

Hart Beat

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

13 March 2016

➡ Hart to Heart

- I hope you remembered to “spring forward” and set your clocks up an hour for Daylight Savings Time before you went to bed last night. Not to worry. Losing an hour is like losing weight. You don’t really lose it because it usually turns up again later. In this case we’ll get the hour back (without interest of course) next November. I never have understood the benefit of doing this. It seems to me that all this “springing forward” and “falling back” is an exercise in futility. I agree with the old Native American Chief, who said when told the reason for daylight savings time, “Only the government would believe that you could cut a foot off the top of a blanket, sew it on the bottom, and have a longer blanket.”
- Lyn and I really enjoyed the Keep the Fire Burning conference at Northside, Liverpool this past week-end. We came away challenged and “fired up”.
- On Tuesday past we left early to make it to Lyn’s pre-op work-up at Packer Hospital in Sayre, PA in preparation for her knee replacement surgery. All the tests, ex-rays, paper work are done and unless something unforeseen occurs she will have surgery on March 21st = a week from tomorrow.
- We arrived home about 2:00 PM Tuesday afternoon to a rambunctious welcome from the boys (our Pomeranian puppy brothers). After unloading the car I drove on into Davis College and met with Hal Haller, our state church planting director, for a couple of hours. In keeping with CNYBA’s first of three focus areas, I pledged to continue to do all I can to support church planting in Central New York. To that end, please be praying for possible church plants in Catatonk, Van Etten, Ovid, Norwich, and Binghamton.
- The second of three CNYBA focus areas is Church Strengthen. In pursuit of this focus I am doing training sessions on various topics in CNYBA churches (I’m doing two of these next month), communicating with Pastors in a variety of ways regarding various ideas for strengthening churches, and planning the Mid-year meeting of CNYBA, which will focus on this area. The tentative agenda at the moment is to hear presentations on “Involving the Church in the Community”, “Discipleship Development”, and “Non-confrontational Evangelism”.
- Speaking of the Mid-year Meeting – It will be held on April 30th at Grace, Rome beginning about 9:30 AM and finishing at or shortly after Noon. The church will provide coffee and light continental breakfast fare before the meeting and lunch after the meeting. Thanks Grace!

- The third of three adopted focus areas for CNYBA is Cooperative Ministry. We will have opportunity this summer to do at least one mission trip to New York City to do VBS and/or Backyard Bible Clubs – and maybe some other things. Even small churches will have the opportunity to contribute to a team from CNYBA serving together on mission. Later this month, Bill Lower (Pastor @ **West Hill, Ithaca**) and Dan Schallmo (Pastor at **Summit, Cazenovia**) will accompany me on a “scouting trip” to St. Croix in the US Virgin Islands to visit with Church Planter, John Smith, about how CNYBA churches can be involved in missions there in the near and long term future. And of course, we have a Peru Project in which we are supporting Rick and Donna Martin (former CNYBA leaders) through our budget and encouraging CNYBA folks to travel there from time to time to encourage them and to help in planting a church. Pastor Wayne Sibrava & his wife Connie (**Living Water, Owego**) are going next month.
- On Thursday past, our Open Bible Fellowship set a new attendance record at 23. We have a short fellowship meal, a song, prayer requests and prayer, and then delve into Scripture. At the moment we are proceeding verse by verse through Ephesians, We plan to do extensive outreach this Spring and Summer, with the hope of increasing our presence and impact in the community. Please join me in prayer about if and/or when we should take the next step and add a Sunday evening worship service.
- Lyn and I worshiped today with the good folks at **Nueva Esperanza, Syracuse**, where Ariel Ruiz has been Pastor since the church began in March 1999. Pastor Ariel has been under the weather and is still not back 100%. Please keep this brother in your prayers.
- Late this afternoon I attended the Church Council meeting @ **Living Water, Owego**, where I am serving as Chairman of the Finance Committee.
- On Tuesday next, Lyn and I plan to meet two other couples in Lancaster, PA and attend the presentation of “Samson” at the Sight & Sound Theater on Wednesday. If you’ve never experienced these Christian productions, I would encourage you to make plans to attend one. They are awesome.

➡ **News from the Churches**

- The men of **Summit, Cazenovia** met at the church building yesterday at 8 AM for breakfast and a devotional and then did a work project, after which they had lunch. Dan Schallmo is Pastor.
- **Outpouring, Oswego** has been blessed with steadily increasing numbers of students each week, with the last week of February being their best yet, with

nearly 30 students attending! Each Sunday they have 1-2 new visitors. > With the help of a local church and several students, Pastor Zach Neyhard and family have moved into a new apartment in Minetto. > Their Spring Break Missions Trip will be March 19-26. They have 8 people signed up to serve in various capacities at the Syracuse Rescue Mission.

- Pastor Phil Huber @ **Inlet CC** is leading a mission trip back to Mexico to help continue building an orphanage. They leave in a few days.
- **Baptist Campus Ministry, Syracuse** (formerly and functionally University Baptist Church) Director Devon Bartholomew (whom we support through our CNYBA budget) is taking 15 students on a Spring Break mission trip to NYC and Long Island this week to work with church planters and in a ministry that teaches students practical ways to fight human-trafficking. If you are interested in following their trips to NYC and Long Island, follow their blog – <http://purejoynotfromconcentrate.wordpress.com>
- **Cornerstone, Endicott** will hold Holy Week Revival services at 7 PM each evening March 21st -25th. They will hold a Son-Rise Service at 7 AM on March 27th. Dr. Greg Johnson is Pastor.

➡ **This Week in Preview**

- Today – BD Hannah Song (PW @ Korean, Vestal)
- 15th BD Kate Bartholomew (PW @ Baptist Campus Misnistry, Syracuse)
- 15th BD Jeff Ford (Pastor @ Lyons Falls Bible Fellowship Church)
- 18th ANV Leim & Oai Do (P&W @ Vietnamese, Utica)
- 19th Ping Pong Tournament @ Nepali, Syracuse

➡ **Missionary Moments**

- [Colorado] ANDY METZGER helped lead a team of 25 church planters from their homes in North Carolina to start a church in Denver. “Living in the heart of downtown Denver, raising a family and pastoring a church has been an incredible experience filled with stories of God’s overwhelming grace and kindness,” he says. “The artistic and educated alongside the hopeless and fatigued. At the heart of it all is a desire to see lives transformed by the gospel and power of Jesus Christ.” Andy is grateful for your generous contributions and asks that you pray for the protection of leaders, the courage of members and the receptivity of friends in Denver.
- [England] IMB workers PATRICK and SARAH SIMMS* ask for your prayers over the boroughs of London. During a prayer initiative for the city, they asked churches to adopt particular areas. Two years after a Texas church began praying

and sending teams to join the Simms, Patrick met Rob,* a well-known man in the community. Rob became a believer and a vital part of the mission to reach the community with the gospel. Unfortunately, Rob recently died. Patrick and Sarah miss their friend and are praying for new connections to this area. You support this work through your prayers and through the Cooperative Program.

➡ **Have You Heard This One?**

- The old man had died. A wonderful funeral was in progress and the country preacher talked at length of the good traits of the deceased, what an honest man he was, and what a loving husband and kind father he was. Finally, the widow leaned over and whispered to one of her children, "Go up there and take a look in the coffin and see if that's your Pa in there."