

Religion Page

Bridle Trail Pharmacy
16th AVE. &
UNIONVILLE BYPASS
DELIVERY SERVICE AVAILABLE
477-7734

Living On Purpose

Dave Petresoue



Sinkhole Syndrome

The residents of a Florida apartment building awoke to a terrifying sight outside their windows. The ground beneath the street in front of their building had literally collapsed, creating a massive depression that Floridians call a sinkhole.

Tumbling into the ever-deepening pit were automobiles, pavement, sidewalks, and lawn furniture. The building itself would obviously be the next to go. Sinkholes occur, scientists say, when underground streams drain away during seasons of drought, causing the ground at the surface to lose its underlying support. Suddenly everything simply caves in, leaving people with a frightening suspicion that nothing — not even the earth beneath their feet — is trustworthy.

There are many people whose lives are like one of Florida's sinkholes. It is likely that at one time or another many of us have perceived ourselves to be on the verge of a sinkhole — like cave-in. In the feelings of numbing fatigue, a taste of apparent failure, or the bitter experience of disillusionment about goals or purposes, we may have sensed something within us about to give way. We feel we are just a moment from a collapse that will threaten to seep our entire world into a bottomless pit. Sometimes there seems to be little that can be one to prevent such a collapse. What is wrong?

If we think about it for very long, we may discover the existence of an inner space — our private world. If neglected this private world will not sustain the weight of events and pressures that press upon it.

Some people are surprised and disturbed when they make such a self-discovery. They suddenly realize they have spent the majority of their time and energy establishing life on the visible level, at the surface. They have accumulated a host of good and perhaps even excellent assets such as academic degrees, work experience, key relationships, and physical strength or beauty.

There is nothing wrong with all of that. But often it is discovered almost too late that the private world of the person is in a state of disorderliness or weakness. And when that is true there is always potential for the sinkhole syndrome.

Reformed criminal speaks at dinner

A reformed bank robber who spent a total of 25 years in Canadian and U.S. jails is special guest speaker at the Markham Full Gospel Businessmen's dinner meeting this coming Monday. Ernie Hollands will share how he found the secret to real satisfaction and meaning in life while in Millhaven prison near Kingston. He now shares his testimony in

We must come to see ourselves as living in two very different worlds. Our outer, or public, world is easier to deal with. It is much more measurable, visible, and expandable. Our outer world consists of work, play, possessions, and a host of acquaintances that make up a social network. It is the part of our existence easiest to evaluate in terms of success, popularity, wealth, and beauty. But our inner world is more spiritual in nature. Here is a center in which choices and values can be determined, where solitude and reflection might be pursued. It is a place for conducting worship and confession, a quiet spot where the moral and spiritual pollution of the times need not penetrate.

Our public worlds are filled with a seeming infinity of demands upon our time, our loyalties, our money, and our energies. And because these public worlds of ours are so visible, so real, we have to struggle to ignore all their seductions and demands. They scream for our attention and action.

The result is that our private world is often cheated, neglected because it does not shout quite so loudly. It can be effectively ignored for large periods of time before it gives way to a sinkhole-like cave-in.

The Florida sinkhole is a physical picture of a spiritual problem. As the pressure of life grows in the decades of the '80s and '90s, there will be more people whose lives resemble a sink-hole, unless they gaze inward and ask themselves, is there a private world beneath the noise and action at the surface? A world that needs to be explored and maintained? Can strength and resilience be developed that will bear up under the pressure at the surface?

Gordon MacDonald, in his excellent book *Ordering Your Private World* (from which this article is an excerpt) said, "I believe that one of the great battlegrounds of our age is the private world of the individual. There is a contest that must be fought."

The sobering reality of the sinkhole syndrome reminds us all that unless we keep our hidden underground springs flowing, we, too, are candidates for collapse. **EDITOR'S NOTE:** Dave Petresoue is Senior Pastor at Unionville Alliance Church.

churches, high schools, reformatories and prisons and is a field representative for the Full Gospel Businessmen's organizations.

The meeting, which begins with a fellowship time at 7 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m., will be held at Fernando's Restaurant on Main St., Markham. Cost is \$10 per person.

For information call Stuart Harris at 640-5363.

Deeper Life conference continues

The Unionville Alliance Church is presenting a Deeper Life Conference this weekend at several venues in the Markham and Unionville area.

