

Religious Service Directory

Daddy's Empty Chair

The daughter of a terminally ill man called a local pastor to come and pray with her ailing father. When the churchman arrived, he found the frail man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed.

The minister assumed that the bedridden father had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me..." he said.

"No. Who are you?" questioned the convalescent.

The clergyman told him his name and then explained, "I saw the empty chair beside your bed. I thought that you knew that I was going to come."

"Oh yeah, the chair!" said the indisposed man. "Pastor, would you mind closing the door?"

Puzzled, the minister shut the door and the stricken gentleman began to confess:

"I have never told anyone what I am about to tell you, not even my daughter. All of my life, I have struggled to learn how to pray. I would hear people talk about the power of prayer, about how God hears us when we pray, about the sweet fellowship that can be had in the place of prayer... but truthfully, it all went right over my head. I felt so empty. My attempts at prayer seemed futile.

Until one day about four years ago, my best friend said to me, "Johnny, prayer is simply talking to God. If you are having a hard time with it, why not set up the room so that there is a chair for you and one for God directly across from you. As you look at the empty chair in front of you, allow your eyes of faith to see Jesus is sitting with you. It is not a crazy suggestion, because Jesus promised His followers that He would always be with them. Then, after you have welcomed Him, speak to Him just like you are speaking to me right now."

So, I tried my best friend's idea and it worked for me. I talk to Jesus every day and imagine Him sitting in the chair nearest me. I've grown to cherish my times of spiritual intimacy with God. But I am careful too. I mean, what would my daughter think if she saw me talking to an empty chair? She'd think that I had lost my mind! What do you think?"

"I think it is beautiful!" the visiting pastor responded for he had been deeply moved by the story and encouraged the bedfast man to continue on his spiritual journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil and returned to the church.

Two nights later, the infirmed man's daughter called to inform the clergyman that her daddy had died earlier that after-

noon.

"Did he die in peace?" questioned the man of the cloth.

"Yes, I spent several hours with him today. All seemed well. He spoke of how much he sensed God's presence with him even in this difficult time. He talked of God's faithfulness and the power of prayer.

He was tired though. I knew he needed some rest. So, I told him that I needed to go to the store and that I would be back in about an hour. He called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek.

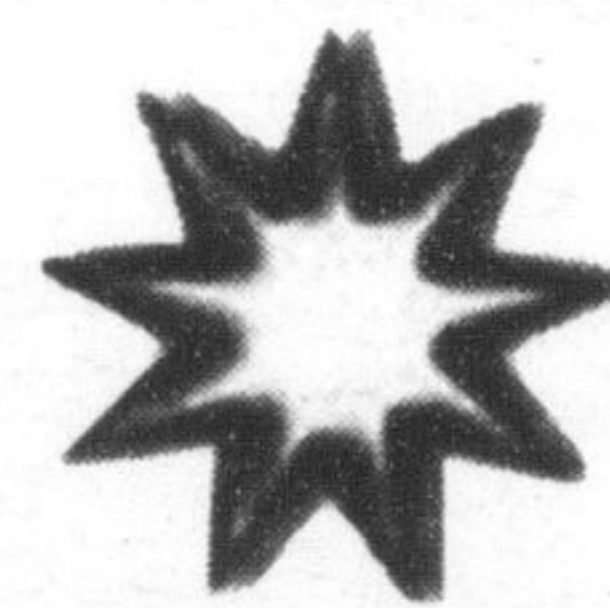
When I got back from the store an hour

later, I found him dead. He looked so peaceful, yet, there was something strange about his passing. Somehow, Daddy had pulled the chair at this bedside a little closer, put his head on it and breathed his last breath with his head on the seat cushion. What do you make of that?"

The seasoned man of God wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we could all go like that."

To learn more about prayer or a relationship with God, visit a local church this week. Consult the Religious Directory below for service times and locations.

Submitted by Rev. Dan Rogge, Pastor of Milton's New Life Church



BAHA' FAITH

- Devotional gatherings
- Study circles
- Children's classes

All welcome - for more information please call
905-878-2923 (local)
1-800-433-3284
www.ca.bahai.org

ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

7051 Guelph Ln - Just N. of Derry Rd
HARVEST THANKSGIVING
Friday September 25, 2004
7:00 pm Reach Community
Sunday, September 26, 2004

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion
 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion & Family Service in the auditorium
 Nursery care and Sunday school provided
Rector: The Reverend Canon Charlie Masters
 For more information call 905-878-1363
 Visit our websites
www.stgeorgeslowville.org

The Sanctuary

Church for Your Heart, Mind & Spirit

Sunday, September 26 10:00 a.m.

BEING SPIRITUAL NOT RELIGIOUS

"PRESERVE MY PERSONALITY... Experience a faith that fits how I'm wired."

www.thesanctuary.ca/milton
905.257.3987
 Milton Senior Centre
 500 Childs Drive (near the Mall)

We welcome you to...

