

Hart Beat

(An E-update from Ed Hart to CNYBA Pastors and Key Leaders)

14 July 2013

➡ Hart to Heart

- ✚ As I mentioned last week, I have been contemplating what characteristics I would say needed to be cultivated to be a true disciple of Christ. I think being real would rate way up on my list. Having lived in various parts of the country, I have observed that what people everywhere are looking for is Christians who are real people. By real I mean not phony. The Arkansas phraseology I grew up with would call it “putting on the dog”. We don’t need to pretend to be “above it all”, not affected by temptation, having no problems, etc. Real people have problems and struggles. People are looking for examples of people who have the strength and tranquility to deal with the real problems of life. Being a disciple of Christ is not about acting like a Christian. It’s about so fully accepting and assimilating the precepts of Christ that, like the early followers of Christ at Antioch, we are called Christians by others observing us. This happens when Christianity becomes who we are, not what we are pretending to be.
- ✚ Lyn and I worshipped this morning with the good folks at **Emory Chapel, Waverly**, where I was privileged to preach in one of their summer monthly outdoor services at Round Top Park in the absence of Pastor Gary Culver, and wife Margaret, who were attending to family matters in Texas. And yes, afterward we enjoyed a church wide picnic.
- ✚ I spent the better part of this past week working with the Disaster Relief effort in the Herkimer area. This is in the extreme eastern regions of our associational t regions of our associational territory. Disaster Relief volunteers from Ohio and Virginia have joined BCNY volunteers in response to the flooding. The Incident Command Center is set up at **Crosspoint, Whitesboro**, where Pastor Sam Macri and his folks have been very gracious in hosting the volunteers. I plan to be back over there Monday or Tuesday of next week. We always need volunteers, so if you can help please do.

➡ News From the Churches

- ✚ **Newark Baptist Fellowship Church** has Sunday night services at the Wayne County Nursing Home. Last Sunday evening 5 nursing home residents made public professions of faith! John DePugh is Pastor.

✚ Seven members of Lakeshore, Cicero distributed 80 New Testaments yesterday. This morning they had 99 in worship. Karl Novak is Pastor.

➡ 2nd Sunday – Baptist Heritage

(an excerpt from Baptist Beginnings by Leon McBeth)

English Baptists recovered the practice of believer's baptism in two steps. By 1608/09, the General Baptists insisted that baptism was for believers only, and by 1638 the Particular Baptists reached the same conclusion. At first, English Baptists baptized by sprinkling or pouring. Immersion came a few years later. Some of the General Baptists may have immersed as early as 1614, but if so it was not yet customary. Many historians do not recognize them as Baptists before immersion.

By 1640, there were at least two Particular Baptist churches, and both became convinced that baptism should be by immersion. Old church records state: *1640. 3rd Mo: The Church became two by mutuall consent just half being with Mr. P. Barebone, & ye other halfe with Mr. H. Jessey. Mr. Richd Blunt with him being convinced of Baptism yt also it ought to be by dipping in ye Body into Ye Water, resembling Burial and riseing again.*

Apparently, members of the Barebone congregation reached this conclusion from a study of the New Testament. Immersion was a new practice, for their old records speak of "none having then so practiced it in England to professed Believers." These two congregations reinstated immersion in different ways. One church sent Richard Blunt to Holland to confer with a group of Mennonites, who practiced immersion. Possibly, he received immersion from them and returned to immerse others of the congregation. The other church simply began to immerse without alluding to historical precedent. "Where there is a beginning," the pastor said, "some must be first." The First London Confession of Particular Baptists, adopted in 1644, says of baptism, "The way and manner of the dispensing of this Ordinance the Scripture holds out to be dipping or plunging the whole body under the water." The General Baptists were probably practicing immersion by 1650, but their first confession specifically calling for baptism by immersion only appeared in 1660.

➡ Have You Heard This One?

"Grandpa, I'm really proud of you," said the modish young lady.

"What's to be proud of?" asked the old man.

The young lady replied, "I noticed that when you sneeze, you've learned to put your hand in front of your mouth."

"Of course," explained Grandpa.

"How else can I catch my teeth???"