

Hart Beat

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

17 December 2017

Please continue to pray for

- Jessica DePugh (adult Pastor's daughter)– still in ICU almost two months after horrific auto accident
- Pastor Gary Culver (Emory Chapel) – cancer is back, waiting for prognosis and treatment plan going forward.
- Connie Sibrava (PW @ Living Water, Owego) - foot surgery on Wednesday past.
- Pastor Duane Arnold (Southport, Elmira) – home from hospital but still dealing with diabetes complications

Hart to Heart

- Well, old man Winter finally showed up! -3 degrees on the high hill at the Hart house one morning this past week. PTL for LP gas and automatic thermostats. Back in the day it was my job to get out of bed first and build the wood fire. One of the reasons I say, “You can have the good old days, as far as I’m concerned.”
- **The Neighborhood Church, Syracuse** participates in a Good News Bible Club at a local elementary school. Every Tuesday afternoon they are averaging over 50 kids that stay after school. > They are actively praying and looking for a leader to help them begin a new work in another part of the city in 2018. > With the help of a number of churches help us by providing winter coats and blankets, they have given away over 1,500 winter coats and over 3,000 blankets during the past couple of years. Ronnie Wyatt is Pastor.
- Devon Bartholomew, director of our Baptist Campus Ministry @ Syracuse University is leading The Syracuse University Hurricane relief team on a Christmas break Disaster Relief mission to Puerto Rico. He is leading a team of 23 students and another Chaplain who will work with [Southern Baptist Disaster Relief](#) in Puerto Rico Dec. 16-23. The student team will be joined by SU BCM alumnus Jon H. and his wife Jessica. Pray for work this team will do AND for Devon as he uses this trip as an outreach to those students who are with him, but are not regular BCM attendees.
- **Stamford BC** hosted the music ministry of John & Dody Martin yesterday in their morning worship service. The Martins also ministered at a joint service of

Stamford BC and Faith Deliverance Tabernacle of Schenectady held at the Emmanuel Worship Center (formerly Maryland BC) last night. Waylen Bray is Pastor.

- I have posted to our web site the latest missions report from Rick and Donna Martin, our missionaries in Peru. You can read their report at www.cnyba.org under the Information center tab/missionary reports.
- **Living Water, Owego** will host a livestream of the Zacharias Institute's program "Understanding and Answering Islam" on Friday evening and Saturday, January 12-13. The cost is \$10 per person with Saturday lunch or free without lunch. To register with lunch, visit www.lifechoicescenter.org/understanding-and-answering-islam. To register without lunch, email info@lifechoicescenter.org. For more information call Pastor Wayne Sibrava @ 607-760-8142.
- **Living Water, Owego** will also host the simulcast of the Johnny Hunt men's conference on Friday night February 2nd starting at 6:00 PM and then Saturday Feb 3rd from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 PM. Here's a link that people can follow to get more info: <http://www.lifeway.com/Event/mens-event-johnny-hunt-mens-conference-simulcast-2018-small-church>. Wayne Sibrava is Pastor.
- Remember two potential CNYBA mission trips this year – sometime in March (St. Croix) and September 3-7 (Appalachia). We also have a CNYBA Adult Retreat planned for September 7-9 at Billy Graham's Training Retreat, The Cove, outside Asheville, NC. Some have already responded that they are interested in each of these opportunities. If you are interested and have not emailed me yet, please do so ASAP. The number of people interested in participating will dictate the cost. I'm working on all these details as we speak. I should have estimated costs ready shortly.
- On Tuesday past I enjoyed participating in The Neighborhood Church, Syracuse Project Team meeting, where we worked through a budget process and came up with the proposed projections for 2018. I praise the Lord for two things – the tremendous ministry of Ronnie & Michele Wyatt and technology which allowed me to fully participate from home and avoid the possibility of driving home in a snowstorm that was forecast.
- On Wednesday past Lyn and I were privileged to have lunch in the home of one our **Open Bible Fellowship** families, where there is a blind mother who is more or less confined to the house. After a great lunch and fellowship, we had a little devotional service in which we celebrated the Lord's Supper, something Ms. Margaret had not been able to do for several years because of her confinement.

