

FREEDOM STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES



A man and a woman are sitting on a grey couch, looking distressed. The man is on the left, wearing a light blue shirt, with his hand to his forehead. The woman is on the right, wearing a white top and blue jeans, with her hand to her head. They are both looking down at a cardboard sign held by the man that says "HELP!". The background is a plain wall with a window on the right.

MISSION STATEMENT

To free individuals from financial bondage.

BECAUSE OF THE LOVE OF
GOD THAT DWELLS IN
THEIR HEARTS, THE CHAINS
OF BONDAGE WERE
BROKE.

VISION



IT IS WRITTEN...

- D&C 101:2e-f
 - 2e and, behold, this is the way, that I, the Lord, have decreed to provide for my saints;
 - 2f that the poor shall be exalted, in that the rich are made low; for the earth is full, and there is enough and to spare; yea, I prepared all things, and have given unto the children of men to be agents unto themselves.
- D&C 102:2c
 - 2c and Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom, otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself;



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Freedom Stewardship Ministries (FSM)
 - Will be a board under the direction of the Coordinating Council and the officers of the Conference of restoration Elders (CRE)
 - FSM will fall under the CRE 501(c)3 and donations will be tax deductible

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, CONT'D.

- Nine member board
 - Each member branch will appoint a delegate and an Aaronic Priesthood member
 - Aaronic PH members will be responsible for stewardship education under the direction of Bishop Joe Burkart.
 - Delegates will select board members
 - Delegates will act as liaison between the branch and FSM.

BREAKING THE BONDAGE

- Stewardship Project targets three financial pitfalls
 - Financial Education (headed by Bishop Joe Burkart)
 - Classes
 - Financial Counseling / Decision Making
 - Eliminating Interest payments to banks
 - Refocuses payments towards principal
 - Time
 - Paying off bank balances as early as possible decreases the amount debtor loses to bank.

EDUCATION

- Financial Education Program
 - Crown Financial Ministries founded by Larry Burkett
 - Bishop/Aaronic Priesthood led financial education
 - Two Approaches
 - Pre-enrollment Education
 - Required to be completed prior to any funds being used to payoff a debt between a financial institution and a debtor.
 - Budget Essentials Kit
 - Spending Plan – Household budgeting
 - Eliminating Debt – Debt elimination approach

EDUCATION, CONT'D.

- Financial Education Program, Cont'd.
 - Continuing Education
 - This education would continue, at a minimum, for as long as the relationship continues between the debtor and the organization.
 - Longer if the family elects to continue.
 - Money/Life Personal Finance
 - Complete approach to family finance and staying out of debt.

MONEY AS A TOOL

- Snowball Principal applied to debt management
 - To pay the minimum payment on each household bill and apply any surplus to the lowest bill.
 - Interest is not used as a factor

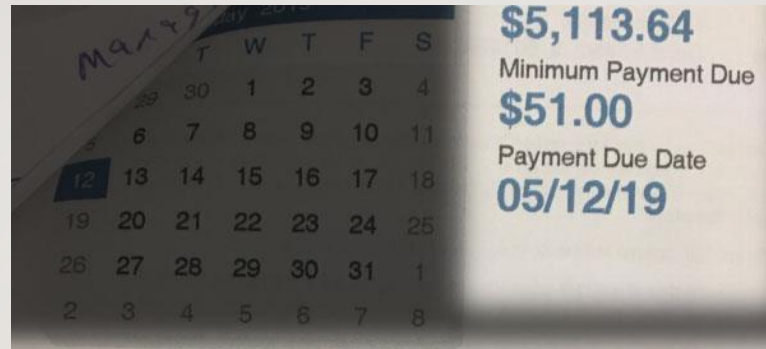
MONEY AS A TOOL, CONT'D.

- How does the snowball principal apply to the Church at large
 - 10 Branches collect \$\$\$ per month, each, from members who desire to help individuals get out of debt.
 - If we have 10 loans at \$\$\$ a piece in the first iteration, all of those loans will be paid off.
 - The debtors will begin making payments on their debt to the organization and those funds will be applied to the stewardship fund to help with the next iteration of loans.

EMERGENCY FUNDS

- 10% of all funds received set aside for Emergency Fund
 - The funds can be used in conjunction with a member branch's oblation fund to assist the debtor in dealing with emergencies.
 - This will help prevent the debtor from incurring additional consumer debt.

