

FOCUS ON Faith

Prime the Pump

Bruce Larson in his book "Dare to Live Now" tells the story of Desert Pete. In a baking powder can wired to the handle of an old, well on a long seldom-used trail across the Amargosa Desert, Pete left this message:

"This pump is working well as of June 1932. I put in a new sucker washer that ought to last five years. But the washer dries out and the pump has got to be primed. Under the white rock I buried a bottle of water out of the sun cork end

up. There's enough water to prime the pump but not if you drink some first.

"Pour about one quarter and let her soak to wet the leather. Then pour in the rest medium fast and pump like crazy. You'll get water. The well has never run dry. Have faith. When you get watered up fill the bottle and put it back like you found it for the next feller.

"Don't go drinking up the water first. Prime the pump with it and you'll git all you can hold."

A person's faith would be revealed by what he or she would do coming to that well, half dead from thirst with an empty canteen. Faith is not so much a theological issue for discussion as it is something on which our entire life depends.

Faith involves three things. First it has to have an object. In this case, coming down that parched desert trail one would have to put his trust in an unknown person named Desert Pete to keep from drinking the water in the buried bottle. Not an easy thing to do. It sounds like he's telling the truth, but there's no guarantee that he's not a

practical joker. So the first ingredient of faith is trust in someone or something based on evidence but not on infallible proof.

Secondly, faith involves risk. If you drink the bottled water you won't get any from the pump. So it's necessary to risk the water on which your life depends in order to get a more adequate amount.

Thirdly, faith requires working at it. Desert Pete told it right. "Pump like crazy."

We all employ faith every day. In marriage, in business and in daily relationships we are required to place trust in others, face the risks involved and work at seeing the desired results.

Christian faith follows the same pattern. The object of faith is the unseen yet faithful God. There are risks and work involved because God requires obedience to His will in order for His promises to be realized in our lives. But the results are truly amazing. Have faith!

- submitted by Paul Fawcett

MARKHAM MISSIONARY CHURCH

Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada
5438 Major Mackenzie Drive East
Markham, Ontario — (905) 294-5081

Sunday, May 27TH, 2001

- 9:00 a.m. - Early Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. - Christian Education Hour
- 10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship
- 11:00 a.m. - Late Worship Service
- 6:00 p.m. - Welcome Tea for Pastor & Mrs. Holmes

Please call church office for details of services & other programs of the church.



CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY CHURCH

A Church To Call Home
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
"Front Lines, Foot Races, and Farm Yards"
Pastor Mark Lowrie
6:00 p.m. - Life Builders
8176 McCowan Road (just south of Hwy. 7)
Markham, ON Tel. 905-475-7695
Home of Centennial Child Care Centre.



*On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Ordination of Rev. J. Basil Breen (June 1, 1951 - 2001) Parish Priest and the Diamond Jubilee of Ordination of Rev. Monsignor Gerard B. Breen, P.M. (June 7, 1941 - 2001) Priest in Residence, members of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Markham and friends of the Parish and jubilarians are invited to come together to offer praise and thanks to God****

Concelebrated Mass Saturday, June 2, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. followed by Dinner in the Church Hall

Concelebrated Mass Saturday, June 3, 2001 at 12:00 noon followed by Parish Reception in the Church Hall

*St. Thomas the Apostle Church
14 Highgate Drive
Markham, Ontario L3R 3R6*

***With fond prayerful remembrance of Rev. William Fred Breen (1947 - 94) R.I.P.

Wideman Mennonite Church
• SUN - 27, 2001 •
9:45 - Christian Education
11:00 a.m. - Worship
1 km. North of Major Mackenzie on Hwy. 48
Church Office: 640-6219 For a ride call: 640-4185

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
32 Main St. N. Markham - 294-0351
SUNDAY SERVICE - 10:00 A.M.

Ascension: Sharing A Presence & A Power
As time goes by, we as a race make astonishing discoveries about the nature of the physical world, and about the depth of its mystery as well. And so it is that as we journey in faith, it becomes difficult to believe in old physical models of religion, like the three-storied universe, with heaven above the blue of the sky, and hell somewhere underfoot. There are those who would insist that an article of faith is simply to be believed without question, regardless of what our reason tells us. Within the story "Alice in Wonderland," Alice protests to the Queen: "I can't believe that!" But the Queen has a ready response: "Can't you? Try again. Draw a long breath and shut your eyes. It just takes practice. Why, sometimes I have believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast!" We have entered that period of time on the Church calendar in which the ascension is recognized. Some people think that the ascension could be one of those impossible things to which the Queen refers, an event dimly understood by many to be the final sucking up of Jesus into the sky by God. Some do believe in Jesus' literal ascension into a cloud. Some ignore the whole issue, and just put out of their mind the apparent conflict between Church doctrine and reason. Others quit the Church because what they perceive the Church to portray is just too ridiculous. But beyond all those reactions there's a real opportunity here, a huge gift embedded in the story of the ascension if one breaks through the surface of the story to mine the truth beneath. Viewed symbolically, the story of the ascension is the promise of "up". That we can ascend to a new level of being by emulating Jesus and heeding the will of God. Jesus was quite clear that we not worship him, but follow him in his commitment to God. And so the ascension is most particularly *our* story, the one all about God's call to each one of us, and our chance to respond to such beckoning by climbing to new levels of responsibility, and joy, as we take up our part in the building of a world shaped by compassion and thanksgiving.
- Dr. Frederick A. Styles

EBENEZER UNITED CHURCH
Corner of Brimley & Steeles • 905-477-4365
www.ebenzer-uc.on.ca
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Come and Share with friendly people.

The Lion's Den
Christian Book Shoppe
Serving Your Family and Church
117 Main St., North Markham Village
Tel: (905) 472-8412
Diana Whitehead

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH
20 Union St., Unionville - (905) 477-1731
(Near Hwy. 7 & Main)
Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Central United Church
131 Main St. Unionville (905) 474-0183
www.centralunitedchurch.com
SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2001
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bethel Graduation
A Warm Welcome Awaits You

Fellowship Baptist Church Markham
A Friendly Growing Church
9:45 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Worship Service
7478 Kennedy Road & Denison Street
Tel: (905) 470-9775
Pastors: Rev. Francis Mpindu & Rev. Peter Toy

Two Commandments Christian School

- ✓ Christ-centered curriculum
- ✓ convenient Main St. Unionville location
- ✓ required books and supplies included
- ✓ self-paced, individualized program
- ✓ flexible vacation schedule
- ✓ child care on PD days
- ✓ 12 month school year
- ✓ lunches and snacks
- ✓ small classes

905-944-8859