

# The Current

A monthly newsletter of Elim Christian Fellowship

April 2009

Elim Christian Fellowship  
65 River Rd, Chelsea, ME 04330  
207-622-7031

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## PREGNANCY SUPPORT—AN ABORTION ALTERNATIVE

by Dorothy Herbert

For women caught in a pregnancy crisis, support is available right here in Augusta and also in Waterville. Our church treasurer, Pat Bonney, has operated the Central Maine Pregnancy Support Center in Augusta for fifteen years. She also runs a similar Center in Waterville. The Centers, affiliated with CareNet, a nationwide network of pregnancy centers, offer help to women who are pregnant or have a child under the age of three.

Pat said it was the kindness of Dennis Keller that helped the Center get started. He not only donated space in the basement of his State Farm office on Bangor Street but he provided needed renovations and pays the utilities.



In 2008, the Centers performed 44 pregnancy tests, and served 125 new clients through 953 client visits. They supply clothing for babies and mothers, bed clothes, bottles, safety items, diapers. In addition to needed clothing and supplies, the Centers also provide Biblically based parenting classes, Single Mom's Support Groups, and Post Abortion classes and counseling. Clothing and supplies are offered free the first time but after that the girls have to earn Mommy Money. They receive Mommy Money for attending a class, bringing in a friend who needs help, or reading an instructional book.



Top left: Erica with Pat filling out client services request form / right—Desirae with her 1 week old little girl, Nyomi.  
Bottom—left: Kelly (with Pat) showing off her "Steps for Life" T-shirt. / right: Stuffed clothing closet.

A local church has recently donated an "Earn (Mommy Money) While You Learn" course with DVDs and notebooks. The course contains 9 modules, which cover subjects from conception through potty training, and include discipline, and bonding with your child. Pat would also like to see the Center have an ultrasound machine. Statistics show that once a pregnant woman sees her baby, she is much less likely to have an abortion. Dr. Dobson's Focus on the Family has a program that provides this equipment. However, they require that the income of the center be at least \$75,000/year in order to support a medical professional as operator. More monthly income is needed.

What are the other needs? Pat says that they can use more volunteers and more diapers and baby hygiene products such as baby wash and diaper rash cream.



The Augusta Center at 30 Bangor Street is open from 2 pm to 5 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Classes are held in the evenings. The

Waterville Center, in the basement of 93 Main Street, (entrance next to the Maine Made Shop) is

open Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 pm to 5 pm. If you can help financially or in any way, please call Pat Bonney at 622-7422.

## MEN'S MINISTRY - KEY TO FAMILY STRENGTH AND PEACE!

God has ordained the man of the house as gatekeeper, watchman, and priest of his family. To equip men to walk in their "manhood," GAPs Pastors and Churches are sponsoring a "Discipling Strong Men Conference" to be held Friday evening 7-9 and Saturday 9-4 pm, May 15 & 16 at the New Beginnings Church in Waterville. The conference will support pastors and men's ministry leaders in their efforts to:

1. Build an effective disciple-making men's ministry in their churches.
2. Strengthen families by strengthening husbands and fathers.
3. Build strong men who will do great exploits (Dan 11:32b)

Leonard Albert is speaker, author, and motivational presenter who specializes in helping men reach their full potential. In 2008, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in local church men's ministries from the National Coalition of Men's Ministries.

Randy Stewart is founder and director of Enrolled @ Tyrannus – a vital support ministry to pastors, leaders, and local churches. Over the last two decades, he has had a powerful impact on men's ministry throughout the world. Randy's insightful and relevant messages are life changing.

Bill Irwin, new director of Free Indeed, a Maine organization helping men walk freely from sexual addiction, pornography, and other sexual issues, is the only blind person to walk the entire Appalachian Trail, from Georgia to Maine, accompanied only by his seeing eye dog. His transformation from an alcoholic, neglectful father to a man following God's direction is electrifying.

John Eckardt and his wife Linda are founders of Family Christian Fellowship and Stauron Ministries in Topsham, Maine. Together, they have planted a mission base that has impacted over 10 countries and provides assistance to 200 ministers/ministries around the world.

Cost for the conference is \$25 if the registration is postmarked by April 30; \$35 if postmarked after that date. Included in the cost is a "strong man's" lunch on Saturday (not a sandwich and chips). For more information, call Pastor Alan Imes, New Beginnings Church of God, at 207-873-1554 or Pastor Kevin Kidd Elim Christian Fellowship, at 207-622-7031.

**"Discipling Strong Men Conference"  
Friday evening 7-9 - Saturday 9-4 pm  
May 15 & 16  
New Beginnings Church, Waterville.**

## MENTORING SEMINAR SCHEDULED FOR MAY 30

On Saturday, May 30, noon to 6:30 pm, GAPS Inmate Ministries will host a mentoring seminar to equip men and women to mentor those leaving prison or jail. The seminar, to be held here at ECF, will be given by Pastor John Leonardson of MentorCare Ministries, Ft. Worth, Texas.