MODEL 1 – CREDIT CARD BILL



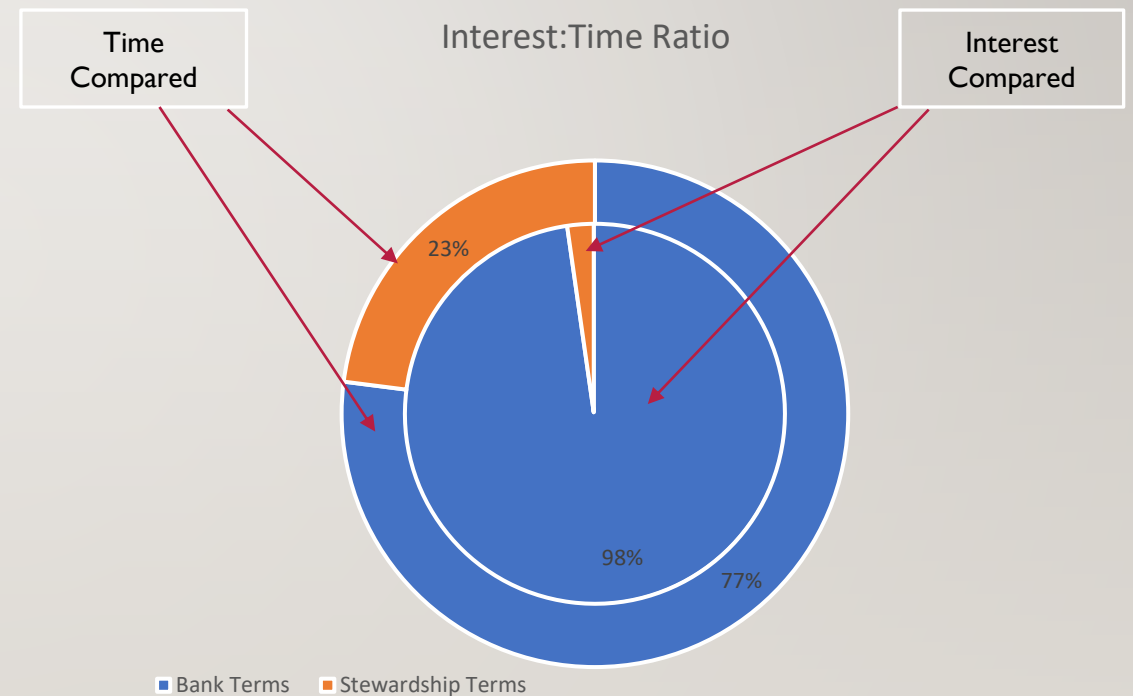
Late Payment Warning: If we do not receive your minimum payment by the date listed above, you may have to pay a late fee of up to \$37.00.

Minimum Payment Warning: If you make only the minimum payment each period, you will pay more in interest and it will take you longer to pay off your balance. For example:

If you make no additional charges using this card and each month you pay...	You will pay off the balance shown on this statement in about...	And you will end up paying an estimated total of...
Only the minimum payment	19 years	\$12,122
\$186	3 years	\$6,690 (Savings=\$5,432)

PROJECTIONS MODEL 1

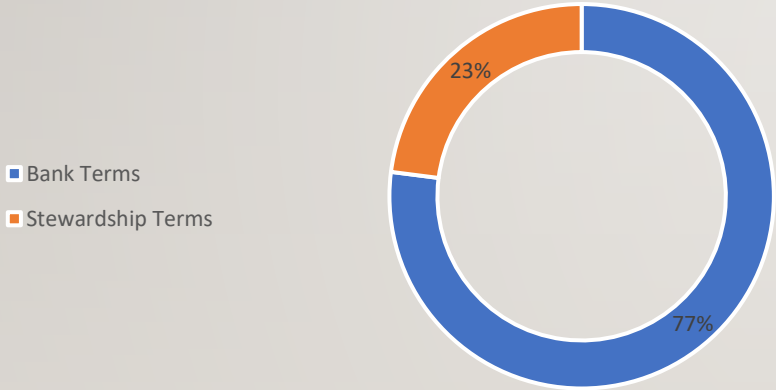
- Credit Card
 - Interest Rate: 18.24%
 - Credit Amount: 5114
 - Term of Loan: 228 Months
- Graph
 - Inner Pie Chart Is Interest Paid over terms of loan
 - Outer Ring represents length of loan to payoff.
 - Figures:



