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FALL 2025



PAGE 17

Meet Our New Deans! • page 10

Ministering With Servant • page 22

Featured In This Issue

07

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. A shares some exciting updates and his heart for this season.

10

MEET OUR NEW DEANS!

Get to know Dean of Students Lori Camiolo and Associate Dean Jeffery Haley.

14

VICTOR RODRIGUEZ: A CHANGED LIFE

The powerful testimony of a man completely turned around by Jesus.



Cover: International students and Campus Life Director Gabriel Cepeda at the annual Staff and Students Outing. (Photo by Robert Jones)

20

BENNY'S STORY

One young man from Ghana's journey from darkness to light.

22

MINISTERING WITH SERVANT

Our traveling worship ministry has relaunched this fall!

24

NEW DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Introducing focused and flexible options designed to equip today's students.

29

ALUMNI UPDATE LETTER

Encouragement and updates from Alumni President Guy Gabriel.

30

ALUMNI NEWS

Life and ministry updates, published as provided by alumni!

ALSO INCLUDED:

- 5 Upcoming Events
- 8 Matching Fund Update
- 9 Planning Your Legacy
- 16 Check out our podcasts!
- **27** Vocational Certificate in Construction Trades
- 33 Links for Alumni
- 34 Become an Alumni Leader!



The Elim Herald is a digital publication from the Marketing Department of Elim Bible College.

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Special thanks to our international students!

Upcoming Events

October

11-15 Fall Break 13-24

Registration for **Spring Classes**

20-21

Discovery Days

21-24

Missions Week

27-31

Spirit Week

November

6-8

14-16

21-22

26-30

Discovery Days x Saturate Youth Conference

BASICCON

Discovery Days + **Escape Room Encounter** Thanksgiving Break

December

5

11

8-11

12

25

Staff/Student **Christmas Party** Exam Week

Last President's Chapel

Fall Term Ends

February

Christmas Day

January

12-16

19

14-22

28

Students Arrive

Week of Prayer

Classes Begin

Winter Recess

Talent Show

March

Emphasis Week

April

3-6 Worship 13

Prophetic Presbytery 2-6

6-10

19-24

23

Easter Break Registration for Registration for Summer Classes Fall Classes

Open House



Letter from the President

Welcome to our fall edition of *The Elim Herald*. Our school scripture this year is from Colossians 2:6: "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him..." This scripture has particular meaning for us today as a result of the political and societal tempest that is raging in our nation. Never, at least in our lifetimes, has "living your lives in Him" been so instrumental, as well as potentially dangerous. Sharing the Gospel today in the United States, at your own risk, is something that this country has never experienced before. Ominous signs...

Here at EBC, the message to our students is to make Christ and His message of eternal life a passionate priority when interacting with their Gen Z culture. Following the assassination of Charlie Kirk, hundreds of thousands, even millions of young men and women, both on and off college campuses, are unabashedly voicing their love for Jesus and the need for others of their age to know Him. Clearly, the vivid reality of 2 Timothy 3:1-5 is becoming more real to us on a daily basis. It's both glorious (seeing scripture fulfilled) and terribly frightening to see. However, this is what Elim Bible College was built for! This is the purpose of our existence as a Spirit-filled Bible college: to preach the Gospel, unafraid and undeterred in these last days. Could we be witnessing before our very eyes the beginning swell of a Fifth Great Awakening? Maranatha!

Please take time to read through the articles in this issue, from "Meet Our New Deans" to "Ministering with Servant," to our Alumni Update Letter and more.

We hope you enjoy this fall's edition of *The Elim Herald*. Please give us your suggestions, to help us put out the best, most informative Elim publication that we can offer. Thank you!

"...while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ..." Titus 2:13

Because of Him,

Fred Antonelli, PhD, LPC President



From the President: Matching Fund Update



An important update on our **\$200,000** matched giving fund and how your contributions are being put to good use around the Elim campus!

Click to watch this short video on YouTube, and visit this link to give!



