

'Getting used to the pain'



STAFF PHOTOS/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Rev. Dale Lang of Alberta forgave the 14-year-old boy who shot his son dead, he told a crowd of 1,250 at the Markham Prayer Breakfast yesterday.

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able to express how I felt in that moment, that empty, black, lonely moment" Lang said to the hushed banquet room. "People said it would get easier with time and we'd get back to normal life, but that's not true. It doesn't get easier, I think you just get used to living with pain. We know Jason is in paradise now."

The breakfast began on an uplifting note with Markham's Spirit of Joy Gospel Choir marching to the podium in song. Soloist Wendy Legiehn offered ministry in music with moving renditions of Let Jesus Know Our Praise and The Creation Song.

"I hope and pray we all go away this morning with a renewed sense of love and faith," said Markham Mayor Don Cousens, who founded the event four years ago.

Head table guest Susan Finlay, from Fallingbrook Heights Baptist Church, offered prayers for Ken Hechtman, the Canadian reporter believed kidnapped in Afghanistan, as well as for Cousens and town councillors, Premier Mike Harris and Prime Minister Jean Chretien in these troubled times.

Lang said he was heartened, but also saddened, to learn church attendance across the U.S. was up after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

"It's sad that in North American society we need a stark wake-up call before we get it," he said, adding the

day his son died was similar for him.

"I hope to leave you with a challenge about what kind of impact you can have in your community and the people you work with," he said. "If I was not a follower of Jesus Christ I never would have forgiven that boy."

Lang said he was grateful for the half-hour driving lesson he gave Jason the morning he died, to witness his son's excitement over his new car.

"I hope to leave you with a challenge about what kind of impact you can have in your community and the people you work with. If I was not a follower of Jesus Christ I never would have forgiven that boy."

Rev. Dale Lang, on forgiving the teen who shot his son in 1999



Soloist Wendy Legiehn offered ministry in music at the breakfast, with moving renditions of Let Jesus Know Our Praise and The Creation Song.

"You could have heard a pin drop when Dale was telling his story," he said. "It was a simple, profound message of forgiveness."

Reservations were being taken at the breakfast for next year's event.

BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH
 13660 Ninth Line
 905-642-4414
 Pastor: Dr. John Howarth
 (South of 47 Highway formerly Bloomington Rd.)
Sunday, December 2nd, 2001
 Sunday School @ 9:30 a.m.
 11:00 a.m. Communion Sunday
 Forgive one another. Ephesians 4:32
 6:30 p.m. - The Providers of Prayer Romans 8:26-34
 Everyone Welcome

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH
 34 Church St. N. 905-640-1163
 Worship Minister: Rev. Robert Nightingale
 Education Minister: Nancy Monteith
Sunday, December 2, 2001
 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
 Baby Fold, Children's Worship and Youth Pack
 7:00 pm Candlelight & Carols Choir Service
 Please bring a new, unwrapped toy
 Everyone Welcome

STOUFFVILLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
 6853 Main St., Stouffville (905) 640-5696
Sunday, December 2nd, 2001
 10:00 a.m. - Rev. Earl McNutt
 6:00 p.m. - Robert & Candace Baldwin
 Missionaries to Indonesia
 Kid Zone at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday

Parkview Village
 12184 Ninth Line South
 Stouffville
Sunday, December 2nd, 2001
 Rev. Winston Thurston
 7:00 pm Village Auditorium

Welcome to...
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday, December 02
 Worship & Church School
 at 10:30 a.m.
 Nursery also provided
 The Advent Season begins!
 It is the time to prepare to receive the life-changing Christ of Christmas.
 Sharing God's Love since 1860
 Everyone welcome.
 6432 Main St. 640-3151
 st.james.stouffville@sympatico.ca

Wideman Mennonite Church
 • December 2nd, 2001 •
 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education
 11:00 a.m. - Restored to Peace - Pastor Ken Wellington
 • December 7th, 2001 •
 7:30 p.m. - Violinist Elation Pauls Benefit Concert
 11 km. North of Major Mackenzie on Hwy 48
 Church Office: 640-6219. For a ride call: 640-4185

VIVIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
 473-3543
 Pastor: Robert Okum
 On Hwy. 48 at Vivian Rd.
 Holding forth the doctrines of grace
 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
 7:00 p.m. - Evening Worship
 Everyone is Welcome

THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH
 254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville
 The Rev. Robert A. Shields
 (905) 640-1461
Sunday, December 2nd, 2001
 First Sunday of Advent
 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist
 Church School and Nursery Provided
 Everyone Welcome!
 e-mail: christchurch.stouffville@sympatico.ca
 web site: www3.sympatico.ca/christchurch.stouffville

STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
 A Fellowship Church
 6273 Main Street
 Pastor - Gordon M. MacCormack 905-640-2911
Sunday, December 2nd, 2001
 Bible Classes 9:45 am
 "Why is Christ the only way?"
 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
 Message: "Healthy Church Growth"
 Music: Kim Mathews - Communion
 6:30 pm Special Christmas music by the Bernard Pears Chorale
 Kids Club Every Wednesday at 3:45 p.m. Grades 1-6
 an after school ministry for children
 Wednesday 7:30 pm
 Join us for prayer
 Thurs. Dec. 6 - Coffee & crafts, craft to be announced
 Nursery provided
 Plan ahead for a Christmas musical on "To ease another's burden, help to carry it."
All Welcome
 God Bless - We Care

Springvale Baptist Church
 Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.
 887-5651
 Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming
 Associate Pastor: Bill Thornton
 Associate Pastor/ Student Ministries: Brian G. Simcoe
 Worship & Music Co-ordinator: Heather Thornton
 Children's Ministries Co-ordinator: Sharon Russell
December 2nd, 2001
 9:45 a.m. Communion & Baptismal Service
 Pastor Bob Flemming
 11:00 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
 6:00 p.m. - Fellowship Groups in Homes
Midway Ministries
 Wednesday at 7 p.m.
 For more info call Church Office

Advertise Your Church - 1-800-363-2222