resources to bring about community transformation. Cooperative projects have included worship and intercession, food distribution, men's discipleship, as well as special events. Pastor Sam Richards 395-4442.

## GAPS INMATE MINISTRY

Volunteers from GAPS churches bring a variety of ministries to both men and women at the Kennebec County Jail. The ministry is presently developing a network of mentoring and aftercare for prisoners. Bob Tetreault 626-5539.

## HOME GROUPS

Throughout the week, on various nights, people from our church gather in small groups to grow in their faith in God and His Word. We worship, discuss/study the Bible, and participate in Spirit-filled ministry. Groups are a great way to make new friends! Pastor Kevin Kidd 622-7031

## MISSIONS

ECF supports several local ministries as well as missionaries in Southeast Asia and Rwanda. Training and preparation for short term missions. Guest speakers, see calendar for March 21-22. Lynn Kidd 649-7346.

## PRAYER TEAM

Meets Sundays at 9am before church. Intercessory Prayer held Thursdays at 7 pm. Other churches welcome. Long range goal - a dedicated prayer room and 24/7 worship and prayer. Dot Herbert 512-8777.

## WORSHIP TEAM

Leads us into God's presence Sunday mornings. Meets together Thursday evenings to pray and prepare for ECF services. Judie Leino 622-6926.

## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Middle School/High School youth group meets Sunday mornings during service to discuss the Bible, pray for each other, and share how God is moving in our lives. Outreaches and outside church events planned during the year. Michael and Lisa Johnson 512-2725.

**Advertising in The Current**

To defray the costs of publication, **The Current** is offering business card advertising space for a suggested donation of \$20, reduced rate for multiple placements. Ads are due the 15th of the previous month. See Dot Herbert or Ellen Baum.

	2	4	3	8				
					6			7
	5	8				4		
4				1				
			7	5				
				2				8
		1				6	7	
3			5					
				4	9	2	1	



## Building Men and Strong Marriages

God has ordained men to be the head of their households. I think most men would agree that we have plenty of room to grow in this. This is a significant and challenging responsibility. Not only are we called to be the primary breadwinner but we are called to be the gatekeepers, watchmen, and priests of our family. The spiritual climate of our family rests primarily on our shoulders. I've often heard it said that the primary cause of divorce is financial conflicts, but the truth is, the primary cause of divorce is a prayer-less marriage. I believe that divorce is just as common among believers as unbelievers because the men have abandoned their God-ordained post.

We want our church to be a church that builds strong men and women, and strong marriages. On Valentine's Day, many of us gathered at the church building to watch the movie *Fireproof* and I think we were all challenged to make "fireproofing" our marriages a high priority! The movie had a "tear-jerking" story and many exciting firefighting scenes, but its greatest value was in the Biblical message of how unconditional love can restore a marriage, otherwise destined for failure. To help couples committed to "fireproofing" their marriages, Lynn and I have decided to facilitate a couple's small group in our home using Biblically-based material specifically created to be used in conjunction with the movie. The group will meet weekly on

Tuesdays, starting February 24th and last for six weeks. It's my firm belief that you don't have to be on the brink of divorce to benefit from this opportunity. Though Lynn and I will be facilitating the group, we are not marriage "experts" and we'll be depending greatly on the Holy Spirit, God's Word and some of the "marital veterans" in attendance. Please join us. If you miss the first one or two, come anyway!

In efforts to stir up men and challenge them to walk strongly in their role as watchmen, gatekeepers and priests of the family, we are partnering with another local church to hold a *Discipling Strong Men* Conference. On May 15-16, New Beginnings Church of God in Waterville will host this powerful conference. Men should come expecting to receive a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit, and an impartation from some powerful, nationally known communicators. We are expecting more than 200 men from all over Maine to come. Randy Stewart (founding pastor of ECF and Director of Enrolled @ Tyrannus), Leonard Albert (National Coalition of Men's Ministries lifetime achievement award recipient), Bill Irwin (Director of Free Indeed Ministries and the only blind person to walk the length of the Appalachian trail) and John Eckhardt (Stauron Ministries) will be speaking on that weekend. Don't miss this opportunity! For more information call Pastor Kevin at 622-7031.

## 40 Days for Life

We Christians have continually prayed for an end to abortion and up till now we have had little success. Now we have a chance to join others in cities across our nation and in other nations in a 40 day prayer and action campaign called "40 Days for Life" which started February 25 and ends April 5. The effort in our state is centered right here in Augusta. The campaign takes a three-pronged approach - prayer and fasting, a peaceful 12 hour per day prayer vigil, 8 am to 8 pm, at the Augusta Family Planning (abortion) Center. Finally, it includes community outreach through media, church presentations, and petition drives. The Family Planning Center is located at 34 Gabriel Drive off Civic Center Drive in the Central Maine Business Park.

