

## Hart Beat

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

**22 September 2013**

### ● Hart to Heart

- ✚ I still can't believe the number of people who came to help me celebrate 50 years in the ministry. I am still opening cards and letters from those who attended and from those who could not attend. The sheer volume of them is beyond my wildest imagination – and the fact that some contain money, checks, or gift cards is a total shock to me. The kind words of remembrance and reflection will be a blessing to my heart for the remainder of my life. I'm planning to finish personally opening and reading each and every one this week.
  
- ✚ Items on the Hart Beat agenda this past week included:
  - A couple of doctors' appointments
    - Good report from the retina specialist
  - A morning at Davis College with Terry Robinson attending chapel and talking with students about CNYBA, BCNY, and SBC.
  - A Perspectives class @ Davis College
  - A BCNY Strategic Implementation Team meeting
  - Email, texts, and phone consultations with several CNYBA pastors on a variety of subjects
  - Sermon Preparation
  - Office work
  
- ✚ Lyn and I worshipped again today with the good folks at **Living Water, Owego**, where I was privileged to preach in the absence of Pastor Wayne Sibrava, who is on a short vacation to California with his wife.
  
- ✚ This afternoon we drove over to Amherst, NY (Buffalo area) and attended the pre-session of the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Baptist Convention of New York. We'll be in session until Tuesday at noon.
  
- ✚ Please lift me up in prayer tomorrow when I will be moderating very important business sessions of the convention and tomorrow evening when I will be delivering the President's Message to the convention.

### ● News From the Churches

✚ **Three Pines, Doraville** had a community hayride yesterday, followed by refreshments and a bonfire at a members home. Next Saturday (9/28) they will host Don Sunshine and his “Make a Difference” program from 9am-2pm. This will be a free event but seating is limited and tickets are required to reserve a seat. (day care and lunch will be provided). Anyone interested in attending should contact Pastor Mike Brown ([pastormikeSBC@yahoo.com](mailto:pastormikeSBC@yahoo.com)) ASAP. Tickets will be first come first serve until they are gone.

✚ **Northside, Liverpool** (Bruce Aubrey, Pastor) plans the following:

- Dress a Girl Around the World Ministry – this is a ministry to provide dresses for girls who are at risk for being exploited through human trafficking. Making simple pillow case dresses can be a blessing to girls around the world.
- Today, in one of their Sunday School classes, they began a study “Slaying the Giants in Your Life” by Dr. David Jeremiah. This study will deal with “giants” such as fear, loneliness and worry as well as many others, and specific scripture we can use to “slay” them.
- Children’s Christmas Choir practice begins September 29<sup>th</sup>

✚ **Stamford BC** (Waylen Bray, Pastor) plans the following:

- Oct 11: Family Movie Night, “Taken by Grace”
- Oct 14: Columbus Day Luncheon
- Oct 15: Blood Drive at our building

✚ **West Hill, Ithaca** (Bill Lower, Pastor) plans the following:

- Sept 28: Senior Saints Card & Cookie Event
- Oct 6: Men’s Iron Sharpens Iron Conference - Rochester

## ● **This Week in Preview**

- ✚ 22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> BCNY Annual Conference
- ✚ 24<sup>th</sup> BD Darlene Stedje (PW @ Maryland BC)
- ✚ 25<sup>th</sup> ANV David & Lori Kreydatus (P&W @ Eternal Life, Auburn)
- ✚ 25<sup>th</sup> BD Connie Sibrava (PW @ Living Water, Owego)
- ✚ 28<sup>th</sup> BD Dave Schneider (AP @ Summit, Cazenovia)

## ● **Update from Dr. Rick and Donna Martin – our missionaries to Peru**

Prayer Warrior,

Here is a short update on the Peru venture for Christ so your prayers on our behalf would be informed.

Wayne Sibrava (pastor of our sending church) and I just got back from a nine day venture to Peru. Our team visited three South American Mission (SAM) missionaries in Puerto Supe for mutual encouragement in the Lord. We were treated like royalty by them. Little did we know we would be eating the unique marine life we had seen a couple of hours before while fellowshiping along the rocky coastline. You could pray for wisdom and renewed strength for the Cubas' (Casar and Grace) and Shelly Dobosy as they share the Word through their respective sewing and English teaching ministries.

In Ica we gave greetings from The Central New York Baptist Association and SAM. We shared from the Word on planting churches to about eighty people from four churches across Southern Peru. On Sunday we celebrated the anniversary of Pastor Wilfredo's church with them. Two men were baptized. And on Monday another national pastor from Ica joined the team as we arrived for the last two days of a week long festival of the saints at which there was much drunkenness. Calling on the wisdom only He can provide, we connected with the people and held a Bible Study the second day at which five attended from the community including Ada who accepted Christ during our last visit.

There is the need for more "boots on the ground." At present there is still no one going regularly to the mountain villages we are trying to reach for Christ to share the Word so churches may be established. This must change.

Our translator, Phil Chapman, requests your prayers. He is a member of my previous church family, Freedom Fellowship, who has moved to Peru. He requests your prayer for God's wisdom as he makes fresh plans for his life.

Donna and I are taking this last year in the States to raise financial support, learn Spanish, work, and settle Elizabeth into Virginia Commonwealth University.

Blessings to You!

Rick (& Donna)

## ● 4th Sunday – The Gospel According to Holly - reprint

Chapter seven of my evolving book (inspired by my wife's Pomeranian puppy) "The Gospel According to Holly" is entitled ***Digging Up Hidden Goodies***. Holly loves to hide things - especially bones, doggie treats, and pieces of cheese. She does this all over the house, but also outside. When she thinks I'm not looking, she'll go outside and dig up a "treat" and chew on it for a while. What she doesn't know is that I'm standing off to one side of the sliding glass doors and can see everything she does. This is another reason I think Holly must be a Christian dog. We Christians hide things from God - or we think we do. We put a lot of stuff on the alter, but not everything. And when we think He's not looking, we dig up a "goodie" and chew on it for a while. What we forget is that God is watching all the while. He sees all we do - or don't do. He knows ALL ABOUT our "hidden sins" and our occasional digression. It seems to me that Holly would be better off staying close to me and get "fresh" stuff to chew on rather than the dirty, stale morsels she's hidden away. God will provide "fresh" blessings and better tasting experiences if we just stay close to Him.

## ● Have You Heard This One?

As a new bride, Aunt Edna moved into the small home on her husband's ranch near Snowflake. She put a shoe box on a shelf in her closet and asked her husband never to touch it.

For fifty years Uncle Jack left the box alone, until Aunt Edna was old and dying. One day when he was putting their affairs in order, he found the box again and thought it might hold something important.

Opening it, he found two doilies and \$82,500 in cash. He took the box to her and asked about the contents. "My mother gave me that box the day we married," she explained.

"She told me to make a doily to help ease my frustrations every time I got mad at you."

Uncle Jack was very touched that in 50 years she'd only been mad at him twice.

"What's the \$82,500 for?" he asked.

"Oh, that's the money I made selling the doilies."