

Hart Beat

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

1 December 2013

Hart to Heart

- I'm a little late with this issue. By the time we got in last night, I was beat. So I decided to put off the newsletter until this morning, forgetting that I had a doctor's appointment mid-morning. Of well, so much for a quiet Monday.
- Lyn and I worshipped yesterday morning with the good folks at **Grace, Rome**, where I was privileged to preach because of a sudden onset case of bronchitis, laryngitis, or something else that has befallen Pastor Dan Goewey.
- Last night, Lyn and I participated in a musical Christmas service at **Agape, Norwich**, where Harold Lefler is Pastor. In addition to congregational singing, Lyn, me, and Pastor Harold, Clint and Pauline Potter (P&W @ **North Fenton BC**) and Calvin Stedge (Pastor @ **Maryland BC**) also participated.
- This past week has seen much improvement in my soreness as I continue to recover from the fall off the ladder. My neighbor tells me I took my backwards flying leap from the third step, rather than the second. I can't imagine what I was thinking. Early in the week I did get in some time of preparation on "The Disciple Making Process", a course I will be teaching at Davis College during the spring semester.
- On Thanksgiving day, Lyn and I enjoyed a great Thanksgiving Day dinner with Wayne and Connie Sibrava (P&W @ **Living Water, Owego**), one of the Sibrava daughters and her family, and Elton & Billie Winskie.
- On Friday past, we drove down to Lancaster, PA with Elton & Billie Winskie, saw "The Miracle of Christmas" at the Sight & Sound Theater, spent the night, and drove home on Saturday – eating between each and all sections of the trip, of course. Harry & Hazel Goodrich were kind enough to see after Holly while we were away.

News From the Churches

- **Stamford Baptist Church** serves as a collection site for Operation Christmas Child. This year they took a total of 246 shoeboxes (150 of their

own plus 96 others) to the drop off center in Johnson City! They plan to start a monthly craft day dedicated to OCC in January-October. Waylen Bray is Pastor.

- **Christ Is King, Syracuse** took Halloween themed gospel tracts, candy, and an invitation to church and distributed them to the trick or theaters in the community. About 500 gospel tracts and invitations went out. They also distributed six Thanksgiving baskets this past week to families in the community that needed food assistance. Pastor Jon Speed took his annual trip to Texas for fund raising and reporting to the supporting churches. Since returning he has taken a part time job.
- **Lyons Falls BC** is pretty much done with the construction. They collected just over 100 shoe boxes for operation Christmas child. They have had several new families come over the last 2 months and God seems to be working in their lives. They have a group getting ready to go to Mexico for a mission trip (Pastor Jeff Ford included) over Palm Sunday week.

1st Sunday – Missionary Story

- Since CNYBA has a mission project in Peru among the Quichua Indians, I thought this story would be appropriate.

There was little in life to predict that Cebrián Bolívar* would one day become a missionary in one of South Asia's most populated cities. He grew up on a farm high in South America's Andes Mountains where his parents and siblings still scratch a living from the soil.

But that was before he met Sam Cordell*.

Sam was a Southern Baptist missionary with a plan. In less than a decade, he trained a cadre of Quichua Indian believers to range the scattered mountain villages of their people, planting churches. And Cebrián was one of the best; he planted 26.

When Sam announced he was leaving South America for Asia, Cebrián asked if he could go with him.

You have always told us to reach out beyond ourselves, he said. Sam agreed. But it won't be easy, he warned.

Life is hard in the high Andes. Farmers earn little more than enough to survive. There is not a lot left over to support someone on the missions field. Cebrián's going came down to a conversation with his father.

"Father," said Cebrián, "if you have ten sheep, how many go to the Lord?"

"One," said his father.

"You have ten children," Cebrián continued. "Shouldn't one go to the Lord?"

In the end, it was a matter of a tithe.

*Names changed.

Have You Heard This One?

Over the years, my husband and I have usually managed to decode the cute but confusing gender signs sometimes put on restaurants' restroom doors (Buoys and Gulls, Laddies and Lassies, etc.), but every so often we get stumped.

Recently my husband Dave wandered off in search of the men's room and found himself confronted by two marked doors. One was labeled "Bronco," and the other was designated "Cactus." Completely baffled, he stopped a restaurant employee passing by. "Excuse me; I need to use the restroom," Dave said. Gesturing toward the doors, he asked, "Which one should I use?"

"Actually, we would prefer you to go there," the employee said, pointing to a door down the hall marked "Men." Bronco and Cactus are meeting rooms.