Planning Your Legacy

Elim Bible College is proud to partner with PhilanthroCorp, a nationally trusted charitable will and estate planning firm, to bring their services to you, **free of charge**.

Partnering with PhilanthroCorp

PhilanthroCorp has helped thousands of families create estate plans that meet their goals, save taxes and support ministries they care about. They will help you easily and completely understand everything about your options to provide for family and ministries you care about.

What is Legacy Planning?

Legacy planning decides how your assets are handled after death or incapacitation, ensuring your wishes are honored and assets are distributed smoothly, including to charities like EBC.

Why Estate Planning Matters

- Stewardship
 - Manage God's resources wisely, supporting family and community.
- Protection
 - Protect loved ones from difficult decisions and reduce financial burdens.
- Legacy
 - Reflect your values and support meaningful causes.

Call (800) 876-7958 or click here to get started!

If you'd like more information, visit elim.edu/legacyplanning.





This academic year, Elim is honored to introduce two new student deans. Lori Camiolo joined our team last year, and began this year as our Dean of Students. Jeffery Haley came to EBC as a student in Fall 2023, and began this year as our Associate Dean and Director of Ministry. We're thankful for the hard work and caring contributions of our previous deans, and are excited for what God is going to do with the new team in this season!

From hearing about the position to accepting, what factors or experiences drew you to becoming a dean at Elim?

Lori: I have always had a heart for Elim. My husband graduated here, and one of our daughters is a student. When I heard Elim was looking for a Dean, I didn't think much of it, and even encouraged my husband to apply. I wasn't looking for a job, and was content teaching at a local Christian school.

Then, in church one Sunday, I strongly felt God nudging me to contact Dr. Case about the position. I sent her an email that afternoon, and she responded right away that they were still looking, and would love to see my resume.

What I didn't know was that Dr. Case had just been asking God to send her the person for this position, rather than continuing to search! Soon, we had interviews, and I was offered the job. I started commuting from Arcade two days a week this past January.

In July, we sold our house and moved to Lima so that I could start full time as the Dean of Students. It has been very clear to me that this is exactly where God has called me. From getting my master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy to the years spent homeschooling my children, and everything in between, God has been preparing me for this. I'm very excited to see all the ways that God continues to use me here at Elim as I help lead and shape this generation of students chasing after God and his plans for their lives!

Jeff: Three years ago, I was in prayer, in a place of vulnerability and full submission, when I heard from the Lord, and He called me into ministry. Over months of praying and considering practical steps, God gave me another directive: to go back to school. This was a big ask for me at 45, because it would require my wife and I to make major modifications to our successful business and family dynamics. It was a giant step of faith!

"It has been very clear to me that this is **exactly where God has called me.**"



This led me to Elim. Honestly, I had not heard of this college until then, but God again told me He wanted me on this campus, living in campus housing, immersed in the culture, and connecting with fellow students. He said it would take two years and would serve as a springboard into what He had planned next.

Spring 2025 was the springboard, and I began the year anticipating what God would do. At that point, God hadn't given me a clear vision of what would come next; He just had me on the potters wheel, to steward this time by focusing on spiritual formation, academic excellence, and connecting as an adult student with the Elim culture. It was clear He wanted Elim to be in my spiritual DNA, to prepare me for what's ahead.

Then, through a series of God moments, doors started opening. Unknown to me, two positions were opening on campus: Director of Student Ministry and Associate Dean. Through what could only have been orchestrated by God, these positions were offered to me. After weeks of prayer with my wife, we knew this was what God had been planning all along. With that prayerful yes, I stepped onto the springboard and now find myself being propelled forward!

In your time here so far, what have you learned or discovered? What has stood out to you as surprising or encouraging?

Lori: I have discovered that being the Dean is a lot like parenting! My husband and I have 4 daughters and raising them has greatly prepared me for my role.

