

Hart Beat

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

20 January 2019

Prayer Requests

- Jan Lefler, wife of Pastor Harold Lefler (**Fellowship, Norwich**), is hospitalized with possible gall stones.
- Pastor Matt Hallenbeck (**Bellewood**) is, at this writing, at the Syracuse airport, leaving on a 4:20 PM flight to Philadelphia then to Virginia. He will leave Virginia at 3:30 AM tomorrow for a 14 hour flight to the base where he will serve as an Air Force chaplain for the next six months.
- Other CNYBA Pastors and Pastors' wives with health issues include Diane Brown – cancer (PW @ **Three Pines, Doraville**), Gary Culver – cancer (P @ **Emory Chapel, Barton**), Margaret Culver – back problems (PW @ **Emory Chapel, Barton**), James Young – rare neurological disease (P@ **Gethsemane, Syracuse**), Chris Lower – melanoma removed (PW @ **West Hill, Ithaca**), and Harold Lefler – broken ankle (P @ **Fellowship, Norwich**).

Hart to Heart

- I hope you are warm and comfortable after the winter storm that invaded our area this week-end. Now the temperature is dangerously low. I just plowed the driveway and the wind makes the temperature feel even worse. Be careful.
- The CNYBA Spring Mission Trip will be April 13-19 to do roof repair/and or replacement in Puerto Rico. We need 10-12 people. Right now we can go for under \$1000, which would include air fare AND food, lodging, and transportation on the field. If you can get the time off and want to take a few days of vacation, you can purchase your airfare individually to fit your schedule, as long as you show up by Saturday afternoon, April 13. It is cheaper to fly on Thursdays and Tuesdays. However food, lodging, and transportation will be provided only April 13-19. If you want to go, but need to put the money aside over the next two or three months, let me know and we can work out a payment plan. I need to know ASAP if you are interested. We need to get the trip registered with NAMB.
- I have posted a newsletter from Dan & Madel Beck on our CNYBA web site. You can read it at www.cnyba.org under the information center tab/missionary reports. We support the Becks through our CNYBA budget.

- **Nepali, Syracuse** will host a gathering of Syracuse Pastors praying for the city of Syracuse on Saturday, January 26th from 8-9 AM at their facility at 1501 Lodi Street. Bhim Biswa is Pastor
- **Casa dePaz, Syracuse** has begun a third Bible study group on the east side of Syracuse. In 2018 they started two Bible study groups – a south side group and a north side group. They meet for worship on Sunday afternoon at **The Neighborhood Church** facility. Alex Rivera is Pastor.
- **Inlet CC** has a Deacon's Fund. Each month, on the Sunday that they observe the Lord's Supper, they take a special offering designated for the Fund, which operates outside our normal operating budget at the discretion of the deacons to meet tangible needs in our church family and community. Recently, this Deacon Fund has been flush with resources due to this fund being designated for contributions in memorial of a young man who recently passed away. To spread the blessing more widely than usual with numerous "micro-blessings" they came up with the idea for a "reverse deacon fund" for the month of December. Instead of collecting money on the week they observed the Lord's Table, they distributed money, giving \$20 to each person in attendance. They handed out around \$800 and invited people to pray about how they might use that money to be a blessing to someone and then put it to work. Reports of how the money was used were amazing. Only God knows the impact of these seeds that were planted and the inroads that were made for the glory of the gospel. Phil Huber is Pastor.
- Lyn and I spent the week-end hunkered down. We attended a 90th birthday celebration for one of our **Open Bible Fellowship** members late Saturday afternoon, just as the snow was starting. On the way home we picked up some "snow storm supplies" and have been waiting it out since. I was supposed to have preached at **Christ is King, Syracuse** on Sunday morning in the absence of Pastor Jon Speed, who was in Washington DC for the Right to Life March. He is waited out the storm at his sister's house in Maryland. Like almost all CNYBA churches, they canceled services for Sunday, which was a wise move. I doubt that I could have gotten to Syracuse on Sunday morning. Snow plows didn't come by our place until late Sunday afternoon.
- One good thing that came from the snow storm – Lyn and I rested for a couple of days. We slept in, had an extra cup of coffee, got in some reading, watched some westerns on TV, and took a couple of naps. We did listen to Dr. David Jeremiah on TV and to Dr. Bruce Aubrey (**Northside, Liverpool**) via Facebook live from his home. Thank the Lord for a warm house!

This Week in Preview

- Mon – Stay warm
- Thurs – Open Bible Fellowship
- Sat – Syracuse Pastors pray for city @ Nepali, Syracuse

Missionary of the Week

- Today we are going to a South Asian country with many mountains. We cannot name it because the government there says they are "closed" to the Gospel. It is dangerous for Christian missionaries to live there. But we Baptists have sent missionaries anyway, because it is so important that people everywhere have an opportunity to hear about Jesus. Our two missionaries we are talking about today we will call Marcia and Kacey - and you understand these are not their real names. Remember that our church supports these two missionaries, just as we support many missionaries serving in dangerous, "closed" countries - through the Cooperative Program. Through friendship with Marcia, a local woman we'll call Asha and her husband accepted Jesus as Savior. How could Asha and another new believer, Maya, share their Christian faith? Marcia and Kacey helped them start teaching classes on cooking, which they combined with Bible study. As the two new believers shared recipes on spaghetti and other dishes, they also taught the Bible to women who had not heard of Jesus. Today let us pray that the Lord will keep our missionaries Marcia and Kacey safe as they serve Him there in Asia. And let's pray that the Lord will bless these two new believers, Asha and Maya, as they share recipes for pasta, but also the only recipe for eternal salvation - main ingredient, Jesus!

Have You Heard This One?

- Two boys, ages six and eight, were always getting into trouble, and their parents didn't know what to do about it. Finally the boys' exasperated mother asked the pastor to speak to the boys. The preacher agreed, but asked to speak to the boys individually. The mother sent the six year old in first. The Pastor, a large man with a booming voice, thought he would just ask some simple questions to ease into the conversation. So he asked the boy, "Do you know where God is, son?" The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response. The preacher repeated the question in a sterner voice, "Where is God?" Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the preacher got down on his level, looked him squarely in the eyes, and said again, "Where is God?" The boy screamed and bolted from the room. When his older brother saw him, he asked, "What happened?" The younger brother replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it!"