- On Thursday evening we had our weekly OBF fellowship meal and Bible study. What a sweet spirit and great time of delving into God's Word.
- On Friday past I finally finished getting the Christmas lights burning. I had been working on this project for some time – a little at a time. The only thing left on this section of the “Honey Do” list is to deliver our annual gifts to 10 or 12 of our neighbors. Earlier Lyn has delivered a copy of O.S. Hawkins's “The Christmas Code” December devotionals to these neighbors. Some of these neighbors are believers, but we are not sure about others. Pray with us about our personal mission field.
- On Saturday afternoon past Lyn and I were pleased to be able to help one of our OBF families in the process of cleaning out the apartment of a mother who recently passed away. Lyn was back there this afternoon and I'll be helping later with hauling. Pray for this family as they grieve.
- Yesterday morning Lyn and I worshiped with the good folks at **Jefferson BC**, where I was privileged to preach in the absence of Pastor Frank Adams. We always enjoy visiting this mission minded congregation. The 5 hour trip there and back was beautiful – the landscape covered with a fresh layer of clean white snow.
- Last night Lyn and I worshiped with the good folks at **Open Bible Fellowship, Catatank**, where I am serving as church planter/Pastor. I continued my Advent sermon series with a message about Joy. Next Sunday night we will conclude the Advent series with a Christmas Eve message entitled “Jesus: The Light of the World”. We were down a little in attendance last night due to sickness and the cold weather. We prayed over and sent out another couple to the mission field of Florida. This makes 4 OBF couples residing in Florida, at least for the winter. Someone suggested that they must think OBF stands for **On the Beach in Florida**.
- Lyn and I were presented with a special surprise gift from our OBF family last night. It was a calendar with various pictures taken throughout the year as the pictures for each month. There were also signatures and words of encouragement all over the front of the calendar. We'll use it all next year and then save it as a family treasure. Words cannot convey our appreciation for the love and effort that went into this special gift. What wonderful folks we have at OBF!

This Week in Preview

- Tues – ANV Roscoe & Maryanna Lilly (P&W @ Northstar, Clifton Park)
- Tues – ANV Rickey & Deanna Fuller (P&W @ Beacon Light, Vernon)
- Sat – ANV Steve (BCNY) & Linda Sallis

- Sun – Christmas Eve

Missionary Moments

- [Brazil] Sharing Christ's love with Europeans can be hard work, especially when you live in Brazil. But that's exactly what IMB missionaries WENDY and STAN MEADOR strive to do. They work among European descendants in South America and develop strategies to reach their people groups. One strategy is to start house churches and small groups that will one day produce disciples who want to do the same work. Wendy asks for prayer for the European people groups in South America. As you give through the Cooperative Program, "Pray that more [Europeans] will have a desire to study God's Word and that their hearts will be open to hear the truth contained in its pages."
- [Ohio] JACK HELTON knows firsthand the power of the gospel to transform a life. He had a troubled home life when he came to faith in Jesus. Today, as the state director of evangelism for Ohio, he helps Ohio Southern Baptist churches proclaim that gospel. He helps pastors throughout their state understand their communities so they can better engage them in gospel conversations. Your gifts given through the Cooperative Program help Jack travel to churches so he can mentor and support the evangelistic work of Ohio churches. Pray that God would help Ohio Baptists reach the 11.5 million non-Christians in the state.

Have You Heard This One?

- A visitor from Holland was chatting with his American friend and was jokingly explaining about the red, white and blue in the Netherlands flag. "Our flag symbolizes our taxes," he said. "We get red when we talk about them, white when we get our tax bill, and blue after we pay them." "That's the same with us," the American said, "only we see stars, too."