In a week here at Elim, I find myself doing many of the same tasks I've done with my own kids: room inspections, tracking down who left their dirty dishes, reminding students they can't stay up all night playing video games, checking in on sick or hurt students, reminding freshmen they aren't allowed to date their first semester, making sure no one breaks curfew, helping calm anxious thoughts, praying with students over tough decisions or hurts from the past, making sure everyone goes to church and chapel, and, of course, using my expert skills of super-gluing or taping broken eyeglasses.

My role at Elim has been a perfect mix of my professional experience, education, and the parenting skills I've gained over the years.

Jeff: God is using Elim to transform every life that steps onto this campus—whether staff, faculty, students, or guests. If you submit to what He is doing, you will not leave the same. You will be refined, transformed from the inside out, and made useful for His purposes.

Lastly, what is your heart for this year? What are you excited about?

Lori: I really feel that God is getting ready to do something big on our campus this year. I have been getting together with some other staff members once a week to pray for each other and the campus. We have already started to see a few other prayer groups spring up on campus this semester since we began meeting. I'm excited to see this spark grow and watch what God does as we each surrender more to Him. I'm also excited to see students surrender to God, and I love being involved in the work God is doing.

Jeff: To stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit and to what God is doing on and through the campus. God's encouragement to me as I step into this role is to stay focused on what is unseen rather than what is seen. "While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:18). Staying focused on what God is doing in the unseen, in the work He is doing at EBC, as He positions us to receive those He calls, and being part of the life transformation He is bringing about in each student.



FEATURE ARTICLE

Victor Rodriguez: A Changed Life

BY REV. HARRY VELLEKOOP

After hearing Victor Rodriguez share his testimony of his pilgrimage from childhood to where he is today by God's grace, one cannot help but reflect on Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 3:2: "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men."

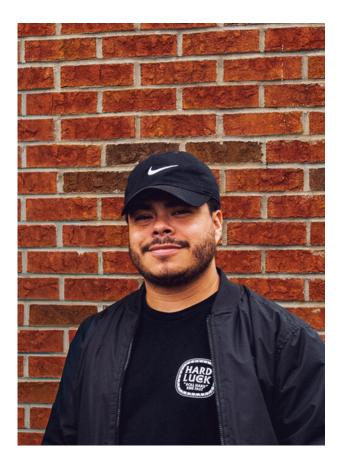
One also recalls the refrain, "changed lives change lives," and that is exactly why Victor is preparing himself for ministry at Elim Bible College: so that he can impart the hope and recovery of his almost-ruined life to restore the lives of others.

Born in Long Island to a dysfunctional Honduran immigrant family, Victor only remembers that from the age of six, his life was one of sadness. From sadness, his outlook on life turned to anger. To fill the void, he got into marijuana at age 14, and from there, into cocaine and LSD. Along with that, he became an extreme alcoholic.

All along, Victor's mom and sister had been planting seeds in his life to point to God. Despite this, Victor's image of God as Father was so distorted by the abuse he had suffered at the hands of his own father that he hated God for the injustices he was experiencing in his life.

Still, the Lord began to cause Victor to gradually understand that He loved him, and Victor wanted to get free of his bondages of drugs and alcohol, and remembers how, ironically, he began to read the Bible while heavily drinking.

Finally in 2022, on the Saturday before Easter, in the midst of his drunkenness, he felt he was beginning to experience an epileptic seizure, and, in his desperation, cried out to the Lord, "Either free me or take my life!"



That was his turning point with the Lord, and one Bible verse became Victor's personal revelation of God's love for him: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38–39)

After that life-changing moment, Victor worked to turn his life around and follow Christ. He went through a detox program, and then into the Adult and Teen Challenge in Long Island for 6 months. From there, he came to Men's Adult and Teen Challenge Rochester for 2 years, eventually ending

his time there as a staff member helping new men coming into the program.

This last fall, Victor enrolled at Elim Bible College and has even served as his class president. A recent wonderful experience occurred when he was invited to share his powerful testimony during a men's breakfast at Livonia Community Church, where a 90-year-old elder in the church, Lorin Cooper, was present.