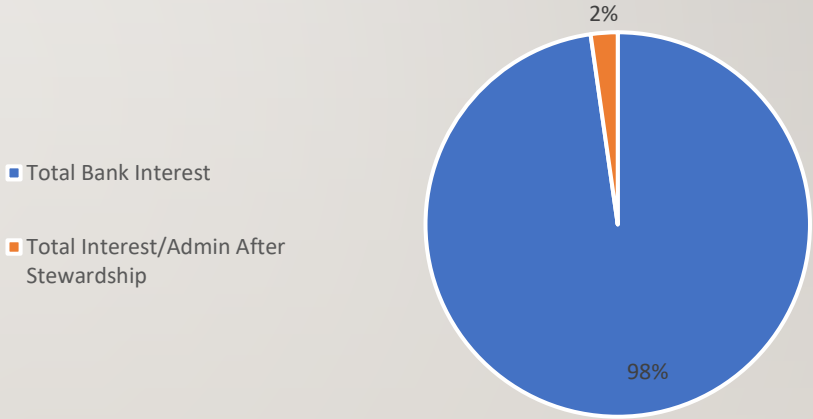
PROJECTIONS- MODEL 1, CONT'D.

Time comparison		Interest Comparison	
Bank Terms	Stewardship Terms	Total Bank Interest	Total Interest/Admin After Stewardship
228	68	\$11,056.28	\$255.57

Time Saved



Interest/Admin Fees Compared



KEY POINTS

- This is NOT a debt forgiveness program
 - The principles being established through FSM is to relieve the debtor of loan interest.
 - The debtor will covenant with the Organization to pay the money back that was used to fulfill the loan agreement between the Financial Institution and debtor.
 - All attempts to work with the debtor will be made to ensure that the debt is being paid back to the organization, so that this benefit can be extended to other Saints for years to come.
 - FSM will NOT seek out legal redress, if all attempts to collect a debt fails.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY

- Regulating Agencies
 - Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and professional Regulation.
 - Areas of compliance/concern
 - None are applicable
 - Federal Regulation
 - Areas of compliance/concern
 - None are applicable

REQUIREMENTS TO ENROLL

- Have a debt of more the \$1000.00 and 15%+ interest
- Be a member of a participating branch
- Agree to the following commitments
 - Seek to stay out of consumer debt
 - Complete all prescribed education courses and continuing education as long as the debt is outstanding.
 - Plus, any additional covenants the board shall elect to uphold.

Frequently Asked Questions

Freedom Stewardship Ministries is a program being presented in the various branches of the Restored Church of Jesus Christ to help the Saints move toward financial freedom. While the program is currently in its developmental stage, early attempts to communicate its mission and values have given rise to serious and legitimate questions from various quarters. Here, briefly, is an attempt to address some of the recurring questions that have arisen from among the Saints. Clearer communication may not allay all legitimate concerns, but the attempt is designed to shed light on the process as it is being designed. May God add his blessings to this attempt.



Frequently Asked Questions, Cont'd.

Question 1: Is it appropriate for the church to become a lender to the Saints?

While the issue of debt is one that Scripture clearly advises members to avoid, it is a reality that we face in this day and time. Scripture advises us as Christians to avoid coming into debt with our enemies (D&C 64). Proverbs 22 tells us that the borrower is a servant to the lender. Furthermore, scripture has many warnings concerning the matter of lending money with usurious interest charged. The program being developed by Freedom Stewardship Ministries (FSM) is designed to recognize the reality of our Saints currently suffering under the burden of debt to their enemies. It is also developed in recognition of the extremely high rates of interest being charged by those worldly lenders. It is these realities that would be addressed by FSM, by refinancing high interest consumer loans by the organization at a zero rate of interest. By doing so, it would be the objective to assist the Saints in freeing themselves from their financial bondage.

Furthermore, it would be the expressed design of FSM to never get into an adversarial relationship with our debtors. Failure to repay any loan would simply trigger an attempt to counsel the borrower; never to FORCE the member to repay by way of legal redress. Interaction with the member would always be in strict confidence and only to encourage the member to live up to his/her commitment to repay the debt as quickly as possible.



Frequently Asked Questions, Cont'd.

Question 2: Why would FSM not simply repay the member's debt and forgive it?

We believe that the consistent message of Christ is that man is given his agency and must be held accountable for his actions. With that in mind, it is also a central message of Christ that man is granted grace and forgiveness under condition of repentance and life change. FSM is designed to acknowledge repentance and provide a way out of the heavy burden of debt. We do not feel that it would be appropriate to simply expunge the debt and ignore the consequences of one's actions. The grace that is being offered comes in the form of an interest-free refinancing (Deuteronomy 23:20). The accountability is addressed in education by creating a budget and repaying their debt in principal.

The principles that we are trying to establish through this initiative is two-fold. One, it is necessary to address the immediate problem of debt and stewardship. The second, is to address the deeper problem of pride and envy. Too many times has the Body of Christ only addressed the physical manifestations of sin, avoiding the deeper seeded spiritual issues that lie underneath. It may be an issue of discomfort for the Priesthood addressing the issues, families that are not receptive, or a combination of both. Either way, we stand at the crossroads of something special; will we decide to address the issues that stand between us and the Kingdom or choose to do nothing?

