

## Hart Beat

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

17 January 2016

### ➡ Hart to Heart

- My, what a mild winter! I'm not sure there has been a winter in recent memory when I was not wearing long johns by this time. I'm half expecting them to announce any day now that we have to remove the studded snow tires early this year.
- I got a good report from the endocrinologist (diabetes doctor) this week. He was very encouraging, with only a slight concern about a not perfect kidney function indicator. I have decided to take out a gym membership because he says exercise will improve my insulin intake situation and add days to my life expectancy. Now, if I can actually be disciplined enough to go to the gym two or three times a week, with some brisk walks in between, maybe it will do some good. However, the older you get the more those three or four days you're supposed to get at the end of life as a result of all this exercise doesn't seem to be worth all the effort you have to make from now until then – especially when you add in less carbs, less salt, less friend foods, less soda, less red meat, etc. ect. Keep praying.
- It's not too early to plan to attend the Keep the Fire Burning Church Leaders Conference at Northside, Liverpool March 6-8. You'll come away inspired and challenged.
- Plans are starting to come together for a Mission Vision Trip to St. Croix, Virgin Islands in mid-March. I have been talking with church planter John Smith, who recently moved with his family from Pontiac, MI, where he planted a church, to St. Croix to plant another church. A couple of CNYBA pastors will go with me to look over the situation and to see how churches of CNYBA might partner with Pastor John Smith to do missions on the island of St. Croix. Stay tuned.
- Lyn and I worshiped today with the good folks at Eternal Life, Auburn, where David Kreydatus has been the second pastor of the church since June 2008.
- Our new Bhutanese church in Syracuse is already sponsoring a Bhutanese church plant in Scranton, PA. They don't seem to be able to connect with a local association there to provide encouragement, support, and consultation. I have been asked to meet with them, the pastor of our Syracuse Bhutanese church, and Tim Bissell (Church Planting Catalyst for our area) about the possibility of their becoming a part of CNYBA. We will meet tomorrow. Please lift this meeting up in prayer.

- Speaking of church planting, there are other possibilities for new church plants in the Ovid and Norwich areas. Please remember to be in prayer for me that I can be as much of an encouragement as possible to new church plants. Pray for the church planters. I love pastors, as I hope you know, but having planted churches myself, I feel a certain connection with men who are willing to take on this difficult task. And while you're praying, don't forget the five church planters we are supporting through the 2016 CNYBA budget.
- In addition to possible new church plants, we have at least three Bible Studies, that I know of, that are not church plants yet, but may be some day. Bob Teachout and Tim Bissell are leading separate Bible Studies in Oneida and I am leading a Bible Study in Catatonk. Ask the Lord to add strength to these early beginnings and give direction as to when or if to declare them a church plant.
- Don't forget to put save April 30<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. That's the date for our Mid-year Meeting, which will highlight two of our stated associational focuses – Church Strengthening and Co-operative Ministry. Preliminary plans call for presentations on “Connecting with your Community” and “Discipleship”, as well as a report & challenge regarding opportunities to do “hands on” missions in St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

### ➡ **News From the Churches**

- **Agape, Norwich** rejoices in the recent addition of 5 new members. > They will also participate in “Revive This Nation” March 13-17, the annual evangelism initiative by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, TX where they pay the way for students to travel to distant places and preach in revival efforts during Spring Break. > They also plan a “Bring a Friend to Church” Sunday on March 6<sup>th</sup>, with John & Dody Martin doing music for the morning worship. John Jablonski is Pastor.

### ➡ **This Week in Preview**

- 17<sup>th</sup> (Today) BD Patricia Kornegay – PW @ Central, Syracuse
- 17<sup>th</sup> (Today) ANV Harold & Jan Lefler – Retired CNYBA Pastor
- 18<sup>th</sup> ANV Daniel & Hannah Song – P&W @ Korean, Vestal
- 18<sup>th</sup> BD Julie Teachout – PW @ Oneida Bible Study
- 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting with potential church planter
- 19<sup>th</sup> End of year meeting with CNYBA bookkeeper
- 21<sup>st</sup> Open Bible Fellowship – Catatonk

### ➡ **Missionary Moments**

- [Spain] DWIGHT and MARA WILLIAMS, IMB missionaries serving in Spain, have discovered that God can use even their hobbies for great purposes. Dwight hosts basketball camps for youth, where he can integrate spiritual topics with athletic skills. Mara hosts a crafting area in her garage to make crafts with friends and share evangelistic stories while doing so. Some of these women have already started similar crafting clubs in their own homes and are sharing the gospel. These women have also started an evangelistic blog with more than 1,000 followers. Dwight and Mara are bringing Christ into everyday life in Spain, thanks to your giving through the Cooperative Program.
- [Michigan] MIKE DURBIN, a Michigan native, serves in Detroit as a church planting catalyst on the Send North America: Detroit strategy team. He works to push back lostness in the Detroit Metro Area and in Windsor, Canada, by enlisting, equipping and encouraging church planters to plant in places where there are few evangelical churches and among people groups who are unreached or under-reached. Despite the recent downturn in Detroit's economy, it remains the most influential city in Michigan. Pray for Mike and his wife, SHAR, as they advance God's kingdom in Detroit, and give generously through the Cooperative Program.

### ➡ **Have You Heard This One?**

- I can't remember if I've used this one before.
- Two elderly couples were enjoying friendly conversation when one of the men asked the other, "Fred, how was the memory clinic you went to last month?" "Outstanding," Fred replied. "They taught us all the latest psychological techniques: visualization, association, etc. It was great." "That's great! And what was the name of the clinic?" Fred went blank. He thought and thought, but couldn't remember. Then a smile broke across his face and he asked, "What do you call that flower with the long stem and thorns?" "You mean a rose?" "Yes, that's it!" Fred turned to his wife. "Rose, what was the name of that memory clinic?"