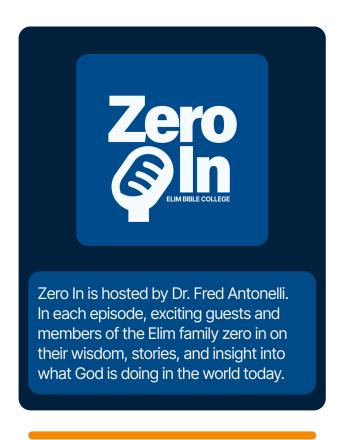
Lorin was the founder of the Webster Assembly of God church in 1957, and Victor later learned that was also the man who founded Teen Challenge Rochester in the early 1960's. Lorin was so blessed to see the fruit of that ministry that is still continuing to flourish, by God's grace, in those like Victor Rodriguez: a changed life who God will continue using to change more lives.

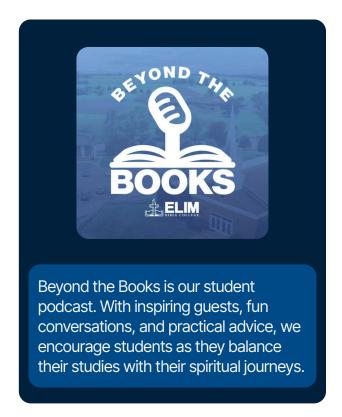


Lorin and Victor

Check out our podcasts!

Available on Spotify, YouTube, Apple Podcasts, and more. Click to watch now!





COVER STORY



BY CALLI WEILER AND IAN LAIRD WITH SARAH NGUYEN, JOY OUYANG, JANE JAWED, AND DEEPAK SANDHU

Elim Bible College is proud of its long history of global impact. Though a small school, our Gospel connections reach around the world because of the incredible legacies and current work of missionaries who have come from this school. Each year, we welcome a number of international students who come to the US from great distances to pursue the call of God on their lives at Elim.

This year, we're happy to introduce four new international students: Sarah Nguyen, from Vietnam, Joy Ouyang, from China, Jane Jawed, from Pakistan, and Deepak Sandhu, from India. Each has a powerful testimony and a unique story of God's work in and through their lives, and we're excited to have the opportunity to be a part of it! To share their heart with you, we asked them each a few questions.

1. How did you choose to follow Jesus?

Sarah (Vietnam): I grew up in a Christian household, and that was the foundation which later helped me truly believe in Christ for myself.

Joy (China): I chose to follow Jesus at 9 years old when I moved to America. I came into a church service for the first time and felt the glorious presence of God.

Jane (Pakistan, Punjabi people group):

My journey to following Jesus began with a deep hunger for spiritual truth that was ultimately fulfilled when I encountered the message of the Gospel.

"My journey to following Jesus began with a deep hunger for spiritual truth that was ultimately fulfilled when I encountered the message of the Gospel."



International students Joy, Doxson, Jane, Ilian, and Sarah

2. Why did you decide to come to Elim?

Sarah: I wanted to be in an environment where I could be surrounded by friends who share the same faith, and where I could be rooted more deeply in God's Word.

Joy: My parents attended Elim as the first Chinese students and I also felt God's call to be here.

Jane: I was drawn to Elim due to its commitment to solid scriptural foundations and the specific resources it offers students coming from other countries.

3. What do you hope to do in your home country with your Elim education?

Sarah: I want to use what I've learned at Elim to serve the Lord in my home church and be ready for whatever area God wants me to step into.

Joy: I hope to be able to better teach and encourage the believers in China who have to face persecution and limited resources.

Jane: My goal is to use my education to equip and mentor emerging Christian leaders back in my home communities in Pakistan.

Deepak (India, Punjabi people group):

After finishing my studies, I want to go back and serve in my church teaching the Bible and helping people know Jesus more. I hope to guide young people in music and worship so they can use their gifts for God. I also want to share what I learn, train others, and help my community grow in faith. I'll evangelize to reach the unreached because I am learning those skills from my classes.

