

Hart Beat

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

7 December 2014

► Hart to Heart

- Yesterday we had a great time of fellowship at the annual CNYBA Pastors and Wives' Christmas Luncheon – this year held at the Broadway Café on the campus of Davis College. Our friends, John & Dody Martin did a superb job with the musical program. The food was great and the fellowship sweet.
- On Monday past our CNYBA Leadership Team met and agreed on two items. 1) was to approve the affiliation application of Northstar Church in Clinton Park, NY on an interim basis to be confirmed at our Mid-Year Meeting on May 2nd and 2) to elect Jeff Bisher (LT member from SW Cluster Area) as assistant treasurer due to the departure of Bill Deckert. They will be selecting a replacement for Bill in the near future.
- Lyn and I worshipped this morning with the good folks at **Emory Chapel, Waverly**. We were there for Gary Culver's last sermon as pastor before retiring to Texas for the winter. Gary started the church in December 1998. I was in that first service with about 5 people who could see their breath in the air because the furnace didn't work. Today there were upwards of 50 people gathered in a warm, remodeled building. They have done wonders with the old building under Gary's leadership – vinyl siding, new windows, completely remodeled basement fellowship hall, etc. God bless you Bro. Gary as you enter this next phase of life and God bless you Emory Chapel as you enter the next phase of your history.
- Oh, yes they did have a fellowship meal after church – which we enjoyed very much as usual.
- George & Julie Holmes, members at **West Hill, Ithaca**, will be doing a mission to Albania January 12th through March 24th, for the 21st time. They are a part of Fellowship for Christian Farmers. They have several ministries in several villages in Albania which include distributing vegetable garden seed, distribution of used eye glasses, and assorted children's ministries. If you would like to join them for part of this winter, find out more about what they do, or schedule a time for them to talk with your church or group within your church, call them at 607-387-6538 or email them at jgquist@aol.com.

► News From the Churches

- **Bellewood, North Syracuse** plans a Christmas musical celebration entitled “God is With Us” on Sunday morning, December 14th, during the worship service. They will have a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6 PM on December 24th. Matt Hallenbeck is Pastor.

➤ **This Week in Preview**

- 8th BD Juanita Young (PW @ Gethsemane, Syracuse)
- 9th BD Kristen Hallenbeck (PW @ Bellewood, North Syracuse)
- 9th ANV Calvin & Darlene Stedge (P&W @ Maryland BC)
- 10th Lyn’s stress test
- 12th Last day of classes for this semester @ Davis College

➤ **December Ministry Anniversaries**

- Wayne Sibrava – Pastor @ Living Water, Owego since Dec. 1997
- Gary Culver – Pastor @ Emory Chapel, Waverly since Dec. 1998
- Jeff Ford – Pastor @ Lyons Falls BC since Dec. 2010

➤ **Missionary Moments**

- **Ridiculed for Becoming Believers** (West Africa)
Christian workers among the Songhai people of West Africa asked churches to pray for a village they call “T.” There were no believers, and the village had been held captive to deceptive religion, as well as animistic roots, for many centuries. The Lord heard the cries for salvation for these people. Four people have counted the cost to follow Christ as their Savior and be baptized. The new believers face a multitude of issues for their decision, including persecution and ridicule from their families and community. Thanks to Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering support, Christian workers who live among the Songhai can encourage and disciple the new believers as they grow in their faith.
- **Cultivating Interest to Follow Christ** (Kentucky)
LINDA and LARRY OTTERBACK serve through the Kentucky Baptist Convention with Eastern Kentucky Sunrise. Linda’s role is to assist those wanting to be “on mission” by providing information on a variety of mission and project opportunities such as retreats, prayer meetings, Bible studies, medical clinics and fellowships. Your commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission through the Cooperative Program makes it possible for Linda to coordinate groups, churches and others interested in serving God in the

Appalachia area. Pray for Linda as she helps churches and individuals be on mission and as she serves God in Eastern Kentucky.

➡ **The Adventures of Henry & Harley**

- At 13 weeks old, the boys (our two Pomeranian puppy brothers), got their first hair cut the other day. They seemed to be traumatized by the experience. They were very subdued for a change when they got home and had a strange kind of expression on their faces. They looked sort of like a set-in-my-ways Baptist right after the church voted to get rid of the pews and go to chairs. New experiences are difficult – even for us humans. I'm reminded of God saying, through the prophet in **Isaiah 43:19**, "Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert." We should not be afraid of change. We should embrace it, knowing that God has promised in **Isaiah 42:16**, "I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, And crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them." Growth always involves change.

➡ **Have You Heard This One?**

- When I went to get my driver's license renewed, our local motor-vehicle bureau was packed. The line inched along for almost an hour until the man ahead of me finally got his license. He inspected his photo for a moment and commented to the clerk, "I was standing in line so long, I ended up looking pretty grouchy in this picture." "It's okay," he reassured the man, "That's how you're going to look when the cops pull you over anyway."