

Hart Beat

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

3 December 2017

Special Prayer Requests

- Gary Culver, Pastor @ **Emory Chapel, Waverly** got the word this past week that his cancer is back. Doctors are now discussing the best way forward.
- Duane Arnold, Pastor @ **Southport, Elmira** is back in the hospital with complications from diabetes, including poor kidney function.
- Diane Brown, Pastor's wife @ **Three Pines, Doraville** – battling breast cancer, chemo
- Jessica DePugh, Pastor's adult daughter @ **Bible Fellowship, Newark** – 45 days in ICU Trauma and counting as the result of a horrific automobile accident
- Jim Hundley, Pastor @ **Emmanuel, Cortland** is back in the hospital – trouble breathing, low blood count.

Hart to Heart

- This week is the Week of Prayer for International Missions. I hope your church is participating in the prayer and in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering taken in SBC churches this time of year. If your church is not participating, you can go to our CNYBA web page (www.cnyba.org) and click on links, and then click on the International Mission Board link, and see all kind of information on both the week of prayer and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.
- Just got word that **Three Pines, Doraville** packed 84 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. That brings the CNYBA number packed to 1,512.
- **Southport, Elmira** has sold their property and are now meeting at Pastor Duane Arnold's home in the Lockwood area.
- **Summit, Cazenovia** will host a Christmas Celebration, presented by Light of the World Ballet, during their morning worship service on December 17th. Dan Schallmo is Pastor. Jay Cagle is Creative Director.
- **Emory Chapel, Waverly** will enjoy Christmas Songs presented by their Sunday School children in the morning worship service on December 17th. At 6 PM that evening they will meet for a Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long, followed by

light refreshments. They are also planning a Christmas Eve Candle Light service, which will include observance of the Lord's Supper. Gary Culver is Pastor.

- I spend a good bit of time in hospitals this past week. Most of that time was spent with an **Open Bible Fellowship** family whose mother was getting ready to go home to be with the Lord. It has been my privilege to be able to be with them as they make hard decisions about end of life issues. What an honor to be able to read Scripture and pray with the mother and the family through these difficult days. The mother passed away early this morning (Monday).
- Other hospital visits this week included a brother of another OBF member who has had a stroke and Duane Arnold, Pastor @ **Southport, Elmira** who is in the hospital with complications from diabetes.
- On Tuesday past I was honored to be able to visit with a pastor and church leaders regarding a fellowship issue within the church. On Friday evening past I was able to sit down with one of the parties involved to promote reconciliation. I will sit down with the other party on Wednesday next. As you should know by now, I love the local church and am distressed when there is discord among the brethren. Please pray with me that the Lord will so convict that harmony can be restored.
- On Saturday past we enjoyed a great time of fun and fellowship at the CNYBA Pastors' & Wives' Christmas Luncheon. Once again **Lakeshore, Cicero** did an excellent job hosting the annual luncheon. One of their members, Mary Westcott catered the event and the food was spectacular! We had 34 in attendance and had a great time singing Christmas Carols, hearing about accounts of humorous incidents encountered in ministry, and playing a little Bible trivia. The fellowship among the pastors seems strong and real – and lingered on after the luncheon had ended. At the end of the program, Lyn and I were presented with a love offering from the churches. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We continue to be amazed at your generosity. Words are inadequate to fully express our deep appreciation for your care and support over the years. May the Lord bless you and may He continue blessing the work of CNYBA churches.
- Yesterday Lyn and I worshipped with the good folks at **Open Bible Fellowship**, where I am serving as Church Planter/Pastor. We are in the midst of Advent services leading up to Christmas Eve. Yesterday we lit the second of the Advent Wreath candles and focused on Peace as we approach the celebration of Jesus' birth.

This Week in Preview

- Tues – BD Kristen Hallenbeck (PW @ Bellewood, North Syracuse)

- Fri - BD Juanita Young (PW @ Gethsemane, Syracuse)
- Sat – BD Kristen Elliott (APW @ Missio, Syracuse)

Missionary Moments

- [Europe] SAMANTHA is a volunteer in Hungary with Hands On, an IMB program that helps young adults spend a semester on the mission field. After the Brussels terrorist attack, her friend Petra said she was scared the terrorists also would come to Hungary. Samantha said sometimes she is scared, too, but she shared that Jesus is victorious so Christians don't have to worry because their hope is secure in Christ. Petra said she also wanted a relationship with Jesus. Samantha shared the gospel with Petra and a few days later, she accepted Christ. Praise God that your gifts through the Cooperative Program sent Samantha to share with this new believer.
- [Ohio] ROYCE GREGORY was a Texas bull rider when God called him to Ohio. Royce came to Ohio 17 years ago as a rodeo judge. He then began a ministry as an evangelist on the rodeo circuit, where he started Bible studies at horse shows and rodeos. He planted his first "cowboy" church a decade ago. Two and a half years ago he planted his second church, Mill Creek Cowboy Church. Thanks to your gifts given through the Cooperative Program, Royce can preach the gospel in a way that cowboys can understand and accept. Pray that the churches Royce leads can be good stewards with their resources.

Have You Heard This One?

- This is the story of four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody, all members of Anywhere Baptist Church. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. Consequently, it wound up that Nobody told Anybody, so Everybody blamed Somebody.