

Hart Beat

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

24 December 2017

Hart to Heart

- I trust you had a very Merry Christmas yesterday. Here on the high hill we had a white Christmas. Lyn and I had a quiet day of rest.
- Several of our CNYBA churches had Christmas Eve services. May the Lord use those services to speak to hearts.
- Just got word that Pastor Pedro Abreu (**Tranformacion, Syracuse**) had hernia surgery last Thursday and remains hospitalized. It appears he may have an intestine blockage. Doctors waiting to see if his stomach is holding liquids. Pray that liquids would flow through stomach and into intestine. Pray for his wife, Ada, too.
- **Summit, Cazenovia** mourns the passing of Assistant Pastor, Mike Santy's, mother this past week. Dan Schallmo is Pastor.
- Pastor Ronnie Wyatt at **The Neighborhood Church, Syracuse** gives the following end-of-year report. "Because of how all of you have allowed God to provide through you to help us, our little church, which has just a little over twenty "members" (Approx. 45 in attendance each week) has done amazing things this year: -Because of YOU, God has used TNC to provide over 3,000 free meals to those in need in just this past year alone! With each meal there has been an opportunity to share Jesus! -YOUR help has allowed TNC to give out over 600 blessing bags filled with snacks, practical need items and church/Gospel info this year to our "Friends Without Address" (Homeless). -God working through YOU has allowed us to help over 50 families with Christmas this year! -Your support has provided sets of clothes for hundreds of people, given away over 1,000 blankets and 300 coats JUST THIS YEAR! -Because God used YOU, TNC has had the pleasure of being involved in a ministry to prostitutes and strip clubs. -Because God has used YOU, TNC is in the beginning planning stages of starting another church in another distressed area of Syracuse next year! This work has already begun as we have been helping to meet some physical needs, which will lead to a bible study and prayerfully, God willing a new church. -OH and most importantly, because God has used YOU, next Saturday, Dec 30 we will baptizing 5 more to the Glory of God!
- I will be beginning facilitating a monthly forum on ministry in January called "Ministry 101". This is actually an outgrowth of what I am doing with three guys in the church I'm planting in Catatunk. We will continue to have that monthly

face-to-face session at 4:30 PM on the first Thursday of each month. Then on the second Tuesday of each month I will facilitate a repeat session in an online Go-To-Meeting. Both monthly sessions will discuss the same topic and is open to anyone interested. You can either show up at the face-to-face session or let me know you want to be on the list who receives the monthly instructions about how to join the online session.

- Here are some 2018 dates for you to mark on your calendar. CNYBA Mission Trip to St. Croix (March 27 – April 3), CNYBA Mid-year Meeting (May 5), CNYBA Mission Trip to Appalachia (September 2-7), CNYBA Fall Retreat in Asheville, NC (September 7-10), and CNYBA Annual Meeting (October 20).
- The CNYBA Mission Trip to St. Croix (March 27 – April 3) will be the most expensive of the CNYBA sponsored events for 2018. We'll be working again with Pastor John Smith and The Shephard's Fold Church – this time helping to establish a second outreach on the west end of the island. My estimate of the cost is approximately \$1000 per person (if we can book air fare fairly soon). Still have some details to work out, but this trip will be much like last year's – VBS, evangelistic outreach, and a service project or two. It will also include a once in a life time experience of Easter morning sunrise service on the beach.
- The CNYBA Mid-year Meeting (May 5) will be hosted by **Stamford BC**. As per our recent norm, the theme will have to do with Church Strengthening. If all works out we'll have a nationally known speaker talking to us about Grief Care.
- The CNYBA Mission Trip to Appalachia (September 2-7) will partner with The Bland Ministry Center and Dental Clinic in Bland VA. This is a ministry of the East River Baptist Association. We will be building ramps, repairing porches, and doing other light repair work for elderly residents in the area, as well as sorting clothes for their extensive clothes closet and doing some other clerical and cleaning tasks at the center and dental clinic. There is also the possibility of VBS in a local nursing home if we have the right personnel. My estimated cost for this trip is approximately \$150 per person (**excluding transportation**) since they have space to house up to 20 volunteers and a place to cook. Depending on what happens with the CNYBA Fall Retreat which follows this mission, we could be riding in a coach bus or in a rental van. In any case, transportation costs should be minimal. Stay tuned.
- The CNYBA Fall Retreat near Asheville, NC (September 7-10) will be a “piggy-back” on the Todd Starnes Fall Get-Away and will be held at The Cove, Billy Graham's Training Center just east of Asheville. My estimate on cost is approximately \$350 per person (**excluding transportation**). We will have a rental van OR possibly a coach bus if we can get as many as 35 or 40 people signed up. If we get enough to justify the bus, it will be free to those registered

