

## January 2011

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Classes-  
Leadership in Action  
Fathered by God  
Chosen to Lead

Women's Classes-  
Ephesians  
Revelation  
Walking in Power, Love  
and Discipline  
First Place 4 Health  
Respectable Sins  
Mother's Support Group

EquipU Classes-  
When Worldviews  
Collide 1/12  
Financial Peace  
University 1/16  
Total Forgiveness 1/16

### Student Winter Retreats-

High School 1/14-17  
Jr. High 1/21-23

Seminars-  
The Role of the Family as  
a Platform for Spiritual  
Healing 1/25

Addiction Recovery  
Training 1/22

All Church Prayer  
Connect 1/27

Prayer Breakfast 1/29

Presentation Weekend  
1/29-30

February  
All Church Food Drive

## NORTHSHORE COUPLE DEBT-FREE *New Dave Ramsey Class Shows You How*

By Marcus Pederson

It was the summer of 2005 and my wife and I had become empty nesters. It felt like the right time to downsize our home and move to another neighborhood. We found a home that met all of our requirements in a nice quiet neighborhood. That's when the trouble started. The sellers wanted to close quickly and we were just getting our house on the market. It seemed like home sales were going well, so we took a risk and obtained a bridge loan in order to close the new house before the old house was sold. It appeared that we could handle the two mortgages for a short time. Ten months later we sold the old house for much less than we had planned. It was the first time we needed to bring cash to the table to sell a house. In that 10 months we drained our savings, borrowed from our 401K, used credit cards to maintain daily expenditures, sold property to make ends meet. The stress of the previous ten months had taken its toll on our finances, our relationship, and our self confidence.



This story doesn't really begin in 2005, it starts as far back as 1972, the year I joined the Navy. Finally free from the rules at home, and with an income of my own, I could live large. The beauty of being in the military was they always supplied meals and a place to sleep. You could blow your whole paycheck the day after payday and not have a significant consequence. 1972 was also a time when having a credit card showed that I had arrived; I was now credit worthy and a member of that elite class of people where money was no object. The next step was to build my credit score so I could borrow even more! It's the new culture of America, one that credit card companies try to maintain with glamorous ads depicting successful happy people paying with plastic. Then there are the reward points, air miles, discounts, and privileges, that bring you all kinds of "free" stuff. I also supported this culture by engaging in the office chatter, "You need a credit card, what if you need to rent a car?" or "What if you have an emergency and need money now?"

It all changed for us in the fall of 2009, a co-worker introduced me to the Dave Ramsey show. Dave has a radio show and is featured on Fox-TV as a personal finance consultant. I'm now in my 50's and am seriously looking at my future retirement. The question always comes to my mind, how am I going to continue to live and pay on this debt when on a fixed income? The fear that I may be working until I'm 92 comes to mind. As I watched Dave's show caller after caller revealed they were in the same mess we were in and sometimes worse. Other callers were there to scream "I'M DEBT FREE" and tell the stories of their journey to debt freedom. In this we saw hope and the road to freedom opening up to us.

My wife and I purchased Dave's book "The Total Money Makeover" we both read it cover to cover and began to implement Dave's 7 Baby Steps.

Young Adults-  
'Engage' Worship Service  
2/4

Missions Week 2/26-3/6

1. \$1000 savings to start an emergency fund
2. Pay off all debt using the debt snowball
3. 3-6 months expenses in savings
4. Save 15% of income into Roth IRA's and pre-tax retirement funds
5. College funding for children
6. Pay off home early
7. Build wealth and give

On January 1, 2010 my wife and I cut up all of our credit cards, and vowed never to have one again. We made a collage of the pieces and posted this picture on our Facebook page at the start of the New Year.



In mid September 2010 we became debt free except for our house. It was a joyous moment making that final car payment at the bank! In late September we were burglarized. Despite the trauma of losing all our valuables there was a peace about no longer owing on the items that were stolen.

The most difficult parts of this journey for us were stopping our contributions to our 401K until our debt was cleared (being so close to retirement) and sticking to a budget. The most rewarding parts of getting out of debt were fully funding our 401K contribution, giving a full tithe, having our most generous Christmas ever, and the freedom that comes with "owing no man anything, save to love one another" (Romans 13:8).

## NEXT STEPS

If you are a normal American, struggling under debt, and want to learn some simple tools in a fun environment consider signing up for Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University". It's offered right here at Northshore starting this weekend.

When: Starts January 16, 2011

Where: Northshore Christian Church

Cost: \$100 (includes materials and lifetime membership kit), Free for alumni.

Contact: Helene West (425) 438-1326

Sign up: [Here](#)

## LOOKING AHEAD: IMPORTANT DATES

1/27 All Church Prayer Connect

1/29 Prayer Breakfast

1/29-30 Presentation Weekend

- 2/14-26 Northshore Israel trip
- 2/26 - 3/6 Missions Week
- 3/18-19 24 Hour Prayer Vigil  
4/22 Good Friday Stations of the Cross Prayer Walk
- 4/23-24 Easter Weekend - Service Times at 5:30 PM Saturday and 9 & 11 AM Sunday
- 6/19 Father's Day Car Show
- 7/3 4th of July Church Picnic - One service only this weekend at 10:00 AM Sunday

## NORTHSHORE UPDATES ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK



twitter

TWITTER: We're "northshorecc" at: <http://twitter.com/northshorecc>

facebook

FACEBOOK: Join our fan page: <http://www.facebook.com/northshorechristian>

You can now get instant updates from Northshore on both Twitter and Facebook.

*Northshore News* is published regularly (approximately once a month) and highlights how God is working in the lives of Northshore members. Article and photos by Northshore member Marcus Pederson, editing by Executive Pastor Rob Cizek.