Frequently Asked Questions, Cont'd.

Question 3: Why would we choose to refinance consumer discretionary) debt as opposed to home loans, which many feel may be more justifiable?

Quite simply, the mission of FSM is to relieve the burden of high interest crippling debt. When the interest burden on this class of debt is relieved, it will be expected, in conjunction with required education, that other forms of debt will then be manageable by the member. Please understand that the financing provided by FSM will be accompanied by a joint covenant with the borrower no more to enter into consumer debt once this existing debt is repaid. Again, this program will mandate financial education that will help the Saints learn how to budget and avoid the debt that arises from expenditures on unnecessary wants. Living within our means is basic cornerstone concept of FSM. The borrower will come to appreciate the concept through education and counseling.

Frequently Asked Questions, Cont'd.

Question 4: Are we in effect teaching the Saints to be irresponsible?

We believe that the opposite is the case. No debt is being forgiven, only refinanced with no interest. The educational component will be designed to instill the life concept of financial responsibility.



Frequently Asked Questions, Cont'd.

Question 5: Is FSM a veiled attempt to impose a new church organization on the Saints?

The organizational structure proposed for FSM would involve a board of directors comprised of delegates from the member branches. No branch will be “committed” to on-going involvement with FSM if they feel it is not serving the interests of its membership. The sole purpose of the organization is to instill the Zionite concepts of financial freedom and brotherly love, as Saints share the bounties provided by Christ to come to the aid of their brothers and sisters who are in need.

Frequently Asked Questions, Cont'd.

Question 6: Why not just educate people and let the individual branch help them financially if necessary?

There are times that education alone is not enough. Sometimes we need to get in the ditch with our brothers and sisters to help them find their way out. The paradigm has to be broken. We must find the way out Lord has tread and establish His principals so that our brothers and sisters do not have to suffer and the Kingdom may be a reality in our time. FSM aims to apply the examples and principals of the Kingdom so that we may bind ourselves together through Christ, Jesus.

Financial Survey

The Lord has moved upon several individuals and branches about the great need to come out of bondage to the world, and to be better stewards over the resources God has provided His Saints. Many Saints are in bondage to financial institutions with credit cards and payday loans that carry very high interest rates. It is past time that we bind ourselves together and be "united according to the union required of the law of the Celestial Kingdom."

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. We suggest that you complete this form as family. We have not put a place on it for your name or contact information, however, if you would like to provide that information, please put it at the bottom of the page.

- Do you have any Payday Loans? Yes No

If yes, approx. balance(s): _____

- Do you have any high interest auto loans (+10% interest)? Yes No

If yes, approx. balance(s): _____

- Do you have any Student Loans? Yes No

If yes, approx. balance(s): _____

- Do you have revolving consumer debt? (Credit Card, Payday Loans, etc. that has a balance carried forward each month.)
 Yes No

If yes, approx. balance(s): _____ Type(s): _____

- Would you be willing to receive Financial Education to become debt free? Yes No

- Would you be interested in covenanting with saints in order to break the bondage of consumer debt? Yes No

- Would you be willing to share of your surplus on a monthly basis to assist in freeing our brothers and sisters from bondage?
 Yes No

If yes, how much monthly could you contribute: _____

Covenant With Freedom Stewardship Ministries

In response to the admonition of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Saints of the Church of Jesus Christ have shared of their bounty in an effort to assist you in getting free from the burden of high interest consumer debt. Freedom Stewardship Ministries (FSM) will agree to refinance a portion of your high interest debt under the condition that you will agree to prayerfully submit to financial stability education and refrain from incurring any further consumer debt in the future. You will covenant to live by the Zionite principle of suppression of unnecessary wants so that you can come out from under the burden of debt that is destructive. FSM is refinancing your consumer debt at zero interest in order to allow you to live within your God given means and ultimately become able to assist others in similar circumstances.

I So Covenant: _____

Date



Branch Affiliation Agreement

This Affiliate Agreement (the “Agreement”) is made this ____ day of _____, 20____, by and between The Conference of Restoration Elders (CRE), a Missouri nonprofit public benefit corporation (hereinafter “FSM”), and _____, Restoration Branch (hereinafter “Affiliate”)

Branch Affiliation Agreement, Cont'd.

