

## **Hart Beat**

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

**24 July 2016**

### ➡ **Hart to Heart**

- Well, that warm weather we were looking for a month or so ago has arrived. A little bit above my comfort zone, but normal for summer. Now if we could get some rain.....
- On Tuesday past I visited two of my stable of doctors – an endocrinologist and a podiatrist. I got a pretty good report from both. I was surprised to learn that I had lost 10 pounds, but they want me to lose 10 more. I hope I can do it before I find the first ten I lost.
- On Wednesday past it was my joy and privilege to officiate at the ordination of Jeff Bisher to the gospel ministry. Jeff has been a faithful member at **Emory Chapel, Waverly** for several years and, until he accepted this new church, a member of our CNYBA Leadership Team. I was honored to be asked to facilitate the ordination. Jeff is now pastor at Windham Center (PA) Community Church.
- On Thursday past I was at the hospital for the better part of the day. One of the guys from **Open Bible Fellowship, Catatunk** had double by-pass surgery. I've been back to see about him every day since. He's making good progress and should be able to go home in a couple of days. It is amazing and a blessing what strides have been made in the medical field.
- On Thursday evening past we had our usual OBF Bible study at Bostwick Auctions. We had 30 present.
- John Sheehy, Lary Hyde, and I will be going to St, Croix in the US Virgin Islands next month to do some relationship building, some encouragement of the missionary John Smith, with whom we will be working, and to attend to some details related to our December Mission Trip,
- Speaking of our December 29 through January 5 mission trip to St. Croix, we have 11 with tickets already purchased. It is not too late for other to “sign on”. I already know of a couple of couples who might go over on the original dates (Dec 26 – Jan 2), even though it will cost them quite a bit more for air fare. If you would like to join us for Dec 29-Jan 5, let me know and purchase your ticket. There is plenty to do – even in preparation for the VBS project we will be doing. While we are there we will also do some prayer walking in

preparation for future trips, as well as some minor repair projects. More later.

- This morning Lyn and I worshiped with the good folks at **Southport, Elmira**, where Duane Arnold, Sr. has been pastor sine June 1996. As I have reported on these pages, Pastor Duane lost a foot to diabetes. They are still healing from that surgery before they can fit him with a prosthesis. Please continue praying for this servant of God.
- Tonight Lyn and I worshiped with the food folks at **Open Bible Fellowship, Catatonk**, where I serve as Pastor.

### ➡ **News From the Churches**

- **Summit, Cazenovia** had a farewell reception for Dr. John & Jenny Stratton after church today. John has accepted a tenure track position in the Computer Science department at Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA. N Pastor Dan Schallmo says, “They will be sorely missed.”
- **Inlet CC** had a church picnic today after morning worship services at Arrowhead Park, Phil Huber is Pastor.

### ➡ **This Week in Preview**

- Tues BD Wayne Sibrava – Pastor @ Living Water, Owego
- Tues - Planning meeting for upcoming VI trip
- Wed BD Daniel Song – Pastor # Korean, Vestal
- Thurs – Open Bible Fellowship Bible study
- Sat ANV Jeff & Debbie O’Brien – P&W @ Northside, Liverpool

### ➡ **Missionary Moments**

- [Kansas] KRISTOPHER SMILKO’s newly formed congregation was growing quickly and needed a meeting space. God led them to a church with a dwindling congregation. The two merged to form Grace on the Rock church. The church is located in Sedan, Kansas, a small community where many people grew up attending church and say they believe in God, but do not have a relationship with Jesus. Kristopher says drug abuse and subsequent poverty have become strongholds that keep people from following Jesus. Pray for Grace on the Rock as they search for another worship leader. Pray that the church continues to grow and give generously through the Cooperative Program to support this ministry.
- [North Africa and Middle East] A Christian worker in North Africa reports that 1,000 Bibles were recently distributed to the clergy of many rural Orthodox

churches. Most of these isolated churches had never even had one Bible. Now the priests can study, teach and preach from the Bible instead of other traditional Orthodox books. You have been a part of this blessing because you give to the Cooperative Program. Please pray, along with our workers, that God will give these priests, their students and others who can read a great hunger to know God, Jesus and His truths.

### ➡ **Have You Heard This One?**

- A minister was planning a wedding at the close of the Sunday morning service. After the benediction he had planned to call the couple down to be married for a brief ceremony before the congregation. For the life of him, he couldn't think of the names of those who were to be married. "Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?" he requested. Immediately, nine single ladies, three widows, four widowers, and six single men stepped to the front.