

## Hart Beat

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

25 August 2013

### ▶ Hart to Heart

- ✚ The Paul & Ava James Week of Prayer for BCNY Missions and the Special Offering for selected ministry needs is September 1-8.
- ✚ Yesterday we had a very successful Leadership Forum led by Dr. Tom Fillinger, Director of IgniteUS Ministries from Cullman, Alabama. We had 25 in attendance from 8 congregations. Those in attendance were challenged with some irrefutable facts about the decline of the church in America and introduced to a ministry renewal process that is Strategic, Intentional, and Integrated designed to keep participating pastors and congregations from following the downward trends reflected in almost every study done on the effectiveness of the church today.
- ✚ Lyn and I worshipped today with the good folks at Lakeshore, Cicero as part of our week-end activity as chauffeur for Dr. Tom Fillinger, who preached at Lakeshore this morning.
- ✚ After worship this morning, Lyn and I enjoyed a time of fellowship with Dr. Fillinger, who joined us for my birthday lunch at one of my favorite eating establishments, Spaghetti Warehouse, before we dropped him off at the airport. I took a load of insulin and enjoyed myself.
- ✚ Here's an email from Dr. Rick Martin, our missionary to Peru.

Donna and I hope this short email finds you well in every way!

Two others and I will meet together in Peru next week to work with a national pastor in training teams from his church and his group of churches in leading adult Bible Studies that result in churches. We are on the front end of this training ministry, so we ask you to pray for wisdom for us as we progress in this venture.

Donna and I praise the Lord that more people have decided to support us financially in moving to and staying in Peru. Things are looking good to make the big move in September of 2014.

We took Micah to Virginia Tech last Thursday as he begins his second year there. Elizabeth is excited to play volleyball for her high school again. Hannah begins her last semester at Davis college in New York before she graduates. She and her husband, Kevin Kelly, co-teach/lead the youth ministry for their church. We are proud of them all.

As we all seek to pray, please remember to pray His will be done in the lives of the Martin and Kelly family.

Blessings to all!

Rick (& Donna)

## ► **News From the Churches**

✚ Pastor Jon Speed (**Christ Is King, Syracuse**) reports,

- Robert Gray, an evangelist who is sent out by Christ is King Baptist, was able to lead a man to Christ in Ottawa, Ontario on a cross-Canada tour he is doing this summer. The man died just a few weeks later.
- We held a conference in Portland, ME last weekend called “The Gospel for New England”. We had about 80 people there from several different churches who were challenged on the teachings of justification, regeneration, sanctification, faith, propitiation, evangelism, and reconciliation. A highlight of the conference came Saturday night when about half of the attendees hit the streets in downtown Portland to hand out tracts, do one-to-ones, and three people open-air preached for the first time. The conference audios are available for free here: <http://tinyurl.com/mkzszjb>.
- Christ is King Baptist will hold special meetings with Justin Peters ([www.justinpeters.org](http://www.justinpeters.org)). Justin’s ministry specializes in exposing the heretical teachings of the Word of Faith movement. More details TBA, but at this point it looks like Justin will be here the week of September 15th.

## ► **This Week in Preview**

- ✚ Today (25<sup>th</sup>) - BD Ed Hart (DOM for CNYBA)
- ✚ Mon (26<sup>th</sup>) -BCNY Admin Team Meeting
- ✚ Sat (31<sup>st</sup>) – NE Cluster Group Pastors’ Breakfast

## ► **4th Sunday – The Gospel According to Holly** (reprint)

Chapter six of my evolving book (inspired by my wife's Pomeranian puppy) "The Gospel According to Holly" is entitled **Going Around in Circles**. I don't know if it's really true that Holly has more energy and any two dogs I have ever

seen, or if it's that I have so much less energy that it just seems like she has more energy than two dogs ought to have. But one of the things that makes me laugh about Holly is to watch her as she goes around and around in circles. This would probably be funny to me even if she just made two or three circles. But Holly does this all the time - even while she's trying to stay ahead of me on the way to the door for instance. About the first thing she does when she gets outside is to run around and around in circles all over the yard. I'm half expecting that one of these days she'll be so dizzy she won't be able to walk a straight line back to the door. Like Holly, we often find ourselves going around in circles. We may even make a little progress forward while we're going around in circles. But, we could probably attain our goals faster if we charted a course directly toward them, rather than going around in circles. We need to ask the Lord to help us focus

► **Have You Heard This One?**

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, 'We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a Power higher than Kings and Queens. Can anybody tell me what it is?'

One child blurted out, 'Aces!'