"I'll evangelize to reach the unreached because I am learning those skills from my classes." 4. What's one thing that surprised you, coming to the United States?

Sarah: Oh, I was really surprised by how extremely friendly people are here! I have people say "hi" to me multiple times a day.

Joy: When I first arrived in America I wondered where all the people went! There was hardly anyone out on the streets, whereas in China, people are everywhere.

Jane: I have been genuinely surprised by the vast array of different worship expressions and church traditions I've experienced in the United States.



Deepak Sandhu

FEATURE ARTICLE

Benny's Story

BY TRISH CURNICK

There's an unassuming young man on campus. His name is Benny Nketiah. He has a powerful testimony of how he came to Christ, and how God brought him to Elim. Benny relates his conversion experience to the Apostle Paul's encounter on the Damascus road. Benny, too, was apprehended by God.

His story begins in a small rural village in Ghana. It almost ended there because both of Benny's parents died when he was quite young. His father first, then his mother became ill. He estimated he was about 6 years old. He and his brother were sent away to live with an Auntie. Unfortunately, the horrors of life just really began for them. They had to work on the farm, while the other children in played. There were many long years of child labor and neglect. There was no opportunity to just be a child and they had to adapt to much pain.



Finally, a grandmother who had been trying to help took Benny to the city, hoping that life would be better. Unfortunately, things were not better, as he encountered more abuse. Eventually, he escaped and started living on the streets.

He went back to the village and began working at various jobs, as a traveling salesman selling shoes, washing hearses, selling fish and bread, and doing construction. All these things did not work out and he found himself exploited once again. He was living on the streets.

Occasionally, someone would give him food. He was about 16-17 years old when a friend introduced him to witchcraft. Indeed, things were taking a turn for the worse. One night he felt like he was wrestling with the devil, consumed by darkness until suddenly, he saw a bright light shine in the room, and he had a life-changing encounter with the Lord.

Not long after, Benny had fallen ill and was at a barber shop where he met a pastor who gave him medicine. Benny soon went to search for the pastor and found his church. Wanting to follow Christ, he started serving at the church with the pastor and was allowed to sleep in the church building. When he had time, he would read a Bible he found in the church. Then, he began go out and preach in the streets late at night. He was developing a strong passion for the things of God.

After a while, someone gifted Benny a phone. He connected with a woman on

Facebook who was asking for prayer for her niece. Through praying for and talking to this woman, he made other connections. When folks heard what he was doing in Ghana, many began to support the outreaches he was involved in, including distributing wheelchairs to needy people in different villages. He started to disciple two other young men, and they also began to get involved in outreach, including water well projects, changing the lives of many in need.

As Benny's connections to people in America grew, so did his passion for learning more about theology. One family he connected with had attended Elim in the past, and suggested he come to America and become a student at Elim. Desiring to learn more and be equipped to continue in ministry, Benny finished classes to finally complete his high school diploma. Before long, a plan was made to come to Elim, and the rest, as they say, is history.

"He saw a bright light shine in the room, and he had a life-changing encounter with the Lord." **FEATURE ARTICLE**

Ministering with Servant

BY IAN LAIRD Servant Ministry Coordinator



Upper row: Doxson Deivendran, Mekhi Taylor, Lillianna Renz Lower row: Hannah Camiolo, Bridget Laird, Ian Laird, Katrina Bennett

In the last Elim Herald issue, we announced that our traveling worship ministry, Servant, would be relaunching this fall. Well, the fall semester has come, and the ball is rolling!

In September, we kicked off with our first trip, to REALIFE Church in Jamestown, New York. Pastor Tim and Kerri Smart, along with the rest of the church family, were incredibly welcoming and encouraging to our team throughout the weekend. We were humbled to both bless and be blessed by the church.

In both the Sunday morning service and Sunday night worship, God was stirring hearts. We've got a full slate for the rest of the semester, and we're looking forward to what He does at each church we visit next!







