

Hart Beat

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

8 December 2019

Hart to Heart

- Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful. And since we've no place to go, let it snow, let it snow. That could be lyrics to a song. The problem is, we do have places to go. But the roads were much better at the end of the week than they were at the beginning of the week.
- The annual CNYBA Pastors and Wives' Christmas Luncheon was held on Saturday past at **Transformation, Syracuse**. We enjoyed delicious food catered by Ada Abreu, wife of Pastor Pedro Abreu, some fun with Bible Trivia, hearing of Christmas traditions among Pastors' families, the reading of the traditional Christmas story, the singing of some Christmas carols, a time of prayer, and a great time of fellowship. Lyn and I want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the generous monetary Christmas gifts present to us at the Luncheon. You are such a blessing to us.
- **Stamford BC** will enjoy a special children's musical presentation entitled "Angels, Say What?" during the morning worship service on December 15th. Waylen Bray is Pastor.
- **Starpoint, Clifton Park** will have four identical candle light Christmas Eve services - 1:00 PM, 2:30 PM, 4:00 PM, and 5:30 PM. They will have childcare for birth-5 years at every service. Dr. Roscoe Lilly is Pastor.
- **Lakeshore, Cicero** held their annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event on Saturday evening past. There will be crafts, food, and a mini play based on the Polar Express book. The even ended with the singing of some Christmas Carols and the lightning of the Christmas Tree. Mike McMahon is Pastor.
- **Baptist Campus Ministry Church, Syracuse University** had their last worship service of the semester on Sunday past. In that service Pastor Devon Bartholomew finished up his sermon series on Ecclesiastes.
- **Renovation, North Syracuse** had a blast at the Village Holiday Parade. Every year they provide music and engage people of their community at this event. Mike Mazzye is Pastor.

- **Three Pines, Doraville** will hold their annual Harvest Holiday Dinner on Saturday, December 14th, at the Harpursville American Legion. Mike Brown is Pastor.
- **Open Bible Fellowship, Candor** will attempt their first Sunday morning worship service this coming Sunday, December 15th, at the Candor Fire Hall following the firemen's winter monthly pancake breakfast. Pray that the transition from the breakfast to the worship service will flow smoothly.
- On Sunday past Lyn and I worshiped with the good folks at **Bible Baptist Church, Oswego**, where I was privileged to preach in the absence of interim pastor, Stave Sallis, who is recuperating from double hip replacements. This church has become a part of the Baptist Convention of New York in recent months, but not yet officially affiliated with CNYBA.

This Week in Preview

- 9th BD Kristen Elliott (PW @ Mission, Syracuse)
- 12th Open Bible Fellowship
- 13th BD Roscoe Lilly (Pastor @ Starpoint, Clifton Park)

Missionary of the Week

Our missionary we're going to pray for today is a nurse practitioner by training. She helps with medical clinics in villages where she serves. That's in Southeast Asia, so we cannot use her name or specific country. We'll call her Nancy. We could have a book written on every one of our missionaries, but we have just a minute so let's talk about one person that Nancy met. We'll call the woman Melea. This poor Asian woman was born about 50 years ago with a genetic disorder which make hundreds of tumors grow all over her body. Nobody in her village would have anything to do with Melea - they wouldn't even shake hands with her. Melea was ashamed of how she looked. Then Melea met Nancy. This American woman did not avoid Melea. Instead, Nancy sat with her and asked about her life. And this was what shocked Melea - Nancy actually held her hand as they prayed! Before long, Melea tagged along to help Nancy with medical clinics. Nancy took her to church, where the members also prayed for her. Soon Melea was saved. Better yet, her entire family came to faith in Christ and now there are nine Christian believers in her village for the first time in history. I'm really happy to tell you that our church supports Nancy there in Southeast Asia because we give through the Cooperative Program. Let's ask God to keep her safe and bless her in her ministry. And let's pray for Melea, that she would be healed - and remain strong in her new faith.

Have You Heard This One?

Henry Marks, a collector of rare books ran into an acquaintance, Arnold, who told him he had just thrown away an old Bible that he found in a dusty, old box. He happened to mention that Guten-somebody-or-other had printed it. 'Not Gutenberg?' gasped Henry. 'Yes, that was it,' remembered Arnold. 'You idiot' Henry exploded, 'You've thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for half a million dollars.' 'Oh, I don't think this book would have been worth anything close to that much,' replied Arnold. 'It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther.'