John, a national leader in his field of mentoring and prison aftercare, has led several large prison ministries. He has served as Executive Director of Exodus Ministries, addressing the needs of families of inmates; Executive Director of COPE, a world-wide organization of prison ministries; and as North Texas Area Director of Prison Fellowship. John has also served on the board of the Restorative Justice Ministries network.

In 2000, John and his wife Marian formed MentorCare Ministries, specializing in mentor training and in helping other prison ministries start or improve homes for men and women leaving prison. For more about John and his ministry, see [www.mentorcare.org](http://www.mentorcare.org).

In 2002, John held a mentoring seminar in Portland which was a huge success. In his easy Texas style, complete with black boots and hat, he brings humor and honesty, mixed with much first-hand knowledge of prisoners and their mentality.

In addition to course materials, John also has other valuable resources. His manual, "Preparing for Success on the Outside," won the Texas Governor's award for Most

Innovative Program in 2003. This four-month course is designed to help inmates face the real issues they will encounter after release. Another of his manuals, "Starting and Operating a Post Prison Aftercare Facility," contains 80 pages of practical information. An accompanying CD provides an additional 1300 pages of resource material.

Cost including course materials is \$25 if postmarked before Friday May 8th. Applications postmarked after May 8th, will be \$35. A special lunch, which is included in the cost, will be served at 12:30. The manuals described above will be available at extra charge. For an application, call 207-622-7031 or E-mail [pastorkev@elimchristianfellowship.net](mailto:pastorkev@elimchristianfellowship.net). Checks should be made out to GAPS and mailed to ECF, 65 River Road, Chelsea, ME 04330.

**Mentoring Seminar — Saturday, May 30 / noon-6:30 pm**

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

### Upcoming Calendar

APR 1	Wednesday	Financial Peace University—6 PM
APR 2	Thursday	Deaf Cell Group—ECF—6:30 PM
APR 5	Sunday	<b>Palm Sunday</b>
APR 5	Sunday	Men's service—Kennebec County Jail
APR 11	Saturday	Men's Breakfast — 9 AM at ECF
APR 12	Sunday	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
APR 12	Sunday	AngelFood orders due
APR 16	Thursday	Deaf Cell Group—ECF—6:30 PM
APR 18	Saturday	Women's Breakfast—9 AM
APR 19	Sunday	Women's Service — Kennebec County Jail
APR 24	Friday	GAPS Inmate Ministry Meeting — ECF — 7 PM — All Welcome
APR 25	Saturday	AngelFood Distribution Pick-up
APR 26	Sunday	Deaf Church Service (last Sunday in month)
APR 30	Thursday	Deaf Cell Group—ECF—6:30 PM
MAY 15-16	Friday-Saturday	Discipling Strong Men Conference (New Beginnings COG—Waterville)
MAY 30	Saturday	Prisoner Mentor Training—ECF
JUNE 5-7		New England Deaf Retreat—Jaffrey, NH

### 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
Wednesday	6:00 PM	Financial Peace University — 13 weeks starting April 1
Thursday	6:30 PM	Worship Team Practice
Thursday	7:00 PM	Intercessory Prayer
Saturday	6 PM	Kennebec County Jail services with Bob Tetreault

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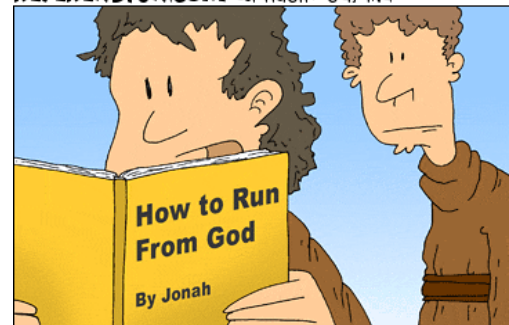
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### Advertising in The Current

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.

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Thanks to Richard Germain (See Jonah 1-4)

09-19-2008

IT JUST SAYS "DON'T"

# 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. See Weekly Calendar for next starting date. 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.

## **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

## **MEN'S MINISTRY**

Discipling and building men, through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, fellowship, and mentoring. Equipping men to minister in their family, in the marketplace, or wherever God leads them. Men's breakfasts held second Saturday of the month. Attendance encouraged at conferences and small groups. 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.

## **TICKET TO A CHANGED LIFE!**

*Say this prayer and watch what happens.* Lord, I've tried life my way and it hasn't worked out. I want to try it Your way. I give my life and my future completely to You. Please forgive my sins and show me Your path to life abundant and life everlasting. Amen!



### Spring, A Time for Remembering

Although it's "raining" ice outside right now, I can't help but think about Spring being on its way. Spring is great for a whole host of reasons, but as I get older, I'm discovering that I like it more and more because it's the season of new beginnings, and new beginnings are typically filled with visions, dreams and hope.

In Spring, when my wife and I till the soil and plant seeds, we're filled with an excited, expectant spirit regarding the future. We fully expect each plant to bring forth an abundance of delicious vegetables or herbs. There is much work to be done... hardened soil to till, small and big rocks to remove from the soil, weeds to contend with ...but it's the abundant "fruit" that we envision that motivates us to put in hours and hours of sweat and work into our garden.