Servant is already booking for the spring season. Visit **elim.edu/servant** to book your church!



FEATURE ARTICLE

New Degree and Certificate Programs

BY IAN LAIRD

In today's world, it can be difficult to live passionately for God within spiritually hostile environments. It's not just distant nations; believers face pressures at work and school, in social settings, and more. For one hundred years, Elim's heart has been to equip young people to step into the world with passion, power, and purpose, enabling them to be ministers of the Gospel wherever they go. Over this time, the foundation of our core

curriculum has remained largely the same, and we intend to keep it this way. However, Elim also has a history of adapting and making a variety courses available to best equip our students for wherever God is leading them.

For a number of years, we've offered a oneyear program. In one life-changing year, students can discover *why* they believe *what*

they believe and be equipped to be influencers for Christ. After completing the Launch program, many students plug into a degree program here at Elim, while others launch out into other education and career fields, trained and prepared to stand on the firm foundation of God's Word.

This year, we're excited to introduce a number of new options to equip the saints for the work of ministry. This includes several new certificates and the new **AAS in Business Administration** degree. Many of our options are available fully online, with a new 8-week course format designed for today's busy students. Whether a program is focused on trades, ministry, or business, we are committed to providing flexibility, academic quality, spiritual depth, and practical application, all centered on Christ.



Find out more about all of our programs at elim.edu/academics.

Ministry Certificates

- Launch Certificate
- Ministry Certificate (New!)
- Worship Leadership Certificate (New!)
- Missions Certificate (New!)

Vocational Certificate

Construction Trades (New!)

Business Certificates

- Business Administration Certificate (New!)
- Accounting Certificate (New!)
- Nonprofit Management Certificate (New!)
- Marketing Strategies Certificate (New!)

Associate Degrees

- AAS in Business Administration (New!)
- AAS in Biblical and Theological Studies





27

BUILDING FOR THE KINGDOM



Vocational Certificate in Construction Trades

24 ON-CAMPUS CREDITS

6-MONTH PAID INTERNSHIP

The world needs more hard-working, Christ-centered believers.

Whether you are preparing to work in the trades, serve in missions, or start your own business, this program will not only develop your skills – it will deepen your walk with Christ and equip you to bring His light into every job site. Take the next step toward a career that builds both lives and legacies.

EXPLORE NOW



Alumni Update Letter

I hope this finds you well as this school year begins. Before looking ahead, I want to offer a heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this summer such a meaningful season for our alumni community. From staff and volunteers to leaders and hosts, your faithfulness and willingness have made these gatherings testimonies of God's work in His people. Special thanks go to Dan Slisher, my fellow worker and partner who faithfully volunteers to help build the alumni association; to Dr. Fred Antonelli, who continues to encourage the vision of bringing alumni together; to Lillianna Renz, my secretary, for her support (and helping me keep my sanity!); to Lisa Waldman, our Admissions Director, who goes above and beyond to help with our events; and to the rest of the Elim staff, whose dedication continues to support this vision.

This summer, we were blessed to host two alumni events on campus. The first, led by Dan Slisher, Alumni Ambassador for the Finger Lakes region, brought together about 50 alumni from around the area for a rich time of fellowship. The second, a 25-year reunion organized by Catie Arnau and Courtney Denee from the Class of 2000, was a joyful celebration of friendship and shared memories. These ladies are truly a force to be reckoned with!

In September, we also held combined EBC alumni and EF credential holders' gatherings in Woodbridge, Virginia, Virginia Beach, and Hampton. With the support of Mark and Mary Johansson, as well as ambassadors Juan and Brianna Milla, these events were filled with stories, testimonies, and laughter and joy, while reconnecting over several meals together.

