

Hart Beat

(An E-update for CNYBA Pastors and Key Leaders)

29 November 2015

➡ **Hart to Heart**

- CNYBA Churches have contributed \$112,789.20 to world-wide missions through the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention this year through October 31st. Six CNYBA churches have not given to missions through the Cooperative Program so far this year.
- I hope you had a great Thanksgiving holiday. On Friday past Lyn and I joined three other couples in Lancaster, PA at the Sight & Sound Theater to see “The Miracle of Christmas.” Lyn and I and one other couples got there on Wednesday afternoon and played dominoes until bed time. Another couple joined us for Thanksgiving dinner at Good and Plenty Restaurant, where the food was good and there was plenty. On Friday morning we all did some shopping and the other couple joined us for the show and a late dinner at another smorgasbord. It was not a good week to be my pants.
- Lyn and I worshipped today at our home church, **Living Water, Owego**, where Wayne Sibrava has been our pastor since December 1997.

➡ **News From the Churches**

- **Stamford BC** participated in Operation Christmas Child again this year and serves as a collection point for the program. They packed 243 shoe boxes themselves and 143 more were dropped off from other places. They delivered 386 shoe boxes to the collection site in Johnson City. > They had their Community Thanksgiving service last Sunday. > They collected items for Thanksgiving Baskets to be given to families in need in their area. > Today they heard guest preacher George Sanford. > Their Lottie Moon Christmas goal is set at \$400. Waylen Bray is Pastor.
- **Emory Chapel, Waverly**’s Women’s Fellowship Club will hold a Bake & Craft Sale on Saturday, December 5th. > There will be a Fellowship Meal after the morning service on December 13th followed by a Singspiration at 5 PM > On December 20th the Sunday School children will present a play, “A Brand New Star” during the morning worship service. > On December 24th they will have a Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 6 PM.
- **Living Water, Owego** is in the midst of restroom remodeling. They will have a Christmas Eve service, during which I will be privileged to bring a message. Wayne Sibrava is Pastor.

- **West Hill, Ithaca** had about 100 in attendance today. They packed 61 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. > Today they heard the story of two of their church members, Peter & Galina Messmer. Galina, who is from Russia, was living in Fresno, CA when her husband murdered their three children and then committed suicide. That same week, Peter's wife died suddenly from a heart condition here in New York. Later Peter and Galina met through her sister, who attended a Baptist church in Apalachin. Their story deals with the consequences of wrong choices, abuse, tragedy, anger and questioning God, but then returning to faith and finding love again. It is powerful for those who have faced great difficulty or a loss. Galina has a new book out (Galina's Hope) and together they have a ministry called Galina's Hope. Churches can book them to come tell their story by going to their web site, www.galinashope.com or by calling Pastor Bill Lower @ 607-227-4646.

➡ **This Week in Preview**

- 3rd Open Bible Fellowship, Catatonk
- 5th BD Kristen Hallenbeck – PW @ Bellewood, North Syracuse
- 5th Annual CNYBA Pastors' & Wives' Christmas Luncheon

➡ **December Ministry Anniversaries**

- Wayne Sibrava – Pastor @ Living Water, Owego since Dec. 1997
- Gary Culver – Pastor @ Emory Chapel, Waverly since Dec. 1998
- Jeff Ford – Pastor @ Lyons Falls BC since Dec. 2010

➡ **Missionary Moments**

- (Puerto Rico) FREDDY VALCARCEL had a thriving ministry among Hispanics in Clarksville, Tennessee, but he sensed God calling him to something different. After much prayer, Freddy and his family accepted the challenge to plant a church in Puerto Rico among a people broken by legalism and hopelessness. Of the 130,000 people in Caguas, nearly 80 percent are divorced and 95 percent are single parents. Freddy knows the message of God's hope and love is the only thing that can heal the broken families and communities in his city. Your gifts through the Cooperative Program make it possible for Freddy to help people in Puerto Rico overcome past hurts from traditional, legalistic churches.
- (East Asia) GEORGE and YVONNE HERMAN* rejoice in the ways they are seeing young people turning to Christ. Those who were raised to believe in nothing are hungry for truth and are finding a Living God. The Hermans hired a young man, John*, to work for them as a security guard. When John became a believer he became very excited to share the Gospel with family and friends and see churches started. The Hermans no longer live close to John, but they keep in

touch with him and are thankful for the ways he continues to grow in his faith. Thank you for supporting new believers through the Cooperative Program.

➡ **Have You Heard This One**

- The farmer's son was returning from the market with a crate of chickens his father had entrusted to him, when all of a sudden the box fell and broke open. Chickens scurried off in different directions, but the determined boy walked all over the neighborhood scooping up the wayward birds and returning them to the repaired crate. Hoping he had found them all, the boy reluctantly returned home, expecting the worst. "Pa, the chickens got loose," the boy confessed sadly, "but I managed to find all twelve of them." "Well, you did a good job, son," the farmer beamed. "You left town with ten."