

## Hart Beat

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

21 January 2018

### Hart to Heart

- Recently CNYBA was represented via flowers at the funeral of Elise Bissell's mother in Texas. The following is a Thank You note from Tim & Elise

*Dear Friends of the Central New York Baptist Association. Thank you for sharing our sorrow. Your kindness is appreciated and will always be remembered. We were both surprised and touched by the lovely flowers with the cross. It was a beautiful symbol of your love and concern, and brought us comfort.*

*In Jesus*

*Tim & Elise Bissell*

- We have several Pastors and Pastors' families that need our continued prayer. Jessica DePugh, the adult daughter of Pastor John & Jayne Depugh is still in the ICU Trauma Unit at Strong Memorial Hospital more than 90 days after the horrific auto accident. Pastor Gary Culver's cancer is back and doctors trying to get it back in remission, and Diane Brown, wife of Pastor Mike Brown, is in the midst of 12 chemo treatments to be followed by a double mastectomy. Please continue to lift these folks up in prayer.
- Last week went well, except for Wednesday. But Lyn's car is out of the snow bank, I was finally able to get the air compressor going, the source of the slow tire air leak on my car has been discovered and fixed, the glow plug has been replaced on my truck, and the tractor is running again. All that's left is to get the snow blower running. I was beginning to feel like the guy who said, "My mother told me to cheer up, it could be worse. I cheered up and sure enough it got worse."
- As most of you know, I have diabetes. I have been becoming more and more insulin resistant, so my doctor has put me on a weekly injection that is supposed to open my cell receptors to better receive insulin. Seems to be working, but in addition he has me on an exercise program to gain muscle and loose fat. If this works as well as the weekly injections, I may have to wear a name tag so you recognize me when I visit your church. A small price to pay.
- **The Neighborhood Church, Syracuse** is a church that works mostly with those in poverty, but Pastor Ronnie Wyatt challenged his people to give to Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions by collecting bottles and

cans. TNC is also ministering to the needs of a very challenging apartment complex with the hopes of starting a bible study / church in the future. But even now, they provide the Sunday School teacher for the Bhutanese Community Church, help with the Burmese Youth praise team, and participate in the Good News Bible Club at a local public elementary school.

- **Crosspoint, Whitesboro** set an \$8000 goal for the 2017 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, slightly higher than their actual offering last year. To date they are well over \$5000 toward that goal. On Saturday, January 27th, they will hand out cold kits to people in need in Downtown Utica. A cold kit is a bag filled with the things someone would need to survive the harsh Central New York winter. These kits include hats, gloves, scarves, hand warmer packets, tissues, chap stick, nonperishable foods, hand sanitizer, etc.. Every year in January, they bundle up and hand out these kits with gospel tracts inside, trying to talk to, connect with, and pray with as many people as possible. Sam Macri is Pastor.
- **Summit, Cazenovia** commemorated Sanctity of Human Life Sunday yesterday with a special presentation during their Sunday Morning Worship Service by Christina Fadden-Fitch, the Director of Syracuse Right to Life. Yesterday also marked their first Bless-a-Business Sunday. They encouraged as many of their folks as possible to have lunch yesterday at the Cazenovia Bagel Company immediately after the service. Dan Schallmo is Pastor.
- Yesterday morning Lyn and I worshiped with the good folks at **Bellewood, North Syracuse**, where Matt Hallenbeck has been pastor since October 2005.
- Last night Lyn and I worshiped with the good folks at **Open Bible, Catatonk**, where I am serving as Church Planter/Pastor. In addition to continuing our sermon series from the Book of Joshua, we heard a report from Rick Martin, our missionary to Peru. Rick & Donna are long-time friends and avid Minnesota Vikings fans. We enjoyed a time of food & fellowship after church at our house watching the recorded NFC Playoff game. The last time (before this year) the Vikings were in a playoff game, we watched it at their house when they lived in Binghamton and were directing our CNYBA Ministry Center. Neither game turned out very well.

### **Missionary of the Week**

- Please pray for Caleb and Sarah Walker, two of our missionaries serving in Eastern Europe. Caleb and Sarah are serving in Sofia (say SOE-fee-ah), Bulgaria, and they demonstrate how the Lord can use the experience and skills we gain at home to minister to people in other countries. Sarah led children's Bible studies back in North Carolina and is now working to do the same kind of teaching in Bulgaria - in the Bulgarian language, of course. Pray that the Lord will help Caleb

and Sarah learn the Bulgarian language fluently so they can clearly and simply teach children about the love of Jesus Christ there in Bulgaria. We are supporting them through our church's Cooperative Program giving.

### **Have You Heard This One?**

- An atheist was walking through the woods. As he was walking alongside the river, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a 7-foot, grizzly bear charging towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw the bear was closing in on him. He looked over his shoulder again and the bear was even closer. He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up, but saw the bear was right on top of him; reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him. At that instant the Atheist cried out, "Oh my God!" Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent. As a bright light shone upon the man a voice came out of the sky, "You deny my existence for all these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you really expect me to help you out of this predicament?" The atheist looked directly into the light, and said, "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps you could make the BEAR a Christian?" "Very well," said the voice. The light went out. The sounds of the forest resumed. And the bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together, bowed his head and spoke: "Lord bless this food which I am about to receive from Thy bounty through Christ our Lord, Amen."