Background

The 2019 Conference of Restoration Elders resolved to establish a financial stewardship education program geared toward debt reduction, *Freedom Stewardship Ministries (FSM)*, within the organizational framework of the CRE; and Further resolved to establish a FSM representative membership council, comprised of 1 voting representative from each affiliated Restoration Branch (*FSM Affiliation Council*), to have oversight responsibility of an *FSM Operating Board*, FSM program operating guidelines, and along with the Officers and Coordinating Council of the CRE, the fiscal concerns of FSM; and further resolved that the CRE Officers and Coordinating Council develop and enter into agreements with restoration branches desiring to participate in FSM.

Branch Affiliation Agreement, Cont'd.

Relationship of the Parties:

Obligations of the CRE FSM program - During the term of the Agreement, FSM shall:

- Provide Affiliate with access to financial education and resource materials
- Provide resources and support to Affiliate to assist them with promoting the FSM program
- Assist Affiliate with how to identify and recruit program participants
- Administer the interest elimination component of the program
- Provide Affiliate with support to identify and Manage branch participant
- Respect the privacy of program participants and the Affiliate, and maintain strict confidentiality on all matters, at all times

Branch Affiliation Agreement, Cont'd.

Relationship of the Parties, *Cont'd.*

Obligations of the CRE FSM program - During the term of the Agreement, FSM shall:

- Only share private/confidential information for purposes associated with the FSM program as agreed upon in writing by participants and the Affiliate
- Provide its services with due care, skill and ability
- Maintain sound fiscal operational practices, controls and accountability

Branch Affiliation Agreement, Cont'd.

Obligations of Affiliate - During the term of this Agreement, Affiliate shall:

- Participate in an FSM orientation program and other FSM program training as identified
- Select a representative, and alternate, to serve on the FSM Affiliation Council, and to serve as a liaison between the branch and FSM leadership
- Support the values, principles, guidelines and goals of the FSM program as approved
- Notify FSM Operating Board immediately of unauthorized use or misrepresentation of the FSM program or materials

Branch Affiliation Agreement, Cont'd.

Obligations of Affiliate, *Cont'd.* - During the term of this Agreement, Affiliate shall:

- Endorse and promote the program with branch members and other restoration branches
- Maintain the integrity of program practices and materials
- Maintain appropriate records
- Collect funds from those willing to support the outcomes of the FSM program; and contribute Branch funds as they become available
- Encourage and support participation in FSM educational opportunities and requirements

Branch Affiliation Agreement, Cont'd.

Obligations of Affiliate, *Cont'd.* - During the term of this Agreement, Affiliate shall:

- Minimally, identify a priesthood member to coordinate and/or provide the educational components of the FSM program within the Branch
- Respect the privacy of program participants and FSM operations and maintain strict confidentiality on all matters, at all times
- Only share private/confidential information for purposes associated with the FSM program as agreed upon in writing by participants and FSM
- Participate with FSM program and financial data collection within the Branch

Branch Affiliation Agreement, Cont'd.

Limitation on Liability

The CRE is not liable for any damages, including legal fees, that may occur to an Affiliated Restoration Branch, or Branch participants, as a result of taking part in the FSM program, that are not directly attributable to the negligence or actions of those administering the FSM program.

Amendment and Waiver

Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, any provision of this Agreement may be amended or modified and the observance of any provision of this Agreement may be waived (either generally or any particular instance and either retroactively or prospectively) only with the written consent of the Parties. The failure of either Party to enforce its rights under this Agreement at any time for any period shall not be construed as a waiver of such rights.

Branch Affiliation Agreement, Cont'd.

Limitation on Liability

The CRE is not liable for any damages, including legal fees, that may occur to an Affiliated Restoration Branch, or Branch participants, as a result of taking part in the FSM program, that are not directly attributable to the negligence or actions of those administering the FSM program.

Branch Affiliation Agreement, Cont'd.

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Branch Affiliation Agreement, Cont'd.

Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior discussions, documents, agreements and prior course of dealing, and shall not be effective until signed by both Parties

Branch Affiliation Agreement, Cont'd.

Term of Agreement

The term of this Agreement (“Term”) shall begin on the Effective Date hereof and shall continue until terminated by either Party in writing at any time.

Name of Authorized CRE Officer

Name of Authorized Branch Representative

Title of CRE Officer

Title of Branch Representative

Signature

Date

Signature

Date



FREEDOM STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES (FSM)

Send Donations To: CRE
 P.O. Box 4085
 Independence, MO. 64051

On the Memo Line: FSM

* Ray Lane will record your donations in the FSM account. If you give Ray Lane cash, please put a note in the envelope that the money is to go to into the FSM account and also put your name and address so that Ray can send you a contribution statement at the end of the year.