This concept of enduring hardships for something that lies ahead reminds me that April is the month of Good Friday, Palm Sunday, and Easter. It's the season for us to remember the horrific details of Jesus' agony brought on by your sin and my sin. It's a time to recall His arrest, the accusations and slander, the beating and mocking, the ripping of His flesh from His body, the crown of thorns, and the nails through His wrist and feet, and of course, His death. Consider Hebrews 12:2, "Jesus...who for the joy set before him endured the cross..." (NIV). This verse shows that what enabled Jesus to endure the shame, pain, rejection,

and even death was the joy He saw in front of Him...the joy of resurrection life and spending eternity with His Dad, and with Dad's sons and daughters.

You cannot enter into a fruitful relationship with Christ unless you are first willing to die to the "old you" who had to have everything your way. You must allow the Lord to have His way in your life. Among other things, it means giving up "your way" of going to heaven based on "your terms," to receive eternal life based on God's terms. Matt 16:24-26 explains it. "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.'" (NASU) Seventeen years have passed and I've never regretted having made that decision. Through the years, I've fallen off the horse and He has put me back up in the saddle. What has got me through the struggles is considering "the joy set before" me...the joy of spending eternity with my Dad and Dad's sons and daughters. It's kind of like enduring winter to get to Spring.

"Jesus...who for the joy set before him endured the cross..." (Hebrews 12:2 NIV)

### SALLY'S STORY – THE DIFFERENCE PRAYER MAKES

When I had a breast biopsy three years ago, I didn't tell anyone about it. I fretted the night before and the day my sister took me to the hospital, I was nervous and rigid. I fretted my way through almost every moment.

How very different was my experience this time, despite the fact that I knew it was cancer and knew that the procedure was to be removal of my left breast. The difference was the call I made to Elim and to friends and neighbors. The word spread quickly and many, many were praying.

The time before my surgery was very sobering but I never became unsettled about what was happening. I slept well the night before, had a sentinel lymph node mapping procedure at 8 am. Before surgery, I had a nice reunion in my room with my family. The surgery was moved up by 3/4 hour. Nothing bothered me, not even the tempting smell of coffee which I had to forgo. I was at peace. The surgery went well and I stayed overnight. I came home to some wonderful messages from friends and family.

What made the difference? Prayer in all its forms and the concern of friends. I thank Fred and Randy, the Monday night ladies, the Elim family, Pastor Kevin and Lynn, Winter Street Baptist Church, Penny Memorial Church, Cathy Daigle's friends, and others! Thank you all for the peace that your many prayers brought into my life. God is faithful!

Sally Farrell

# SURRENDER by Stephen Gagnon, Pastor, Deaf Congregation

"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."  
Psalms 46:10

The Bible is telling us to meditate on God's kingdom with the heart of faith. The command to "be still" comes from the word *rapha* meaning to be weak, to let go, or to release. A better translation might be to "cause yourselves to let go or let yourselves become weak."

But to what end are we to be still, surrender, and even to die to ourselves? We surrender in order to know that God, Master of the Universe, is in control. In other words we are giving up trusting in ourselves. We "let go" in order to know the saving power of God in our lives. (Exodus 14:13-14) The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still. What happened when the Israelis were being attacked as they left Egypt? They started to panic. Moses said to the people, Do not fear! Stand by and see what the LORD will do for you today; for you will never see these Egyptians again.

Joshua 24:15 "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" Joshua made a commitment to daily present himself to the Lord: --"Present your bodies a living sacrifice holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship." Romans 12:1

Here is the process.

- Meditate on the Word of God
- Think of His Words day and night.
- Fast and pray as an act of obedience.

The Holy Spirit works only in those who surrender to God's Word. When you practice this in faith every day, you will experience an increase of God's presence in your prayer life. Many of us are in a spiritual recession because we are not submitting to Him.

So be patient —Roman 8:25-27 "But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit."

Colossians 3:2-4 "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things on earth; for you are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you will also appear with Him in glory"

Luke 6:46 "Obey the Lord now. Yes 'BE STILL' – in order to know that the Lord God of Israel reigns!"

## Women's Breakfast – April 18, 2008 – ECF – 9 am

**Share a breakfast item. Share a talent.  
Come to eat, worship, study and have fun!**

*We hope to see you on the 18th of April!*

Don't hide—come  
to the women's  
breakfast.



## Did You Know?

### Did you know these facts about the deafness?

- The culturally Deaf population spells the word "deaf" with an uppercase "D" Deaf, and the non-cultural population uses the lower case "d".
- 90% of Deaf children have hearing parents.
- 10% of Deaf parents have Deaf children.
- Children who are either Deaf or hearing, but have Deaf parents are labeled "CODA" - Children of Deaf adults.
- Those who are fluent in both English and ASL (American Sign Language) are considered to be bilingual.

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This is a monthly publication of Elim Christian Fellowship, 65 River Road, Chelsea, ME 04330.  
Editor: Dorothy (Dot) Herbert Email: jericho7@roadrunner.com [May submission deadline: April 15]