

Hart Beat

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

21 February 2016

➡ Hart to Heart

- Let me remind you once again about the “Keep the Fire Burning” Conference for Pastors and Church Leaders two week-ends away (March 6-8) at **Northside, Syracuse**. The conference starts on Sunday evening and concludes Tuesday noon. There is no registration fee, but to help them with planning, pre-register at their web site, www.northsideonline.org. Lyn and I plan to attend and I believe it would be worth your while to attend as much of the conference as you can.
- We took a baby step forward in our **Open Bible Fellowship, Catatonk** Thursday evening Bible study this past week. We began having a light meal at 6:30 before we begin the Bible study at 7:00. It seemed to work well and the folks seemed to enjoy the extra fellowship. I know I’m sounding like a pastor now, but we had 15 in attendance on Thursday past - with 6 of our regulars out! I’m not sure the group has developed to the point of considering ourselves a church, but we are praying seriously about when to add a Sunday evening worship service. Keep praying.
- Here is an excerpt from the first two paragraphs of a Prayer/Update Letter from Rick & Donna Martin, our missionaries to southern Peru. Read the rest of their letter on our web site under the Information Tab/Missionary Reports. Look for 2016-2 Rick & Donna Martin (Peru).

○ *Hello Dear Family & Friends!*

*Greetings with a hearty, "Buenos Dias" from Huanta, Peru!!
Arriving back in Peru on January 2nd, we can hardly believe that it is
already February!*

*We are currently living in Huanta, Peru -- a small city about a 45
minute car ride away from Ayacucho, our eventual destination for the
future church plant.*

- Lyn and I worshiped this morning with the good folks at our home church, **Living Water, Owego**, where I was privileged to preach in the absence of Pastor Wayne Sibrava, who is on a mission trip moving a widow lady from Arizona to Virginia. Of course, I love to preach. But today was special. As my custom is, I gave an invitation. My good friend, gym buddy, and faithful attender at our Thursday night Open Bible Fellowship in Catatonk, came forward to make a public profession of faith and express his desire to be baptized! AND, when I

texted Pastor Wayne to give him the news, he texted back, “Perhaps you would like to baptize him.” So, one Sunday soon I will have the privilege to baptize my friend and brother.

➡ **News From the Churches**

- **Summit, Cazenovia** held a special event on Friday past at the Shoppingtown Town Mall, when they encouraged their members and others to meet to see the movie, “Risen.” This is an excellent way for churches to use movies as an outreach without having to pay the royalty fees to show it at the church building. Dan Schallmo is Pastor.
- **Northside, Liverpool** Pastor Bruce Aubrey began a new sermon series this weekend entitled 'I Choose Joy'. It's the study of the book of Philippians. For eight weeks, they will dig down into this book and find the source of our joy, and reasons for joy.
- **Cornerstone, Endicott** made lunches for a local residential hotel yesterday, February 20th. Today the theme was Life Choices. On Saturday, February 27th, they will they will hold a silent auction to benefit CHOW, the local Christian food pantry supplier. Dr. Greg Johnson is Pastor.

➡ **This Week in Preview**

- Today - BD Bill Lower (Pastor @ West Hill, Ithaca)
- 22nd BD Tara Jablonski (PW @ Agape, Norwich)
- 25th Open Bible Fellowship, Catatonk
- 27th ANV Bernie & Kristen Elliott (AP&W @ Missio, Syracuse)

➡ **Missionary Moments**

- [Southeast Asia] After teaching English classes, JEFF and KIM CRUSE often invite students to their home. They build relationships with them and share the gospel. One day, when one of their students was asked where he went to church, he answered “JKH.” It stood for Jeff and Kim’s house. During one Bible study, the Cruses read Acts 2 and asked the students if the group at their home resembled the early church. “Wow, we are a church!” said the students. Today, a second church has been planted and the students are actively involved in missions. Cooperative Program gifts help the Cruses plant churches among students.

- [Nevada] EDWARD NEVES's life has been a preparation for urban ministry. He has been in gangs, used and sold drugs, served 30 plus years in prison and survived an execution-style shooting and multiple stabbings. His life is one of identification with those who were lost but are now found in Jesus. Edward leads an urban ministry in Las Vegas called "Homies for Christ," where he teaches Bible studies and disciples people who were formerly involved in crime, are currently involved in crime or are related to people who are involved in crime. Pray that "Homies for Christ" will be an integral, viable ministry that deploys soldiers for Christ, and support this ministry through the Cooperative Program.

➡ **Have You Heard This One?**

- A man decided that he was going to ride a 10-speed bike from Phoenix to Flagstaff. He got as far as Black Canyon City before the mountains just became too much and he could go no farther. He stuck his thumb out, but after 3 hours he hadn't gotten a single person to stop. Finally a guy in a Corvette pulled over and offered him a ride. Of course, the bike wouldn't fit in the car. The owner of the Corvette found a piece of rope lying by the highway and tied it to his bumper. He tied the other end to the bike and told the man that if he got to going too fast to honk the horn on his bike and he would slow down. Everything went fine for the first 30 miles. Suddenly, another Corvette blew past them. Not to be outdone, the guy in the Corvette pulling the bike took off after the other. A short distance down the road, the Corvettes--both going well over 100 mph--blew through a speed trap. The police officer noted the speeds from his radar gun and radioed to the other officer that he had 2 Corvettes headed his way at over 100 mph. He then relayed, "And you're not going to believe this, but there's guy on a 10-speed bike honking to pass."