

**April 15, 2004**

**DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY GIVES HOPE TO MORE THAN 2800 CHURCHES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** Financial Peace University (FPU), the 13-week program taught by Dave Ramsey, has helped more than 2800 churches across the country from almost every denomination bring the hope of financial peace to their congregation and community. This life-changing program teaches families and individuals how to handle their money through biblical, common sense principles and small group accountability. FPU is also available for companies, military bases, financial literacy programs, Spanish organizations and community groups.

As they work on a total money makeover, the average family pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in the first 91 days after beginning FPU and is completely out of debt, except for the mortgage, in 18 to 24 months. "We've actually relieved ourselves of over \$50,000 worth of debt in two years just from using these principles," said Russ Lee, former FPU participant.

Church congregations are experiencing multiple benefits of offering FPU to their congregation and community, including an increase in giving as members reduce their debt and feel freer to give. "We are actually ahead of budget. That's never happened to us before," said Pastor Charles Redmond, First Baptist Church, Pasadena, Texas, "The difference has been that now our members know how to give and have the money to do so." Pastor Lewis McClain of First Church of the Nazarene, Bethany, Okla. said, "Our giving increased a total of 16% over a two year period. We were able to build our new building debt free."

FPU's effects reach farther than the pocketbook. "Church is often viewed as impractical. FPU is something we offer to our community to deal with real issues causing family frustrations. It is a great outreach," says Rubel Shelly, minister of Woodmont Hills Family of God in Nashville, Tenn.

As people walk through FPU together, marriages are healed as couples get on the same page about money, parents learn how to teach their children about money, singles are kept accountable to responsible money management, and relationships within the church grow. Dr. Adrian Adams, senior pastor at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn. says, "Dave Ramsey has blessed so many people to help them understand God's plan for their personal finances."

Dave Ramsey began teaching FPU classes in 1994 every night around Nashville, Tenn. In 1997, FPU was made available on video across the country, with thousands of classes being held around the nation today.

The program is made up of 13 life-changing lessons taught by Dave in a fun and entertaining way. "I like to put the cookies on the shelf where

everyone can reach them," says Ramsey. After each lesson the group meets to help each other plan budgets, discuss successes and temptations, and support each other in their journey to beat debt and build wealth.

Churches wishing to start a new class will need the leadership kit which retails for \$289 with DVDs or \$269 with VHS tapes. Each family participating needs a kit that retails for \$189. Special rates are routinely available online at [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com) or by calling 888-227-3223. Included in the cost of the kit is a lifetime family membership to FPU, allowing the participants to return to any class at anytime for a refresher course. The kit also includes an FPU workbook, an FPU envelope system, 13 audio lessons, bonus CD, budgeting forms, debit card holders, and Ramsey's best-selling book Financial Peace Revisited.

"FPU classes are changing lives across the country every day," says Louis Falzetti, executive vice president of Financial Peace University. "There is something for everyone in this program whether you are barely making ends meet, just trying to plan for retirement, or seeking to build wealth. No matter what your financial situation, you will find FPU to be the best motivational tool available across the nation to help you attain financial peace."

Visit [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com) to locate the nearest class.

### **About Dave Ramsey**

Dave Ramsey is a personal money management expert, an extremely popular national radio personality and best-selling author of The Total Money Makeover. In his latest book, a follow-up of his enormously successful New York Times best-sellers Financial Peace and More Than Enough, Ramsey exemplifies his life's work of teaching others how to be financially responsible, so they can acquire enough wealth to take care of loved ones, live prosperously into old age, and give generously to others.

Ramsey knows first-hand what financial peace means in his own life living a true riches to rags to riches story. By age twenty-six he had established a four-million-dollar real estate portfolio, only to lose it by age thirty. He has since rebuilt his financial life and now devotes himself full-time to helping ordinary people understand the forces behind their financial distress and how to set things right financially, emotionally, and spiritually.

# # #