

Hart Beat

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

19 December 2016

➡ **Hart to Heart**

- Winter has finally arrived. I think we might already have as much snow as we had all of last season. Even though it's a little more difficult to move around and it takes a little longer, as with everything God does, it is beautiful.
- Please remember to ask a group, or groups, in your church to form CNYBA Mission Trip prayer teams to pray for the 11 team members who will be going to St. Croix to conduct VBS January 29 – January 5.
- I have posted a Prayer Letter from John Smith, the missionary church planter we are working with in St. Croix. He stands in need of our prayers today. Read his letter on our web site under the Information Center tab/Missions Reports.
- Lyn and I worshiped with the good folks at **Church Street, Elmira** yesterday morning, where Charles Mathews has been pastor since June 2010.
- Last night, Lyn and I worshiped with the good folks at **Open Bible Fellowship, Catatonk**, where I am serving as Church Planter/Pastor.
- Word came last week that Bill Fowler, friend and former pastor at Bethel, Harpursville, had passed away. At his death he was a member at **Three Pines, Doraville**. I plan to attend his funeral this morning.
- Merry Christmas!

➡ **News From the Churches**

- **Inlet CC** had a wreath-making event for tweens and teens on Friday evening past. Each person made a Christmas wreath to take home at the end of the night. There was refreshments and Christmas music. They hope that this will be the first of a number of teen events throughout the rest of the school year. > Yesterday they had their monthly pot luck dinner after the morning service. > On Christmas Eve they will have a candlelight service at 7 pm with hot chocolate and cookies to follow. They will have a service Christmas morning at their normal time of 10:15 (no Sunday School). Phil Huber is Pastor.

- **Central, Syracuse** Choir presented their annual Christmas Cantata during the morning worship service yesterday. If you ever get a chance to hear this choir, you'll be blessed. Milt Kornegay is Pastor.

➡ **This Week in Preview**

- Mon – ANV Rickey & Deanna Fuller (P&W @ Beacon Light, Vernon)
- Mon – ANV Roscoe & Maryanne Lilly (P&W @ Northstar, Clifton Park)
- Mon – Bill Fowler's funeral
- Mon – The Neighborhood Church Project Team Meeting
- Mon – Norwich New Work Project Team Meeting
- Thurs – Christmas Eve/Christmas Service @ Open Bible Fellowship, Catatunk
- Fri - ANV Steve & Linda Sallis (CNYBA Moderator & wife)
- Sat – Christmas Eve

➡ **Missionary Moments**

- [Brazil] Thousands of people living along Brazil's Amazon River have never heard the gospel story. Missionary ANDREW EVANS* is committed to working with Brazilian Baptists to reach them. The Cooperative Program supports his work and allows him to dedicate his time to spreading the good news of Christ in this region. One way Brazilian Baptists are fulfilling this goal is by sending out young missionaries two-by-two to live among Amazon River peoples and to start churches in their villages. As locals farm and fish, these missionaries do the same alongside them. In the process, they build relationships for sharing the gospel.
- [Deaf] The Deaf in East Asia face a difficult road in their search for Christ. Barriers crop up daily, causing problems for missionaries who are trying to share the gospel with millions of Deaf in this part of the world. Some Deaf believe Christianity has hundreds of difficult rules, making it a boring and confusing way of life. Many families also put a great deal of pressure on Deaf adults to conform to the traditional religious practices to gain financial support. Accepting Christ means losing family, home and financial support. Pray for our workers in the Deaf affinity group, as you support them with your giving through the Cooperative Program.

➡ **Have You Heard This One?**

- An old man in Phoenix calls his son in New York and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing, forty-five years of misery is enough." "Pop, what are you talking about?" the son screams. "We can't stand the sight of each other any longer" the old man said. "We're sick and tired of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Chicago and tell her." And he hangs up. Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on

the phone. "There's no way they're getting a divorce," she shouts. "I'll take care of this." She calls Phoenix immediately, and screams at the old man, "You are NOT getting divorced! Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" And she hangs up. The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife, smiling. "Great," he says, "they're coming home for Christmas AND paying their own way!!"