

Hart Beat

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

30 March 2014

➡ **Hart to Heart**

- I experienced several things on the Hart “beat” this past week (like preparing and teaching on Discipleship at Davis College and West Hills, Ithaca, BCNY Admin Committee Mtg., a couple of doctors’ appointments, etc.), but none that I like doing more than spending time with pastors. I try to do this as often as possible, many times via phone. But this week I was particularly blessed to be able to listen to and offer encouragement to four different pastors in person.
- Lyn and I worshipped with the good folks at **Bellewood, North Syracuse**, where Matt Hallenbeck has been pastor since October 2005. By some strange happenstance we did not show up on the day they were having a fellowship meal after service. It’s next Sunday. Wonder how I missed that?
- Next Sunday, April 6th, is Cooperative Program Sunday across the SBC. Since 1925 Southern Baptists have been “pooling their resources” to support world-wide missions through their state convention and the various agencies of the SBC. Do you know what percentage of your contributions to your church goes to world-wide missions through the Cooperative Missions? If not, find out so every time you give through your local church you will know how much of that gift is being passed on to the Baptist Convention of New York, who will pass 25% of it on to the Southern Baptist Convention. If your church participates in the Cooperative Program, every time you give through your church you are giving to missions.

➡ **News From the Churches**

- **RiverEdge, Baldwinsville** is still working on trying to resolve the zoning issues related to meeting at the YMCA. In the meantime, they have found another place to meet temporarily for a couple months. Beginning April 6 they will meet each Sunday at 10:00 AM in the Community Center @ Village Green Golf Club, 100 Boulevard South, Baldwinsville, NY. Allan Covington is Pastor.
- **The Neighborhood Church, Syracuse**: Volunteering at Community Center for at Risk Kids. We are looking at other neighborhoods around us that may be similar to ours in need and looking for opportunities to start

new bible studies. Average weekly attendance = 35. Ronnie Wyatt is Church Planter/Pastor.

- **Renovation, Syracuse:** 32 members welcomed, 3 elders appointed... huge community and momentum building month for long term viability. Mike Mazzye is Church Planter/Pastor.
- **Outpouring, Oswego** (Zach Neyhard, Pastor):
 - They had an Outreach Table in the high traffic hallway in the campus center, which they used to ask different questions about the Bible and Jesus. Their sign was almost completely covered in sticky notes - each representing a student with whom they engaged.
 - They also established a Monday Night Hospitality Night (as an outreach tool) when they discovered that several guys at Pastor Zach's secular work were avid players of a role-playing game (RPG). They now have a growing number of participants.
 - They are also adapting the Red Cup campaign, developed by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, for use in April. It uses an interactive display that asks students what they are most thirsty for: love, purpose, fun, or success. Their response often starts a conversation that leads to an opportunity to discuss Jesus' statements about Living Water and eternal life.
- **Bellewood, North Syracuse** is hosting the BCNY annual VBS Training event for our area next Saturday, April 5th. They also plan a VBS Pep Rally for next Sunday morning, April 6th, during the morning worship service.

➡ **5th Sunday – Discipleship Notes**

- Technically every believer is a disciple. But a true disciple of Christ is a believer who is **being transformed** into the image of Christ - both **in character and conduct**.

➡ **Have You Heard This One?** (sent in by a reader)

- A preacher was trying to sell his horse. A potential buyer came to the church for a test ride. "Before you start," the preacher said, "you should know that this horse only responds to church talk. Go is 'Praise the Lord,' and stop is 'Amen.'"

So the man gets on the horse and says, "Praise the Lord," and the horse starts to trot. The man again says, "Praise the Lord," and the horse starts

to gallop. Suddenly there is a cliff right in front of the horse and the man yells, "Amen!"

The horse stops just at the edge of the cliff.

The man wipes the sweat from his brow and says, "Praise the Lord!"