for the Retreat. Otherwise transportation costs will be additional, but should not be very large.

- NOTE: On any or all the above CNYBA sponsored events, you can make incremental deposits between now and the event. If you need or want to make “payments” please send them to me (so I can keep a good record of who’s going where and how much they have deposited) before getting it to the CNYBA bookkeeper. Keep in mind that air fare goes up the closer we get to the flight. If you want to make the St. Croix trip and can’t pay for the air fare up front, once you have deposited more than 50% of the fare, I can find a way to book the flight and let you finish paying for it before we leave. You are also free to book your own flight from any airport you choose. Just let me know you’re doing that and try to arrive sometime on March 27 – preferably afternoon.
- The CNYBA Annual Meeting (October 20) will be held somewhere in the Syracuse area (place yet to be determined) and, as our custom of late has been, the theme will be Missions. Our missionary speaker this year will be Dr. David Pope, Executive Director of the Issachar Initiative, an organization that works with several missions agencies around the world in an effort to finish the task of impacting every remaining unreached people group with the gospel.
- On Sunday morning past I worshiped with the good folks at **Good News, Waverly**, where John Talada has been pastor since August 2009. Lyn was at home not feeling well.
- On Sunday night past Lyn and I worshiped with the good folks at **Open Bible, Catatonk**, where I am serving as Church Planter/Pastor. We finished up our Advent series with the lighting of the center candle in the Advent Wreath. The theme for the service was Jesus: The Light of the World.
- Next Sunday night **Open Bible, Catatonk** will have a New Year’s Eve service at 6 PM. We’ll have some good music and Lary Hyde will be preaching.

This Week in Review/Preview

- Sun – Christmas Eve
- Mon – Christmas
- Tues – Lunch with Pastor & wife
- Thurs – Help family move furniture from apartment of recently deceased mother
- Thurs – Open Bible Fellowship Bible study
- Sat – BD Elise Bissell (wife of Church Planting Catalyst, Tim Bissell)
- Sun – New Year’s Eve

Missionary Moments

- [Sub-Saharan Africa] Christian worker ERIN SPRANKLE and her family, supported through the Cooperative Program, moved to Africa to share the gospel with unreached people groups. While her husband shares with adults in villages, Erin and her kids care for village children. They play games and act out Bible stories together until Erin can meet with older girls in the village to share through Bible storying. The Sprankles prayed and fasted for their storying time in a nearby village, and after sharing, three believers were added to God's family and a pastor was trained to begin a weekly discipleship program. Pray as they travel to other villages to tell the gospel through storying to people who have never heard.
- [Wisconsin] If you had met MICHAEL THOMAS a decade ago, you wouldn't have believed he would one day be a church planter. As a drug dealer, Michael spent his days partying and "running the streets." God radically changed his life in 2010 when he accepted Christ as Lord. Today, he is planting House of Saints outside Milwaukee, Wis. As he connects with the community, Michael has become the head varsity basketball coach at a local school and serves as a police chaplain. Your gifts given through the Cooperative Program help Michael serve his community. Pray that God would draw people to Himself through House of Saints.

Have You Heard This One?

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers when the youngest one began praying at the top of his lungs.

"I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE...
I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO...
I PRAY FOR A NEW BASKETBALL..."

His older brother leaned over and nudged the younger brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." To which the little brother replied, "No, but Gramma is!"