

Hart Beat

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

31 December 2017

Hart to Heart

- Jessica DePugh, daughter of Pastor John DePugh (**Newark BFC**), remains in critical condition in Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester following an auto accident 71 days ago. Please continue praying for this young lady and her family.
- Pastor Pedro Abreu (**Transformacion, Syracuse**) was hospitalized last week for hernia repair surgery. He is recuperating at home.
- Tim Bissell's wife Elise's mother passed away this past week. Her memorial service was held today, January 2nd, in College Station, Texas.
- Well, 2017 has come and gone. We should be thankful and grateful for all the Lord has done in and through the churches of CNYBA. 2017 is now "in the books" and there's nothing more we can do about opportunities missed or mistakes made. However, we can look to the future and ask the Lord to reveal to us how we can be most helpful to the Kingdom in 2018. It might mean we'll need to change a couple methods, add and/or delete a program or two, and maybe even reevaluate our purpose and goals. The best way to end 2018 without regrets is to be sure of the Lord's direction and then make every effort to be faithful to the task throughout the year.
- Last week I reminded you of several important upcoming 2018 CNYBA dates to mark on your calendar. One of those dates is, what I hope to be, an annual CNYBA event – a Fall Retreat. This first Retreat will be held in conjunction with the Todd Starnes Fall Get-Away at The Cove, Billy Graham's Asheville, NC Training Center September 7-9. I just got the information I've been waiting for. The cost will be \$400 per person (double occupancy), which will include transportation to and from, the retreat registration fee, lodging in the beautifully appointed lodge at The Cove, and meals from Friday evening through Sunday morning. I have reserved a 20 room block, which will be held for us until May 1. If we get enough participants, we will travel down and back via bus coach. If not, via van. **YOU CAN PAY FOR THIS IN INSTALLMENTS** from now until May 1st. If you need a little more time I will find a way to accommodate you. In order to get the block of rooms right next door to the Training Center and to get the number of passengers for the bus, I need you to register through me and not on line. I'll register our group all at once. Just send checks to me, which I will record and then pass on to the CNYBA bookkeeper.

- **Northside, Liverpool** are to be commended for their generosity over the Thanksgiving/Christmas season. 20 families received Thanksgiving dinners provided through the church, 445 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes were shipped, 103 children were blessed with Christmas gifts in their community, and to date over 25,000 dollars has been received for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Dr. Bruce Aubrey is Pastor.
- Devon Bartholomew, Director of **Baptist Campus Ministry, Syracuse University** was asked to lead a disaster relief trip for SU students during Christmas Break. The team of 24 served in Puerto Rico in partnership with Southern Baptist Send Relief. They were able to hand out 140 water filtration systems, pack and distribute 200 emergency supply bags resourced by FEMA, and support four local churches during their week-long trip.
- **Emory Chapel, Waverly** will hold their regular monthly Saturday visitation on at 1 PM they will host a Sunday School Movie event, showing “Coat of Many Colors”. On January 14th they will observe the Lord’s Supper during their regular morning worship service. January Women’s Fellowship will be held on the 17th at 6 PM. They will have a fellowship meal after the morning worship service on January 21st. And they will have a Church B Usiness Meeting on Sunday afternoon, January 28th. Gary Culver is Pastor.
- This coming week I’ll begin facilitating Ministry 101, a forum for discussing all things “ministry”. There will be a face-to-face session at 4:30 PM on the first Thursday evening of each month at **Open Bible, Catatonk**. Then at 7 PM on the second Tuesday of each month there will be a repeat on-line session via Go-to-Meeting. If you, or someone you know, would be interest in joining these sessions, just show up at the Thursday sessions or let me know you’re like to join the Tuesday on-line sessions and I will send information each month on how to join the G-T-M session.
- Lyn and I have been trying to take a few days of R&R between Christmas and New Years’. We both have been trying to come down with something and hope that staying in out of the cold as much as possible will help us stay healthy. 2017 has been an amazing year and I look forward to what the Lord will do in and through CNYBA in 2018.
- Sunday, Lyn and I worshiped with the good folks at **Open Bible Fellowship, Catatonk**, where I am serving as Church Planter/Pastor. We ended out New Year’s Eve service with the observance of the Lord’s Supper.

This Week in Preview

- Wed – ANV Rick & Donna Martin (our missionaries to Peru)

- Thurs – Ministry Forum @ OBF, Catatunk
- Thurs – Open Bible Fellowship

Missionary Moments

- [Europe] IMB worker RUSTY FORD had been ministering to Raul's family for years when Raul's uncle shared that Raul was struggling with drugs. Rusty took Raul to a Christian rehab center for treatment, counseling and prayers. During his treatment, Raul accepted Jesus, followed by his twin brother, Jorge. The brothers are kickboxing champions and wanted to use their passion for boxing to reach others, so Rusty helped them start kickboxing classes at a church. Through the class, they have shared the gospel with more than 50 guys, and many have decided to follow Christ and stop using drugs. Praise God that gifts through the Cooperative Program enable Rusty to disciple these brothers as they share with others.
- [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.

Have You Heard This One?

- On a flight to Florida, I was preparing my notes for one of the parent-education seminars I conduct as an educational psychologist. The elderly woman sitting next to me explained that she was returning to Miami after having spent two weeks visiting her six children, 18 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren in Boston. Then she inquired what I did for a living. I told her, fully expecting her to question me for free professional advice. Instead she sat back, picked up a magazine and said, "If there's anything you want to know, just ask me."