

Hart Beat

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

5 October 2014

► **Hart to Heart**

- A big “Thank You” to those of you who were praying for me on Monday past while I preached the President’s Message and moderated the business meetings as we considered a host of Constitution and By-law changes at the Annual Meeting of the Baptist Convention of New York. I received emails and texts from all across the US and even one foreign country assuring me of pray. Praise the Lord!
- After the pressure of preparation for and participation in the BCNY Annual Meeting, Lyn and I decided to take the scenic route home. We drove north out of the New York City area for a while and then turned west and drove through the Catskill Mountains. The beautiful handiwork of God in the mountains and the colorful leaves were both calming and stress relieving. Tuesday night we stayed in a quaint little motel on the banks of the Delaware River just outside Downsville. On Wednesday we meandered on through the Catskills, ending up in Norwich, where I led the fifth of nine Wednesday night discipleship classes at **Agape, Norwich**. We finally arrived at home late Wednesday evening – tired, but more relaxed than I’ve been in several weeks.
- Please pray for Ariel Ruiz, Pastor @ **Nueva Esperanza, Syracuse**, who is in Mexico at this writing attending the funeral of his mother, who passed away after complications following heart surgery.
- Tooth brushes anyone? If your church is participating in Operation Christmas Child, consider putting a toothbrush in the shoe boxes. CNYBA still has at least 75,000 toothbrushes and I would be happy to get some toothbrushes to you to use in your boxes.
- Billie Winskie, our long-time CNYBA Treasurer, is retiring from the accounting/bookkeeping tasks of the treasurer’s job. Our CNYBA Leadership Team has approved hiring Amy Dunham, of Hometown Bookkeeping and Tax Preparation Services of Owego, NY to assume those responsibilities at the same rate we have been paying Billie. I will continue signing off on the Disbursement Request Forms and Billie will continue signing checks.

- On Monday evening of the Baptist Convention of New York annual meeting in Nanuet, NY. Dr. Ronnie Floyd, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention preached. During his address he shared about an important date I want to pass on to you. The date is October 14. He told about a ministry called Engage 24. You may want to look up the information at www.engage24.org. The website is the reminder of a specific challenge to college students to share the gospel with someone - sometime during the 24 hour period of October 14, 2014. Bro. Ronnie challenged everyone to join that challenge. I have accepted that challenge and I urge you to join me in sharing the gospel with someone on October 14th.
- Along that same line, my own message to the messengers of the BCNY Annual Meeting was about how we should quite sitting and start telling. Because I have been convicted and burdened about evangelism of late, I have invited Dr. Charles Brock, former IMB missionary to the Philippines, to share with us at the CNYBA Annual Meeting about his “fisherman’s club” initiative. I’m praying that his presentation will bring conviction and action.
- As I mentioned in a past post, Lyn and I have decided that it is time for us to find another small puppy. Lyn had looked up several animal shelters we could visit on our way home from the BCNY Annual Meeting, but none of them had small dogs to adopt. On Friday past, we visited a Pomeranian breeder in Hannibal, NY, where we fell in love with a cute little black and white Pom AND a cute little tan Pom. We couldn’t decide between them, so after the CNYBA Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 18th, we’ll go pick up Henry and Harley.
- Jane Miller of Liverpool, NY has 1960 Lowry organ (with pedals) to give away free. If you are interested call Jane @ 315-457-6841.
- Lyn and I worshipped today with the good folks at **Jefferson BC**, where Frank Adams has been pastor since April 2009. Some time ago Pastor Frank had asked me to come and preach today, as well as lead in the Lord’s Supper celebration. Lyn and I always enjoy visiting this congregation and of course, I always enjoy preaching. AND, they had a fellowship meal following the church service. Thank you Pastor Frank for this opportunity.

➡ **News From the Churches**

- **Canastota BC** has called Phil Wright as pastor effective Oct 12. Bro. Phil is a former member @ Grace, Rome and a former pastor @ Jewell BC. He is

also the guy who came to my rescue the day I totaled out my pick-up on Hwy. 481 in Syracuse several years ago.

- **Bellewood, North Syracuse** will begin Children's Worship on October 19th. Children will stay in "Big Church" for the beginning of worship, but then during the message time they will continue separately in their own worship time. On the first Sunday of each month the kids will stay in "Big Church" with a special short message offered for them. Pastor Matt Hallenbeck reports, "We are seeing more folks on Sunday. We have new Bible Study groups on Sunday and during the week. More outreach events are being scheduled. New people are getting involved in the ministries of the church. Folks are getting baptized and committing themselves to the work of God through membership at Bellewood."
- Pastor Zach Neyhard @ **Outpouring, Oswego**, a college campus church, reports, "New students at SUNY-Oswego often first connect with on-campus organizations through the student involvement fair. This is held each year on the floor of the stadium-sized hockey rink. Lots of people, lots of noise, lots of excitement! The current student leadership team took charge during this event and piloted the table. Our church ended up with a huge list of potential contacts from the fair, more than we've ever had before. Many of these new students came to church that Sunday, giving us one of the biggest meetings in recent memory, and we had many students sign up for the community groups as well."
- **Lakeshore, Cicero** baptized 7 in July and 3 in September, had a blood drive for the American Red Cross and a Flu Shot Clinic in September. participated in the North Syracuse Life Chain at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church and Pastor Karl Novak spoke afterward (Oct. 5). > Bonnie Novak (Lakeshore Discipleship Director) taught Basic Christianity 101 on Oct. 5 during Sunday School and will teach Basic Christianity 201 (Oct. 12), Discover LBC 301 (Oct. 19), and Improve Your Serve 401 (Oct. 26) during Sunday School. > They are having another Flu shot clinic on Oct. 12 after Worship Service, hosting a Fall Festival for children on Oct. 25, hosting an outdoor movie night on Oct. 25, having a fellowship meal after church on Oct. 26, and having a Ladies Tea on Nov. 8 at 1 PM. (Cost = \$5) (Big hats encouraged).

➡ **This Week in Preview**

- 5th BD Pauline Potter (PW @ North Fenton BC)
- 10th BD Mike Brown (Pastor @ Three Pines, Doraville)

- 12th BD Jan Lefler (former PW @ Agape, Norwich)

➡ Missionary Moments

- **Sharing God's Holy Words**

(Central Asia) A Christian worker in Central Asia reports that each Thursday evening about dusk, people of the Highlands tread along the paths of their neighborhoods. They gather for worship in their homes. Each neighborhood has been divided into groups containing 40 families. Those groups, including men, women and children, gather to listen as their leader reads “holy” words, and then they sing hymns. The words, however, are from the Quran, not the Bible; the hymns are sung to the prophet Ali. Cooperative Program funds support Christian workers who live in Central Asia, seeking opportunities to share God’s holy words from the Bible and lead people to eternal life in Him.

- **Spiritually Dry Souls**

(Utah) RYAN and TARA BOOTH started Oasis Community Church in Price, Utah, a spiritually dry area where more than 50 percent of the people are associated with the Mormonism. Although the city has only 10,000 residents, there is an unusually high number of instances of drug abuse and suicides. The people there are obviously hurting and broken. The darkness can be discouraging at times, but your prayers and partnership giving through the Cooperative Program encourage Ryan and Tara. Pray for Mormons to see the true Jesus Christ.

➡ Have You Heard This One?

'Cash, check or charge?' the clerk asked, after folding items the woman wished to purchase.

As she fumbled for her wallet, the clerk noticed a remote control for a television set in her purse.

'So, do you always carry your TV remote?' she asked.

'No,' she replied, 'but my husband refused to come shopping with me, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally.'