

Hart Beat

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

9 June 2013

➤ **Hart to Heart**

- This week I read in a blog by Thom Rainer (President of LifeWay Christian Resources of the SBC) that SBC membership declined again this past year, this time by 105,708. And our baptisms were down to 314,956, the lowest level since 1948. In 1948, we only had 6 million members. Today we have 16 million members. We are reaching less people for Christ, even though we have 10 million more members than we did in 1948. These statistics are evidence that we need to refocus on our purpose – which is to make disciples. Of all the things we do as Christians and as churches, the only thing that has any eternal value is seeing people saved. Everything else will go away when Jesus comes.
- Lyn and I worshipped today with the good folks at **Crossroads, Sherburne**. I preached in the absence of Pastor Ken Fallon, who is away on a wedding anniversary celebration trip with his wife Sue.
- A new 2013 CNYBA Tent Use Schedule has been posted to our web site.
- Pastor Wayne Sibrava (**Living Water, Owego**) has joined our missionary, Rick Martin, in Peru for the last part of Rick's tour. Things continue to progress toward Rick and Donna Martin's move to Peru to advance our CNYBA project to begin churches among the Quechua Indians in the Andes Mountains of southern Peru. They plan to make the move this year if enough funding is secured. If your church has not heard Bro. Rick, I would encourage you to have him speak about his plans and to consider helping with this project.
- I spent a good bit of time this week meeting with two committees related to the Baptist Convention of New York. As we move closer to our annual BCNY meeting on September 23-24 at Amherst Baptist Church near Buffalo, I'll be working with several other committees in preparation for the meeting.
 - The Strategic Implementation Team is an Ad Hoc Committee charged with taking all the concerns heard during the Listening Sessions last year and bringing back some recommendations for consideration at this year's annual meeting. After many hours of work, I believe this committee is winding down its work and soon churches will receive the recommendations we'll be considering.
 - The Committee to Nominate Executive Board Members and Trustees for the Baptist Foundation does what its name implies.
- During the past two weeks, I have had the privilege of talking with a couple of Davis College students who are seeking God's will and direction for ministry.

Please join me in praying for these two men and for other students who may also be seeking direction.

- On Monday past, I picked up the scaffolding trailer from the shop where a new front lift was installed, went by the pole barn and loaded some tools, and delivered the scaffolding to **Agape, Norwich**, where it will be used by a mission team from Houston, TX this week to do some repair and painting to the church building. We have, and will have, several mission work teams in our association this week and throughout the summer who will be using our scaffolding, tents, and block party trailer. As you pray, remember these work teams and these churches. Pray for safety and for opportunity for the sharing of the gospel.
- On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week I will be helping with the clean out of the three BCNY Disaster Relief trailers – feeding unit, recovery unit, chain saw unit. If you would like to help, let me know – or just show up at the BCNY office around 9:30 AM on either Tuesday or Wednesday – or both.
- Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) volunteers moved into action following another round of deadly storms in Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas over the weekend. A series of tornadoes north of Oklahoma City claimed at least 14 lives. Four people were killed by floodwaters in Arkansas. Southern Baptist volunteers continue to serve people who are hurting and in need, thanks to your contributions through the Cooperative Program.

➤ **News From the Churches**

- **Lakeshore, Cicero** - In the absence of Pastor Karl Novak, Roger Burdick spoke to the congregation regarding financial stewardship.
- **Outpouring, Oswego** – Pastor Zach Neyhard recently shared preaching responsibilities with two other men from the congregation as part of their strategy of working toward the goal of planting more campus churches. They feel that God has put it in their hearts to make Outpouring a sending church for church plants targeting colleges and college towns. Other “happenings” at Outpouring include:
 - ✓ Successful community groups this semester
 - ✓ High attendance of 40 this semester
 - ✓ Students dedicatedly sharing their faith with their friends, co-workers, and family
 - ✓ Annual Picnic
 - ✓ Continued efforts in outreach into the campus and city community with a worship concert on April 26. They “charged admission” through soliciting canned goods for the Oswego food pantry.

