

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

15 December 2019

Hart to Heart

- Merry Christmas! In less than ten days we will experience Christmas morning 2019. Here's the introduction to my sermon on Sunday morning past.

Years ago when Johnny Carson was the host of The Tonight Show he interviewed an eight year old boy. The young man was asked to appear because he had rescued two friends in a coalmine outside his hometown in West Virginia. As Johnny questioned the boy, it became apparent to him and the audience that the young man was a Christian. So Johnny asked him if he attended Sunday school. When the boy said he did Johnny inquired, "What are you learning in Sunday school?" "Last week," came his reply, "our lesson was about when Jesus went to a wedding and turned water into wine." The audience roared, but Johnny tried to keep a straight face. Then he said, "And what did you learn from that story?" The boy squirmed in his chair. It was apparent he hadn't thought about this. But then he lifted up his face and said, "If you're going to have a wedding, make sure you invite Jesus!"

That's a lesson we need to learn

If you're going to have a celebration of the birth of Jesus, make sure you invite Jesus.

- Prayer Request: Pastor Gary Culver (**Emory Chapel, Waverly**) who is battling bone cancer, spent several days in the hospital this past week with pneumonia in both lungs. At this writing, he is home recuperating.
- Prayer Request: Pastor's wife, Jayne DePugh (**Newark BC**) had a bad week this past week due to complications from medications given her to help with an injury to her shoulder.
- **Starpoint, Clifton Park** plans four Christmas Eve services at 1:00. 2:30, 4:00. And 5:30 PM. They had their annual Ugly Christmas Sweater day on Sunday past. Dr. Roscoe Lilly is Pastor.
- **Inlet CC** enjoyed a musical presentation by their children during the Sunday morning worship service on Sunday past. Phil Huber is Pastor
- **Stamford BC** enjoyed a Christmas Program presentation by their children during the Sunday morning worship service on Sunday past. Waylen Bray is Pastor.

- **Crosspoint, Whitesboro** held a special “An Evening in Haiti” service on Sunday evening past. It was an evening of traditional Haitian food, fellowship, and corporate prayer for Haiti. Sam Macri is Pastor
- On Sunday past Lyn and I worshiped with the good folks of **Open Bible Fellowship, Candor** in our first ever Sunday morning worship service, which was held after a community pancake breakfast at the Candor Fire Hall. Some of our regular OBF folks have long standing relationships with the church where they normally attend on Sunday morning. We expected that the attendance would be small at this first attempt to venture outside the close sweet fellowship we enjoy on Thursday evenings. The Bible instructs us not to despise small in **Zechariah 4:10**. Only time will tell what the Lord does with this small beginning.

This Week in Preview

- 16th BD Jayne DePugh (PW @ Newark BC)
- 19th ANV Roscoe & Maryann Lilly (P&W @ Starpoint, Clifton Park)

Missionary of the Week

Today we are going to Africa, to the country called the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is a country that has had years of war and still has many problems. It is a hard and dangerous place to serve. That's why we won't use the real names of our missionaries we are going to pray for today. We'll call them Jeff and Barbara. But we're also going to think about Benin, a country in West Africa where Jeff and Barbara served for 24 years before transferring to the Congo. In 2018 Jeff and Barbara were in a car accident in the Congo that left them severely injured. When the Baptists back in Benin heard what had happened to their beloved missionaries, they united as never before to pray for them and to take up an offering. The offering was not for Jeff and Barbara - rather it was for missions. Our church helps support Jeff and Barbara as we give each month through the Cooperative Program. That includes medical coverage for traffic accidents. The Benin Baptists knew that, for Jeff and Barbara, the most encouraging thing they could do was support missions for which Jeff and Barbara have committed their lives. Today let's ask for continued healing and future safety for Jeff and Barbara as they serve in the Congo. And let's ask the Lord to guide and nurture the new missions commitment of Baptists in Benin. Let's pray that many thousands will come to Christ in both countries!

Have You Heard This One?

NOTE: I think I may have used this one before. It's one I like to hear every once in a while

Late one night a burglar broke into a house and while he was sneaking around he heard a voice say: "Jesus is watching you." He looked around and saw nothing. He kept on burglarizing and again heard: "Jesús is watching you". In a dark corner, he saw a cage with a parrot inside. The burglar asked the parrot, "Is it you who keeps saying Jesus is watching me?" The parrot replied, "Yes." – Relieved, the burglar asked, "What is your name?" The parrot said, "Moses." The burglar said, "Moses is a strange name for a parrot. What idiot named you that?" The parrot answered: "The same idiot that named the Rottweiler Jesus."