The conference will be under the direction of Rev. Sunder Krishnan and take place in three parts over the three days.

The conference started with the question of *What Really Happened When You Became A Christian?* at the Markham Pentecostal Church on 16th Ave. east of McCowan Rd. on Friday, Jan. 17.

Part 1 continued on Saturday with the men's breakfast at the Parkway Hotel.

At 1 p.m. today, again at the Markham Pentecostal Church, a ladies' luncheon will take place. Tickets are \$4 and are available from Ellen Relph, Marjorie Freeman, Vicki Holt, Judy Lee, Ruth Hall or Blanche Harper. The *Conquest of Inner Space* will be the topic.

Part 2 and 3 will go on Sunday, Jan. 19. Part 2, *If At First You Don't Succeed...* starts at 11 a.m. at Unionville Public School on Main St. in Unionville.

The conference then concludes at St. Andrew's United Church on Main St. in Markham at 6:30 p.m. when Part 3 looks at *The Missing Element*.

For further information, contact the Unionville Alliance Church at 477-1104.

"THE VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH"

(FORMERLY MARKVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH)

worships at
St. Matthew Catholic School
75 Waterbridge Lane
Unionville

10:30 a.m. Sunday
(Nursery and Junior Church to age 8)

Pastor: Rev. Ralph D. Neil,
B.Sc., B.D.
479-0765

Affiliation: Canadian Baptist Federation

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF UNIONVILLE

Worship 11:00 a.m. Sundays
Sermon Series: I Peter
Rev. Michael Goheen B.A. MA.
at

HERITAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE AUDITORIUM

17 Anna Russel Way - Off Eureka St. behind Unionville.
Church School Sun. 9:45 a.m.
Bible Study Wed. Evenings 7:30 p.m.

Prayer Meetings Sun. Evenings 6:30 p.m.
Men's Fellowship Alternate Sat. at 8:00 a.m.

For information call 477-7497 or 477-2266
Nursery & Handicap Facilities

MARKHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

110 Church Street
(opposite High School)
Pastor: Rev. Douglas Sherwood

SUN. JAN. 19/86
9:45 A.M.
Bible School

11:00 A.M.
The Bible's View of Man

6:30 P.M.
How To Manage Your Money Seminar Part 3

ALWAYS A WARM WELCOME

Affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Ont. & Que.

UNIONVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

243 Main St.
479-0942

DR. RAY REED
ASSISTANT
BRIAN MORRIS
9:45 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)

11:00 A.M.
Team From Toronto Baptist Seminary

6:30 P.M.
"Philadelphia The Missionary Church"

Nursery and Children's Program a.m. & p.m.

"THE END OF YOUR SEARCH FOR A FRIENDLY CHURCH"

UNIONVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA



11 a.m. Sunday Service
William Berczy Public School
120 Carlton Road

Nursery Care, Church School
Rev. Jost Kreplin 475-6233



CENTENNIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

8252 McCowan Rd. South
Pastor Harvey Peters

SUNDAY, JAN. 19

9:45 A.M.

FAMILY BIBLE SCHOOL

11:00 A.M.

INVOLVEMENT: GETTING AT THE HEART OF THE MATTER

7:00 P.M.

A REFUGEE IN A PRESSURE COOKER WORLD

TUESDAY, JAN. 21

7:30 P.M.

WOMAN'S MINISTRIES PRESENTS "CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY"



proposed new building

INTERDENOMINATIONAL

UNIONVILLE CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Meeting Saturday Morning from 8:00 a.m. 'til 10:00 a.m.
January 25th

at
Unionville Baptist Church 243 Main St., Unionville
Rear Entrance Fellowship Hall

Purpose to Provide:

- Leadership Training
- Improve Study Skills
- Evangelism Training
- Practical Christianity
- Biblical Doctrinal Studies
- Fellowship & Sharing
- Reformed Perspective
- Apologetics & Systematic Theology.

Course Director: Rev. Michael Goheen BA MA.

First Presbyterian Church Unionville

There is still time to join & catch up.

Meeting Every other Saturday

If you are a serious minded Christian eager to improve your Bible study skills and become involved in deeper study with men of like mind. In an atmosphere of warm fellowship come and join us January 25th at 8:00 a.m.

Refreshments Provided

Call: Mike Goheen 477-7497 or Richard Van Seters 477-2266

for more information and syllabus.