- **Southport, Elmira** will host a mission group from Texas this week. They will be doing a VBS with a western theme in a local park. The mission group will also be canvassing the area around the church as well as doing some minor repairs on the church building. Duane Arnold is Pastor.
- **Three Pines, Doraville** will be a part of Harpursville's Super Celebration this summer with a float in the parade and a display table, around which they will be sharing the gospel. They will also host a Don Sunshine 4 hour seminar designed to equip believers for evangelism. Mike Brown is Pastor.
- **RiverEdge, Baldwinsville** plans a day at Cross Lake on Sunday, June 30. It will include worship at 9:00 AM, lunch around 1:00 PM, and an array of activity – including jet skiing, water skiing, knee boarding, swimming and tubing, other games, just sitting around relaxing by the lake, and even a possible cruise around the lake on the pontoon boat. There will be food, of course, so I'm looking at my calendar. Allan Covington is Pastor.
- **The Neighborhood Church, Syracuse** doesn't have a building yet. In fact they don't have a congregation yet, beyond the church planter/pastor Ronnie Wyatt and his family. But they are out in the community meeting people, building relationships, and ministering to people. The latest foray involved passing out loaves of Panera bread that someone had brought to his house. In the process of giving away the bread, Bro. Ronnie was able to share about the beginnings of a new church and, more importantly, about how, just like the bread that had been paid for and therefore was available for the taking, salvation has been paid for and is there for the taking. Let's pray for our brother and his family as they use various methods to make people aware of the Bread of Life.
- **Nepali, Syracuse** is now offering GED classes as a ministry to the Nepali community. Pastor Bhim Biswa continues to lead entire families to the Lord and the church is growing.

➤ **This Week in Preview**

- Today – BD Luke Brookhart (Worship Pastor @ Living Water, Owego)
- Mon (10th) – ANV Bill & Christina Lower (P&W @ West Hill, Ithaca)
- Tues (11th) – BCNY Disaster Relief Trailers clean-out
- Wed (12th) - BCNY Disaster Relief Trailers clean-out
- Wed (12th) – BD Kim Speed (PW @ Christ Is King, Syracuse)
- Sat (15th) – ANV Roger & Doris Best (P&W Emeritus @ Inlet CC)

➤ **2nd Sunday – Baptist Heritage**

Baptists came into existence as two distinct groups, with somewhat different beliefs and practices, but with believer's baptism in common. The two main strands were known as General Baptists and Particular

Baptists. There were also a few Sabbatarian or Seventh-day Baptists in the late seventeenth century, but they were never numerous.

General Baptists.—The General Baptists got their name because they believed in a general atonement. They believed Christ died for all people generally, and that whoever would believe in Christ could be saved. The first General Baptist church, led by John Smyth, was founded in Amsterdam, Holland, in 1608/09. Its members were English refugees who had fled England to escape religious persecution.

When these English exiles, led by John Smyth and a layman named Thomas Helwys, left England, they were not yet Baptists. In Amsterdam, they came into contact with Dutch Mennonites, a branch of the Anabaptist family that taught religious liberty and baptism of believers only. The Smyth-Helwys congregation continued to study the Bible and sought to follow the way of the Lord more completely.

In 1611, Thomas Helwys led a portion of this church back to London, where they set up the first Baptist church on English soil. By 1650, there were at least forty-seven General Baptist churches in and around London.

Particular Baptists.—The Particular Baptists came into existence a generation later than General Baptists. Named for their view of particular atonement, they believed that Christ died only for a particular group, the elect. They were deeply influenced by the teachings of John Calvin.

Particular Baptists emerged out of an Independent congregation. While Separatists, as the name implies, separated totally from the Church of England, the Independents sought to maintain autonomous congregations without a radical break with the state church. Ultimately, most of the Independents were driven to more complete separation. As early as 1616, Henry Jacob was leader of a small Independent congregation in London.

By 1650, there were a number of Particular Baptist churches in and around London. In 1644, seven of them had drafted a confession of faith which showed some of their distinctive views. In addition to particular atonement, they taught believer's baptism by immersion and insisted that a person who is once saved is always saved.

➤ **Have You Heard This One?**

When a cowboy applied for an insurance policy, the agent asked, "Have you ever had any accidents?"

After a moment's reflection, the applicant responded, "Nope, but a bronc did kick in two of my ribs last summer, and a couple of years ago a rattlesnake bit me on the ankle."

"Wouldn't you call those accidents?" replied the puzzled agent.

"Naw," the cowboy said, "I'm pretty sure they did it on purpose!"