

Hart Beat

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

20 December 2015

➡ **Hart to Heart**

- As we become immersed in the Christmas season, let us not forget the real reason for the season – to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The greatest gift we can give this season is the gift of ourselves to the Lord. Read Psa. 116:16-18.
- Recently I was honored to be asked to do my seminar on handling church finances with a new church plant. I did the seminar yesterday. I am always appreciative of opportunities to be of service to the churches, missions, and pastors of CNYBA. I am blessed to have been doing this type of ministry for almost twenty years. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of what God is doing in CNYBA. It is always exciting to see churches being strengthened and new churches being started. May their tribe increase.
- On Thursday past I was privileged to have lunch with one of our pastors. I love these men of God who have the full weight of God's chosen institution, the local church, upon their shoulders. I hope I can be a support and encouragement to them. Don't forget to pray for your pastor. He's carrying a heavier load than you might realize.
- Lyn and I worshipped today with the good folks at **Vietnamese, Endicott**, where Tan Do has been pastor since May 2011. We were honored to be invited to participate in their special Christmas service. Although we could not understand much of what was being said, we did understand that they were celebrating the first coming of Jesus and anticipating the second coming of Jesus. The pastor had prepared some English notes for us so we could sort of follow along with the sermon. Yes, they are real Baptists. We had a fellowship meal after the special service - during which I learned that Pastor Tan was an officer in the South Vietnamese Army when the communist took over and, as a result, he spent 6 years in prison before being released to a relocation camp - sentenced to hard labor for 3 years. He has been in America for a little more than 20 years. A man who loves the Lord and has a passion for the Word of God. We just don't know how good we have it here in the USA. Let's be sure we elect the right people so we keep it that way.
- It's always a joy and privilege when I am asked to preach – especially at one of our CNYBA churches. I am honored to be preaching at the Christmas Eve service @ **Living Water, Owego** at the invitation of Pastor Wayne Sibrava.

➡ **News From the Churches**

- **Stamford BC** had John & Dody Martin in concert last Sunday. This evening they did Christmas caroling around town, followed by hot chocolate and homemade cookies. They plan a Christmas eve candlelight service at 8 PM and they plan a Family Movie Night showing “War Room” on January 8th at 7 PM. Waylen Bray is Pastor. They have set their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions goal at \$400. Their theme for 2016 will be Revival and Rededication. Waylen Bray is Pastor.
- **The Neighborhood Church, Syracuse** is still looking for a meeting place. They have outgrown Pastor Ronnie Wyatt’s home. Please continue to pray for them about this matter > A week ago last night The Neighborhood Church joined with the Burmese Church to have a combined worship service. Pastor Ronnie shared the story of the Good Fish and Bad Fish from Matthew 13. At the end of the night they had at least 10 people respond to the Invitation for Salvation!! Pray that they are able to get these precious souls disciplined and moving forward following Jesus.
- **Northside, Liverpool**’s Christmas Program was seen by around 1700 people last week-end. Hearts and lives were stirred and many were introduced to the gospel. Today, Pastor Bruce Aubrey finished up a sermon series on the gifts of the wise men. The theme for 2016 will be JOY and will kick off in January with a six sermon series on select verses from Proverbs, followed by an eight week series on the book of Philippians.
- **Cornerstone, Endicott** will have a Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7 PM. Dr. Greg Johnson is Pastor.

➡ **This Week in Preview**

- Today – BD Beau Gurley – Ed & Lyn’s Texas son-in-law
- 21st – Lunch with a pastor
- 22nd – Doctor’s appointment
- 23rd ANV Steve (CNYBA Moderator) & Linda Sallis
- 24th Christmas Eve
- 25th Christmas
- 26th BD Tim Kunkel – IMB Missionary to Paraguay
who spoke at our annual meeting

➡ **Missionary Moments**

- (Hungary) The greatest blessing in PAUL BROCK’s ministry is seeing that “light come on” when people realize they can have a relationship with God through Christ. Your gifts through the Cooperative Program support missionaries like Paul and his wife, TENA, who live and work in a city in western Hungary, where

Paul is the team strategy leader for the region. They teach English using the Bible to gather people in a comfortable environment where they are willing to ask spiritual questions. Paul loves being able to help Hungarians begin a relationship with Christ, but his vision is to see Hungarians being on mission with him and establishing churches in the region.

- (Vermont) JERRY FREY pastors Faith Christian Fellowship Church in a town of 3,500 and is also one of three directors of missions for the Green Mountain Baptist Association in Vermont. These are exciting times as churches are being planted and church renewal is a top priority of the association. There is an increasing openness to the Gospel as lives are being transformed from darkness to light. Your gifts through the Cooperative Program and your prayers are a vital part of what God is doing in a once barren land. Southern Vermont has been blessed by the new Northeastern Baptist College which began in 2014. Pray as they train young people to join the harvest.

➡ **Have You Heard This One?**

- At a clearance sale, the wife of a federal district court judge found a green tie that was a perfect match for one of her husband's sports jackets. Soon after, while the couple was vacationing at a resort complex to get his mind off a rather complicated cocaine conspiracy case, he noticed a small, round disc sewn into the design of the tie. The judge showed it to a local FBI agent, who was equally suspicious that it might be a 'bug' planted by the conspiracy defendants. The agent sent the device to FBI headquarters in Washington, DC for analysis. Two weeks later, the judge phoned the Washington office to learn the results of their tests. "We're not sure where the disc came from," the FBI told him, "but we discovered that when you press it, it plays 'Jingle Bells.'"