

Hart Beat

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

25 December 2016

➡ **Hart to Heart**

- A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year greeting to all of you.
- This is the last HART BEAT for 2016. There may not be one next week while I'm in St. Croix on a mission trip. I'll try, but no guarantees.
- I'm not sure where 2016 went. It passed so quickly it seems. It's hard to believe we're 16 years into the new century. But we continue with the work of the Lord, awaiting His return.
- Some of you may already know, but I am asking all of you to pray for our moderator, Steve Sallis, who will have double knee replacement surgery on Tuesday. After surgery he will be in rehab for a while.
- Pastor Jon Speed's (**Christ Is King, Syracuse**) sister has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Please keep her and her family in your prayers as well.
- The Christmas Eve/Christmas services at **Open Bible Fellowship, Catatonk**, were held early on Thursday evening during our regular OBF Bible study time. We had a delicious meal, sang Christmas carols, had prayer time, and looked at a fourth passage of Scripture, which was the final message in a four part series about Jesus leading up to Christmas. Due to some "snow birds" and some sickness, we were down to only 24 in attendance, but the spirit was sweet as we fellowshiped together.
- On Christmas Eve, Lyn and I accepted the invitation of one of our OBF couples to join them for Christmas Eve dinner at a relatives' home down in Pennsylvania. We enjoyed a great meal, met some new friends, and solidified relationships.
- On Christmas morning, Lyn and I worshiped with the good folks at **Living Water, Owego**, where we have been members since June 1996 and where Wayne Sibrava has been pastor since December 1997. After that we enjoyed a quiet dinner at home and an afternoon of Hallmark Christmas movies, interspersed with a little football and several naps – all in the company of the Boys, who apparently love ham as much as I do and who also love to nap in my lap – one on the left leg and the other on the right.

➡ News From the Churches

- **Outpouring, Oswego** will move its weekly worship service to a day other than Sunday next Semester, in part due to the new work schedule for Pastor Zach Neyhard. The exact day and time has not yet been finalized, but is likely to be Saturday evening. Their primary focus in November and December was relationship building with our student leaders and younger students. Their fellowship events closed for the semester with a Christmas themed movie night on campus, and a Christmas party that was a partnered event with another campus ministry.
- **Northside, Liverpool** had four Christmas Eve services (3:30 PM, 5:00 PM, 6:30 PM, and 11:00 PM) as well as their regular Sunday morning services this weekend. Two were baptized this past weekend. Bruce Aubrey is Pastor.
- **Crosspoint, Whitesboro** has a Lottie Moon Offering Goal of \$10,000. A special designated fund has been set up to carpet the Whitesboro Worship Center. After church on January 15th they will celebrate their pastors with a homemade ziti dinner. Sam Macri is Pastor.
- **North Fenton BC and Fellowship, Norwich** held a joint Christmas Eve service at the Grange Hall in Norwich, Rodney Kochmanski is pastor at North Fenton and Harold Lefler is Pastor at Fellowship.

➡ This Week in Preview

- Tues – Stave Sallis surgery
- Wed – OBF Admin Counsel
- Thurs – CNYBA mission trip to St. Croix
- Fri – BD Elise Bissell (Wife of our NAMB Church Planting Catalyst)

➡ Missionary Moments

- [South Asia] JUSTIN COTA,* a worker in South Asia writes: “Over the past several weeks I’ve shared the gospel numerous times with my friend Raj,* who is a practicing Hindu. After I shared the gospel with him the second time, he began asking many questions about Jesus and the Bible. He told me he wanted me to teach him about Jesus. About a week ago, he even asked me how someone becomes a Christian. Pray that the Lord will draw both Raj and his wife to Himself.” Gifts through the Cooperative Program have made it possible for Raj to have a chance for eternal life.
- [Texas] CHARISSA MACDONALD served in Chicago last summer as a NAMB GenSend missionary. As a mobilizer she recruited 10 college students from her

home church in Fort Worth, Texas, to serve together in the Windy City. The team learned the rhythms of the city by immersing themselves in the city and intentionally meeting and building relationships with people. Your gifts helped Charissa and her team share the gospel and help new church planters work the hard soil of this city. Pray that God would continue to use the relationships the team developed in Chicago to produce spiritual fruit even after they have returned home.

➡ **Have You Heard This One?**

- A man sees a sign in front of a house: "Talking Dog for Sale." He rings the bell and the owner tells him the dog is in the backyard. He goes into the backyard and sees a black mutt just sitting there. "You talk?" he asks. "Yep," the mutt replies. "So, what's your story?" The mutt looks up and says, "Well, I discovered this gift pretty young and I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA about my gift, and in no time they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping." "I was one of their most valuable spies eight years running. But, the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger and I wanted to settle down." "So, I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security work, mostly wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings there and was awarded a batch of medals." "Had a wife, a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired." The man is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog. The owner says, "Ten dollars." The guy says, "This dog is amazing. Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?" The owner replies, "He's such a liar. He didn't do any of that stuff."