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

123 Main St. E., Milton

ONE CONGREGATION,
 TWO GREAT SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES AT 10:30 AM!
Sun. September 26, 10:30 am
MEMORIAL & CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM SUNDAY
 Church School Theme: **The 10 Commandments**

Nursery for babies & toddlers at 10:15am
 Sept 30 - Startup of Weekly Bible Study at 10:30 am
Father Mark Curtis Concert Sat. Oct. 2 at 8pm
 Tickets at the church office

Rev. John Benham & Rev. Gerry Hofstetter
 Church office: (905) 878-8895
www.stpaulsmilton.org



Milton Bible Church

200 Main Street E.

10:30 AM Coffee & Conversation • 11:00 AM Worship Service

You are invited to ... "Party in the Park!"

Trudeau Drive Park (North of Derry)

- Bouncy Houses • Games • Music • Food • All Free •

Come & Enjoy! This Saturday 11 am to 3 pm
 Presented by Milton Bible Church

A New Church for a New Generation!

www.MiltonBibleChurch.ca
905-876-3586

NEW LIFE

824 THOMPSON RD. S., MILTON

"Only 1/2 km South of Derry Road"

Phone: (905) 878-3358

Church Affiliated with the

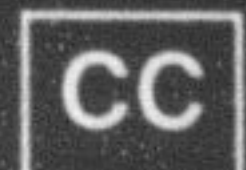
Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

Senior Pastor **Rev. Dan Rogge**
 Children **Natalie Rogge**
 Assistant/Worship **Esther Kessler**
 Interim Youth **Clinton Kruger**

9 a.m. - Early Worship Service
 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
 10:45 a.m. - Second Worship Service
PASS ON BLESSING
 6:30 p.m. - Evening Praise & Preach
THIRSTING FOR GOD

Supervised Nursery & Dynamic Children's Programs available all services!

CAPTIONING PROVIDED FOR DEAF/HARD OF HEARING
EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:45 A.M.



Join one of Milton's best

Midweek Clubs for

boys & girls ages 1-11.

BG Clubs begin on

Wednesday, Sept. 29.

Call (905) 878-3358 to register!



Website: www.newlife-milton.org

"ENLARGE YOUR CIRCLE OF LOVE"



2850 Derry Rd. E.
 PO Box 332,
 Milton, On L9T 4Y9
 905-878-5664
 Fax: 905-878-6676
office@southsidemilton.org

Sunday Worship

10:30am- Worship Service

"Experiencing Community"

Pastor Brian Roe

Tuesday September 21st Safari (Gr. 6-8)

Wednesday September 22nd Jungle (Gr.9-12)

GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

103 Martin Street
 905-878-1629

Pastor Walter H. Isaak

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Morning Service

6:00 p.m. - Evening Service

Thursday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study & Prayer

Captain's Crew for Children

(ages 6-12)

"You'll always find a friend at Graceway"
www.gracewaybaptist.org

MILTON GOSPEL HALL

306 Ontario St. N. • 878-3873

10:00 a.m. - The Lord's Supper

11:45 a.m. - Sunday School

6:30 p.m. - Gospel Service

Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Prayer and Bible Study

"Christ was once offered to bear the sin of many"

Hebrews 9.28



GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH

Clergy: 317 Main St. E
Rev. Dr. Mark McDermott the Church on the Hill
Rev. Carole Langlotz 905-878-2411
Father Mark Curtis

KIDS' SPIRIT
 Sundays at 10am

Services

Sun. 8:00 Holy Communion
 10:00 Sung Eucharist followed by coffee hour

Thurs. 10:00 Holy Communion followed by Tea and Sharing



Wheelchair Access Through Parking
www.gracechurchmilton.com

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

170 Main St. E., Milton
 905-878-6066

"Growing together in the grace of Christ"

You re invited to join us for
Sunday Morning Worship
at 10:30 a.m.

9:15 Youth & Adult Sunday School Classes
 10:30 Children's Worship & Nursery

A variety of children's and adult music programs
 Midweek small group ministries and support groups
 There is a place for you at Knox. Come grow with us!



Wheelchair access at Mary Street entrance.



MILTON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Invites you to our weekly Sabbath services at

Hugh Foster Hall, 43 Brown St. Milton

Sat. 9:30 a.m. - Sabbath School

Sat. 11:00 a.m. - Divine Service

FREE BIBLE SCHOOL

Discover the amazing Bible answers to life's perplexing questions, and the secret to a happy life.

For FREE BIBLE LESSONS, write: P.O. Box 23012,
 55 Ontario St., Milton, Ont., L9T 5B4.

On the INTERNET, <http://www.vop.com> and

www.amazingfacts.org/bibleschool/schoolmain.asp

PASTOR: AJ DaCosta 519-835-8301

For more information about our service and program, please call.