

Hart Beat

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

28 July 2013

➡ Hart to Heart

✚ Over the last several weeks I have been listing characteristics I think should be cultivated in the life of a person who wishes to be a disciple of Christ. I have mentioned obedience, integrity, authenticity, and stewardship. To that list I would add modeling. Old-timers used to say, “Discipleship is caught more than taught.” I think they were on to something. It’s akin to the adage, “Practice what you preach.” My dad used to say, “Your actions speak so loud, I can’t hear what you’re saying.” As I read the Scripture, the purpose of every church should be to make disciples. If we are going to lead others to be followers of Christ, we must **show them** the way. As we point out Scripture about discipleship to others, it will be much more effective if they are seeing those Scriptures modeled in our lives.

✚ Lyn and I worshipped this morning with the good folks at Emmanuel, Cortland, where Jim Hundley has been pastor since April 1991.

For the second week in a row our initial plans about where to worship were changed in mid-stream, so to speak. Last week we had the wrong date for the Nepali, Syracuse in an outdoor worship/baptismal service and wound up at River of Joy, Syracuse. Today we were headed to Gillie Lake for the Nepali outdoor service when we found ourselves in a thunder storm as we passed Cortland. Checking the weather channel forecast and finding thunder storms predicted for all day, we doubled back and opted for the dry confines of Emmanuel, Cortland.

Today, Associate Pastor, Andy Smith, preached at Emmanuel. And you probably won’t believe it, but unbeknown to us, they were having their annual church-wide chicken bar-be-que after church. The guys cooking were soaked, but the chicken was just fine. Yes, of course we stayed.

✚ On Friday past I transported a trailer load of tables from Emmanuel, Cortland to the Emmanuel Conference and Campground at Maryland. In the process I enjoyed a conversation with a potential church planter over lunch. I’ll be meeting with another such potential church planter on Monday, August 5. Please join me in praying that as the Lord of the Harvest sends workers into the vineyard we will be faithful to do all we can to assist them.

- ✚ Earlier in the week I was privileged to transport one of our CNYBA tents from **Cornerstone, Endicott** to **Central, Syracuse**. On that same trip I was able to transport some of our CNYBA chairs from **Living Water, Owego** to **River Edge, Baldwinsville**. The Lord has blessed our association with resources and our churches are using them. These resources are stored (when not in circulation) in the pole barn we built on the property of **North Fenton BC**. We need to finish the pole barn. Recently we had professionals re-install the garage door which was donated to us by **Clyde BC**. Now we need to complete the installation of the board and bat siding. Most of the boards are on, but we need to finish nailing up the boards and installing the bats. To that end, our annual In-Association Mission Trip will be to finish this project on August 15-17. Plan to bring a tent, an RV, or camp out in the church building for any or all these three days. We'll provide lunch each day. You'll be on your own for breakfast and dinner.
- ✚ Pastor Karl Novak (**Lakeshore, Cicero**) has access to several boxes of medical supplies in their original sterile packaging. These supplies consist of: colostomy bags, catheters, insertion kits, abdominal binders, and possibly some additional items. If you, or someone you know, can use these supplies, call Pastor Karl Novak at 315-572-1502.
- ✚ Lyn and I will be leading a Senior Adult event at **West Hill, Ithaca** on Saturday, August 3rd from 11:00 AM– 1:30 PM. We'll have group singing, a worship service, special music, food, and fellowship. Pastor Bill Lower invites any and all senior adults who might like to attend.
- ✚ I'll be going back to **Crosspoint, Whitesboro** on Tuesday – Friday of this week to help with disaster relief. We can still use volunteers. If you would like to help give me a call.

➡ **News From the Churches**

- ✚ Church Planter/Pastor Allan Covington (**River Edge, Baldwinsville**) is in Dallas, Texas attending a conference sponsored by the North American Mission Board of the SBC, along with pastors, leaders and church planters from all over North America. In his absence this morning, Kevin Wilcken lead worship and then they joined the morning sermon at North Point Church via satellite.
- ✚ **Good News, Waverly** had a yard sale yesterday to raise money for the Martin's mission to Peru. They gave out New Testaments during the sale as

a form of outreach. They plan to do it again next Saturday. Today they held their annual outdoor worship meeting at Waverly Glen Park. Pastor, John Talada reports. "We have been through a rough season in the last two months but things are looking better now. We give the Lord the praise!"

✚ **Agape, Norwich** will host a concert by John & Doty Martin on Sunday August 4 at 6PM. Pastor Harold Lefler reports, "We will cut our church insurance premiums in half while keeping the same coverage by switching to the Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company in August. The agent's name is Clay Lindner and his phone numbers are: 800-326-7200 (office) and 315-414-8631 (cell). I believe his office is in Syracuse."

✚ **West Hill, Ithaca** (Bill Lower, Pastor) had VBS this past week. The group from Elders Baptist Church from MD who helped build the church building several years ago came up and helped with VBS. They had a total of 58 children attend (last year 22). They had Family Night the last night of VBS with a fair theme. They had cotton candy, snow cones and a large bounce house for the kids to enjoy. They had two families attend for the first time today whose children were involved in VBS.

On Thursday the group also did a mission project for a lady in the church who was recently widowed and who had also recently lost her home to fire. The group helped clean up what was left of the house and put it all in a dumpster. This widow cried when she saw all that the group had accomplished.

➡ **This Week in Preview**

- ✚ Tues (30th) – ANV Jeff & Debbie O'Brien (P&W @ Northside, Liverpool)
- ✚ Wed (31st) – BD Lori Kreydatus (PW # Eternal Life, Auburn)
- ✚ Thurs (1st) – ANV Dan & Jennifer Studt (P&W @ Northside, Liverpool)
- ✚ Fri (2nd) – 70th ANV Roger & Mary Knapton (P&W @ Clyde BC)
- ✚ Sat (3rd) – BD Pam Hundley (PW @ Emmanuel, Cortland)
- ✚ Sat (3rd) – 70th ANV Celebration for Roger & Mary Knapton @ Clyde BC

➡ **4th Sunday – The Gospel According to Holly**

- Most of you know that Holly has been sick – very sick. I'm happy to report that she is doing much better. We're hopeful that we'll have her around for a while longer. She brings lots of joy into our lives.

Chapter five of my evolving book (inspired by my wife's Pomeranian puppy) "The Gospel According to Holly" is entitled ***Trying to Drive When You***

Can't See Over the Wheel. Holly likes to lay in my lap while I'm driving. Last summer while we were out on Big Turtle Lake (Bemidji, MN) on the pontoon boat, Holly decided she wanted to drive. My wife took a picture of her with her back feet on my leg and her front feet on the steering wheel. She's done that one other time in the truck. Now, she has no idea what she's doing. She has no idea where we're going. She can't even see over the wheel, for goodness sakes! She may look like she's driving and maybe even feel like she's driving, but she's really not driving. Can you imagine the headlines if she ever got smart enough to take the truck or the boat out by herself? I'm reminded that we Christians, like Holly, are really not driving. It may look like we're driving and we may feel like we're driving, but God is really driving. From God's perspective, we don't know what we're doing. We have no idea where we're going. We can't even see over the steering wheel of life. Let's never get the idea that we can take it out by ourselves. It'd be disaster waiting to happen.

➡ **Have You Heard This One?**

The preacher's five year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why.

'Well, Honey,' he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. 'I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon.'

'How come He doesn't answer it?' she asked.