Much excellent information is contained on the main website, [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com). The

Augusta information is found on [www.40daysforlife.com/augusta-maine](http://www.40daysforlife.com/augusta-maine). Director of the Augusta campaign is Janet LeBlanc of the Corpus Christi Parish of Catholic Churches in the Waterville area. Judy Icenogle from the same parish is Prayer Vigil Coordinator. Judy explained that "The 40 Days for Life" campaign started in 2004 and has expanded each year since. Altogether it has been held in 49 states, Mexico and Canada. Maine was the only state not represented." But no longer. Judy said that she is getting calls from individuals and churches in our area. Many are very interested and want to participate.

The "40 Days for Life" website states that organizers know of over 1000 children whose lives have been spared (probably many more that they are not aware of). In addition, 13 abortion workers have quit their jobs, three abortion

centers have closed, and many centers have cut back their hours and/or closed down for days. Amazingly, many campaigns have received positive press coverage — a total of 430 stories have been written.

Can you fast and pray for a period of time? Can you participate in the prayer vigil from 1 to 3 hours on certain days or even one time? We will have signup sheets available. Your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Abortion isn't the answer. We need to reach out in love to those caught in these circumstances. ECF supports the Central Maine Pregnancy Support Center, run by Pat Bonney our church treasurer. Pat has offices in both Waterville and Augusta and she could use more volunteers. There is something you can do! Step out now, you won't regret it!

## Child Vision Sponsorship Needed

The ECF Deaf Ministry is actively seeking people to sponsor a young deaf child at a Christian School in Mirebalais, Haiti. Several of us have met these precious children and know first hand how great their needs are. The cost of sponsorship is \$35.00 per month and will go toward such things as food, clothing, and healthcare as well as toward school expenses. More information can be obtained by logging onto [GVCM.org](http://GVCM.org) which is the site for Global Vision Citadelle Ministries.

We are also raising money for another trip to Haiti and to offer scholarships to various deaf conferences. We are soliciting donations, collecting bottles, and will be having a yard sale in the Spring.

At press time we learned that all the deaf children have been sponsored. However, contributions would be welcome for the school or for any of the above deaf ministry projects. For more information, see Patti Gardiner or call her at 685-4060.

## Did You Know?

American Sign Language (ASL) is not bad English, short English or any kind of English. ASL is a unique language with it's own grammatical rules and syntax and it is every bit as precise and intentional as English or any other language. ASL is a signed visual/gestural language that is beautiful, expressive and colorful.

You can get many references about Deafness, Deaf Culture and ASL at your local libraries. You can also go online to sites such as [ASLpro.com](http://ASLpro.com) to view a signed dictionary.

## Want to Move Forward? You Need Goals

Not long ago, I was reading a book called "The Richest Man Who Ever Lived" by Steven K. Scott. Through an amazing testimony, the author shows us how Solomon's wisdom in Proverbs can create a life of prosperity, success, and happiness. The author groups and interprets the wisdom and shows us how to apply it to our lives, careers, and relationships. It is a book I would recommend to everyone!

Not far into the book, the author mentions setting goals. I stopped right there and said "What goals do I have for my life?" The answer was none! Right away I prayed and within 20 minutes I had three goals.

One of them was to regain my creativity. I used to write poetry, Christian teachings and articles, some music. I even compiled a book. But I hadn't done any of these things for ages.

Since then it seems, I am writing something every day - committee reports, an article on my recent trip to Israel. Next I wrote a poem called Frustration. Working on this newsletter is another step in the creative direction.

As I was writing this testimony, it came to me that my book, called "Prisoner's Notebook," is also based on Proverbs. I arranged



Proverbs into categories and have been getting this book into prisons and jails through prison ministries for about 15 years. This book is not just for prisoners. We are all prisoners in one respect or another even if we are not behind bars.

It also came to me to offer a copy of the book, free of charge, to the people in our fellowship. Just speak to me and I will see that you get one. Meantime, get started on your goals. Determine the steps to get there and set a time in which to complete them. Let's see our lives moving forward. Remember God can't steer a parked car!

Dorothy Herbert

## Could You Mentor a Prisoner?

Has God given you a heart for the less fortunate? Are you looking for a way to serve? Men and women getting out of jail or prison often need everything but in particular they need a mentor, a friend who will help guide them as they reenter society. The GAPS Inmate Ministry is in the process of building support systems to include jobs, housing, and other basics. Mentoring is a critical key to this reentry process.



On Saturday, May 30, GAPS Inmate Ministries will host a mentoring seminar at Elim Christian Fellowship. The seminar will be given by Pastor John Leonardson of MentorCare Ministries, Ft. Worth, Texas. John is a national leader and award winner in his field of mentoring and prison aftercare, and has led several large prison ministries including COPE, Coalition of Prison Evangelists. The seminar consists of a rewarding six hours of instruction with humor added in John's own Texas style. There will be a charge for materials and lunch will be included. More information is to come in future issues. If you are interested, please set this date aside! For more information or to sign up see Pastor Kevin or call him at 622-7031.

This is a monthly publication of Elim Christian Fellowship, 65 River Road, Chelsea, ME 04330.

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