We trust the Holy Spirit to guide us as we continue to grow and connect with alumni through the support of our Alumni Ambassadors. At Elim, our mission is to unite Biblical education with practical ministry, so that students not only learn but also live out their calling. In opportunities like Servant, a traveling ministry that serves churches with worship and more, the NYC outreach with NYSUM, which is a favorite of our freshmen, short-term international missions trips to places like Mexico and Kenya, and various student ministries, our students are putting their faith and what they learn in the classroom into action as the hands and feet of Jesus.

As alumni, you are an essential part of this college. We invite you to consider becoming an **Alumni Leader** or **Alumni Ambassador**, and to partner with us in raising up the next generation of workers for the harvest. Together, we can impact lives for eternity.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Guy Gabriel Pastoral Liaison, Alumni President

Alumni News

Life and ministry updates, published as provided by alumni!

Marriage

Timothy and Bethina Alberth

Graduation Year/Last Year Attended: 2002 (Timothy)

Date of Marriage: October 1, 2022

Passings

Jennifer Maxwell

Graduation Year/Last Year Attended: 1965

1941 - 2025

Longtime EF missionary Jennifer Maxwell went to be with the Lord Friday, August 1st. Jennifer, with her husband, John, served for decades in various locations in Kenya. Please keep the family in prayer. We rejoice that Jennifer is now with the Lord, and would appreciate prayers for her family during this time. Thank you! "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalm 116:15



Evelyn (Mauer) Puckett

Graduation Year/Last Year Attended: 1966

1942 - 2025

The beloved Evelyn Puckett passed into glory to be in full communion with her Lord after months of facing stage 4 cancer. She was a giant of the faith. A true worshipper and matchless pianist. A servant among all, to both lost and found. And most of all, a true friend and follower of Jesus who lived a full life for His glory.

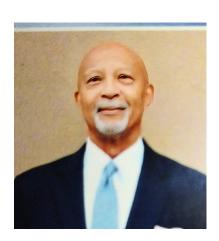


Updates

Tim Atwood

Graduation Year/Last Year Attended: 1976

"After graduating from Elim, Tim pastored 3 small Mennonite churches in Indiana and Michigan for about 8 years. In 2000, he began a career in education and is currently teaching Spanish on a Native American reservation in the Seattle area."



Dr. Thanh Trung Le

Graduation Year/Last Year Attended: 1978

"On August 18, 2025, we celebrated our 41st anniversary. I thank God for His many blessings in our journey together. I'm especially thankful for BichVan, my beloved wife—my soulmate and partner in both life and ministry.

On July 13, 1975, I arrived at the campus of Elim Bible Institute. I was picked up at the airport by Quinby and Sandra Collier—such a humble and unforgettable beginning to the path God had planned for me. I give thanks to God for His unwavering faithfulness. I remain deeply grateful to EBI for opening its arms to a refugee with hope and a calling. It is truly amazing how God has sustained and carried me through all these years. And I believe He will continue to do so—as long as I remain faithful to Him, just as He promised: 'Being confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.' Philippians 1:6"





Links for Alumni

Join the Elim Alumni Facebook group!

Take a class!

15% tuition discount for one class per academic year in any program and any mode (on campus or distance education) is available to all alumni who have completed an EBC program (certificate/degree).

Update your contact information

Tune into President's Chapel

We are live each Tuesday at 11am during the school year.

LIVE on YouTube

LIVE on Facebook

Listen on Spotify

<u>Submit your news</u> and updates for the next edition of the Elim Herald!

Support Elim with a one-time or recurring gift

Become an Alumni Leader!

Did you know that Alumni have an opportunity to become an Alumni Leader by committing to support EBC with \$20 a month or more?

How will this benefit you?

As an Alumni Leader, you will get an email account with the **elim.edu** domain, giving you additional benefits, such as:

- Unlimited Google Drive storage
- Amazon Prime discounts
- Many software discounts
- And much, much more!

As an Alumni leader, you will also become an Elim Library patron, giving you free access to databases with thousands of digital books, journals, and articles. If you're interested or would like more information, connect with our Elim Alumni Association President, Rev. Guy Gabriel, at (585) 582-8249 or alumni@elim.edu.









