

Hart Beat

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

5 January 2014

➡ **Hart to Heart**

- Well, since the last issue of HART BEAT last year ended and a new year has begun. It's nearly unbelievable that we are now in 2014. I am praising the Lord for the opportunity to serve Him and the churches of CNYBA. If the Lord is willing, before the year changes again I will pass 70 years of age. I feel a little like Caleb in Joshua 14:11.
- Lyn and I are enjoying the beauty of winter. It is a joy to sit by the fire and look out at the snow covered yard with a gazillion birds feeding at our four feeders. They say beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Well, in our eyes we are privileged to live in a beautiful place. It's beautiful in every season. We marvel at God's creation.
- Lyn and I worshipped this morning with the good folks at **Good News, Waverly** where John Talada has been pastor since the church began in August 2009. After church we had a nice time of fellowship with Pastor John And Ginger over lunch.

➡ **News From the Churches**

- **Christ Is King, Syracuse** did their annual Christmas gift outreach at the local shopping plaza. 200 gospel centered gifts were distributed to holiday shoppers and employees at local businesses. Included were "The Biggest Question" DVD, a gospel tract, and church information. They also helped a family on the Onondaga Indian reservation with Christmas gifts for their four children, as well as another household with food assistance for a Christmas dinner. One of their members is spending the month of January in Jamaica for the fifth consecutive year preaching the gospel on the streets, with the hope of eventually seeing a church planted there. Jon Speed is Pastor.
- Brandon Owen, Church Planter/Pastor @ **Missio University, Syracuse** writes

“As the year comes to an end we wanted to express our deepest gratitude for all your love, support and prayers this year. We look forward to seeing what God has planned for 2014.

Speaking of plans...as many of you know, we are foster parents for the county. This year we got a call on Christmas Eve for two little girls! We have been praying for the last few months on the possibility of taking in more kids since Devin has gone home. Our kids also have been praying with us. So when we got the call, we were ready. Please be in prayer for Alondra (3, turning 4 next month) and Kaira (2) and the rest of our family as we continue to partner with God representing gospel transforming community to children and families. Everyone is adjusting well and are excited to have a full house!”

- **Emory Chapel, Waverly** plans a “Take Down the Christmas Decorations” party on Jan 6, a fellowship meal on Jan 12, the Lord’s Supper on Jan 19, and business meeting on Jan 26 at 5 PM. Gary Culver is Pastor.
- **Nepali, Syracuse** had an all-night service on New Years’ eve to give thanks for God’s blessings and pray for opportunity to reach more lost people with the gospel. Bhim Biswa is Pastor.

➡ **Last Week in Review**

- I was privileged to talk with a pastor this week about constitution and by-laws. I am always happy to share samples and discuss pros and cons on various issues
- One of CNYBA pastors has indicated that he would like to sit down monthly to discuss issues and direction. Of course, I am happy to do this. Pray for all our pastors as they seek God’s wisdom and direction for their ministries.
- I spoke with a layman from one of our CNYBA churches regarding a possible church plant. Please join me in praying that the Lord of the Harvest will call more people from our churches into church planting.

➡ **This Week in Preview**

- 6th BD Eddie Hatcher – Associate Pastor @ Northside, Liverpool
- 7th CNYBA Leadership Team Meeting
- 8th BD Bill Deckert – Pastor @ Freedom Fellowship, Binghamton

➡ **1st Sunday – Missionary Story**

SUMTER, S.C. -- At first chaplain Charlie Clanton found it difficult to look at the severely burned young soldier lying on an Army gurney on one side of a makeshift medical evacuation station in Vietnam. His almost black face had been charred beyond recognition by a Viet Cong grenade launcher attack.

As Clanton-a Southern Baptist chaplain during the Vietnam War-walked to the gurney and bumped it, the young soldier opened his eyes and looked back at him.

"Sir, you were right the other night," the soldier told Clanton.

"Right about what?" asked Clanton, not sure which worship service the young man had attended. Later he realized it had been a service two weeks earlier when he had taught on Psalm 23 in a quickly assembled mess hall worship service.

"The other night when you told us about 'the valley of the shadow of death,' I was there tonight, sir," the young man said. "And God kept me going."

Later that night the young man died on a helicopter on his way to the hospital.

"That statement to me, a young minister-'what you're telling me is right, what God said He would do He did, He kept me going that night'-that really helped me see that my ministry [in the Vietnam War] was worthwhile," Clanton said.

Clanton would later win a Silver Star for his service in Vietnam after unofficially leading American troops through hostile territory and back to base camp after an injury to a commanding officer.

Clanton was one of an estimated 300 Southern Baptist chaplains in a 10-year period who served in the Vietnam War. Southern Baptist chaplains play a key role in providing spiritual guidance and support for our American soldiers. The North American Mission Board serves as the endorsing entity for Southern Baptist chaplains in both military and civilian roles.

➡ **Have You Heard This One?**

A man took his son fishing one day. After a few hours in the boat with not much to do, the son started asking his father some questions.

"How does the boat float?" he asked.

The man thought about the question for a moment, then said, "I don't really know, son."

"Well, how do fish breath underwater?"

The man scratched his head. "I guess I don't know the answer to that one either."

"Why is the sky blue?" the boy persisted.

The father replied, "I really don't know, son."

The boy started to worry that his father was getting upset at all the questions. "Do you mind me asking questions, Dad?"

His father immediately reassured him. "No, of course not, son! If you don't ask questions, you'll never learn anything!"