

## **Hart Beat**

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

**8 December 2013**

### **Hart to Heart**

- If you have not heard, Bonnie Novak, wife of Pastor Karl Novak @ Lakeshore, Cicero and Professor @ Davis College, was taken from the hospital to Lourdes Hospital via ambulance on Friday morning with stroke-like symptoms. After several scans and a variety of tests, it has been determined that she did indeed have a mini-stroke, which has affected her left side. She remains in the hospital, probably until at least tomorrow morning.
- Those who attended the Annual CNYBA Pastors' and Wives' Christmas Luncheon yesterday enjoyed a great time of fellowship and sharing. Many thanks to **Central, Syracuse** for hosting this year's event.
- Lyn and I worshipped this morning with the good folks at **Living Water, Owego** where Wayne Sibrava has been pastor since December 1997. Lyn and I have been members at Living Water since coming to New York in June 1996.
- This evening Lyn and I worshipped with the good folks at **Korean, Vestal**, where I was privileged to speak as part of their 30<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary. The service also included the ordination of four new deacons. Three Korean pastors from the Upstate Korean Baptist Fellowship were also part of the service – including our own CNYBA Pastor Yong Mun Rhee from **River of Joy, Syracuse**. After the service we enjoyed a delicious meal of Korean food.
- Today, I did two things I had never done before. When you get as old as I am, that doesn't happen very often. First, just as I got to the hospital to visit Bonnie Novak on the way to the Korean service, I realized that I had forgotten to bring my notes. I let Lyn visit while I hot footed it back home to pick up my notes. And then, during the meal after service I ate the entire meal using only chop sticks. Pastors Rhee, Song, and Do have been trying to teach me how to do that for years.
- One of the joys of my ministry is to visit with and try to encourage pastors. I try to this in person as often as possible, but often do so via phone. Please join me in praying for the pastors of CNYBA. They are human beings just

like you, who struggle from time to time with finances, emotions, time management, discouragement, etc. , etc. These are some of God's choice servants. I believe it is God's plan to lead His people through these men whom he has gifted as pastor/ teachers. Pray for your pastor and for the other pastors of CNYBA.

### **News From the Churches**

- **Good News, Waverly** reports that things are going well. They set apart two deacons last week and they plan a Christmas Fellowship Luncheon after services on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. John Talada is Pastor.
- **Emory Chapel, Waverly** had a Fellowship Meal after church today. They plan a Christmas Sing-A-Long service at 5 Pm on December 15<sup>th</sup> and a Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve @ 6 PM. Gary Culver is Pastor.
- **West Hill, Ithaca** is involved in ministering to the homeless in Ithaca – including doing a meal in the Jungle (where many homeless in Ithaca live) once a month and joining with another Christian group in the area to build small cabins for homeless men. Bill Lower is Pastor.

### **2nd Sunday – Baptist History**

#### **Baptists New and Old**

The story of Baptist beginnings forms a paradox. On one hand, Baptists are deeply convinced that theirs is a Bible faith, rooted in the message of Jesus Christ and the apostles. To that extent, Baptists can be called a New Testament church.

On the other hand, the historical evidence clearly states that Baptists originated, as a distinct denomination, in the early seventeenth century. How does one harmonize the sense of continuity from Bible times with the factual reality of more recent beginnings?

Some have so emphasized the sense of continuity from Bible times that they find it difficult to face up to historical facts about Baptist origins. Some have even erected elaborate schemes, or “Trails of Blood,” seeking to trace Baptists through all the centuries from Christ to the present. These theories are based upon assumptions, unreliable or nonexistent historical data, or faulty interpretation of Jesus' promise that the gates of death should never prevail

against his church. A Baptist today can have a real sense of identification with the teachings of Christ without trying to prove historical succession.

Other Baptists, however, may so emphasize the recent origin of Baptists that they lose the sense of continuity in faith and practice from Jesus himself. The earliest Baptists recovered and proclaimed anew the old faith that has come down the centuries from the Lord and his apostles. The Baptist denomination dates from the seventeenth century; the Baptist faith, we believe, dates from the first century.

### **Have You Heard This One?**

A little boy forgot his lines in a Sunday School presentation.

His mother, sitting in the front row to prompt him, gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it didn't help. Her son's memory was blank.

Finally she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the light of the world."

The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud, clear voice said, "My mother is the light of the world."