

Hart Beat

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

24 November 2013

Hart to Heart

- Praise the Lord, I think I have survived the fall from the ladder 10 days ago. X-rays showed nothing was broken. I guess I am just bruised. The soreness is getting better each day. Thank you to all of you who checked in via text, call, email, or Lyn's facebook. I've enjoyed about all the rest I can stand. I'm ready to get back to normal.
- Yesterday evening Lyn and I worshipped with the good folks at **Vietnamese, Utica** during their Thanksgiving Service, where I was privileged to preach. In addition to us, the pastor and a couple of people from Lighthouse Baptist Church (where the Vietnamese Church meets), we had Vietnamese, Cambodian, Burmese, and Burundi ethnicities in the service. Pastor Liem Do has a heart to reach into all these communities with the gospel. Although we drove through swirling snow most of the way home, we made it safe and sound.
- This morning Lyn and I worshipped with the good folks at **Cornerstone, Endicott**, where I was privileged to preach in the absence of Pastor Greg Johnson. We always enjoy our visits with these saints. Afterwards we enjoyed a time of fellowship over lunch with Rita Turner, wife of my late friend and brother, Bill Turner, who pastored at Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church and then at Cornerstone Community Church after the merger of Lincoln Ave Baptist Church and Beautiful Plain Baptist Church to form Cornerstone.

News From the Churches

- **The Neighborhood Church, Syracuse** hosted three groups from VA and NC this week-end. The groups brought hundreds of coats and blankets to distribute to those who need them in the Schiller Park neighborhood. One group from VA brought their puppet ministry team and were very effective in sharing the gospel during the coat & blanket distribution. Among those blessed in the neighborhood were Nepalese, Burmese, and Burundi refugees. Ronnie Wyatt is the Church Planter/Pastor.
- **Stamford BC** conducted a dedication of 150 boxes for Operation Christmas Child last Sunday. Today, instead of a sermon from Pastor Waylen Bray,

they viewed the presentation of *My Hope America with Billy Graham*. Today, they also delivered Thanksgiving baskets to several families in the community. On December 8 they will host a Christmas Music Concert by John & Dody Martin during the morning worship service.

- **Lakeshore, Cicero** baptized one and had a baby dedication as part of last Sunday's Sunday worship service. Karl Novak is Pastor.
- **Cornerstone, Endicott** will host their annual Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, November 28th from Noon til 4 PM. They baptized 10 during the month of October. Greg Johnson is Pastor.
- **Bellewood, North Syracuse**
- **RiverEdge, Baldwinsville** collected items for Thanksgiving baskets today. Following the service they assembled the food into meals. The meals will be delivered to the Baldwinsville Volunteer Center on Tuesday morning. Allan Covington is Pastor.
- **Renovation Church, Syracuse** is in the very beginning stages. They have begun a couple of small groups and have worked through a 10/3/1 year goal outline that includes reaching congregation level in year 3 somewhere in the Baldwinsville area. CNYBA will be supporting this new work effort through our budget in 2014. Mike Mazzye is the Church Planter/Pastor.
- **Outpouring, Oswego** took donations of items via the dorms on campus, assembled shoeboxes with the help of friends from the Oswego Reformed Presbyterian Church, and prayed for the Operation Christmas Child workers as well as the children who would receive the boxes. They use events like these to band together as a church, to help those in need, to give students leadership opportunities, and to give the campus and community opportunities for service. Pastor Zach Neyhard was able to lead a co-worker to faith in Christ recently as well as begin to help a person who had backslidden with his recovery and return to the faith.

This Week in Preview

- 29th BD Allan Covington (Pastor @ RiverEdge, Baldwinsville)

4th Sunday – The Gospel According to Holly

Chapter nine of my evolving book (inspired by my wife's Pomeranian puppy) "The Gospel According to Holly" is entitled **Trying to Avoid the Inevitable**. I go back and forth between thinking Holly is a smart dog and thinking she's a not so smart dog. She's smart enough to know when I'm getting ready to leave the house, and that that means she goes in the bedroom for her own safety (and easier clean up when I get back). She's smart enough to know exactly how long this "getting ready to leave" process takes. She stays right with me (underfoot) until the very last second, when she darts away just as I'm trying to corral her into the bedroom. I said I was going to refuse to chase a little dog all over the house, but what can you do. She needs to be in a safe place while I'm gone (and did I mention easier clean up when I get back?). I just about catch her on the main floor, when she darts down the basement steps. Of course, I finally corral her in the corner of the basement. This is where the "not so smart" part comes in. Wouldn't it save a lot of energy on her part, and a lot less stress and heavy breathing on my part, if she would just quit trying to avoid the inevitable? It puts me in mind of how God must feel when we dart around, run off in all directions, trying to avoid the inevitable. We expend all this energy, create all this stress, and God does what He wants to anyway. And I thought we were supposed to be smarter than dogs!

Have You Heard This One?

At a clearance sale, the wife of a federal district court judge found a green tie that was a perfect match for one of her husband's sports jackets.

Soon after, while the couple was vacationing at a resort complex to get his mind off a rather complicated cocaine conspiracy case, he noticed a small, round disc sewn into the design of the tie.

The judge showed it to a local FBI agent, who was equally suspicious that it might be a 'bug' planted by the conspiracy defendants. The agent sent the device to FBI headquarters in Washington, DC for analysis.

Two weeks later, the judge phoned the Washington office to learn the results of their tests.

"We're not sure where the disc came from," the FBI told him, "but we discovered that when you press it, it plays 'Jingle Bells.'"