

## Hart Beat

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

23 February 2014

### ➡ Hart to Heart

- I have posted missionary newsletters to our web site this week. Read about the work of Brian & Mandy Davis (Macedonia) and Rick & Donna Martin (Peru) and Brandon & Alaina Owen (Syracuse) on the CNYBA web site. It's under the Info Center tab > Missionary Reports.
- Don't forget the "Keep the Fire Burning Leaders' Conference" at **Northside, Liverpool** coming up March 2-4.
- Once in a while you have an experience that turns out to be more of a blessing than you expected. This week I had such an experience. I met with a man whom I had met several years ago in passing. Over lunch I discovered a kindred spirit. Praise the Lord for unexpected blessings!
- Yesterday I enjoyed a visit with a potential church planter and his wife and son. Be in prayer as we seek to support those whom God is calling.
- Earlier this week I was privileged to talk with a couple of pastors about future ministry. Pray with me that God's perfect will is revealed in due time.
- Several times this past week I have had "out of the blue" phone conversations and face-to-face visits with pastors (inside and outside CNYBA) who need a word of encouragement and/or an ear to hear their burden. I'm somehow always amazed when this happens, but am blessed beyond measure when I can be an encouragement to a preacher of the Word of God – pastors in particular. They have awesome responsibility and often little to no recognition. Stop right now and pray for your pastor.
- Please join me in praying for two of our churches that are in various stages of Pastor Search – **Inlet Community Church** and **Grace, Rome**.
- Lyn and I worshipped today with the good folks at **Nepali, Syracuse**, where Bhim Biswa has been pastor since the church was established in September 2009. I was impressed with the size of the congregation. I estimated between 150 and 200. Today, a young man preached as part of the rotation system Pastor Bhim has established where one of the five small group leaders preach every other week. His plan is to raise up men from

within the congregation who have experience in all aspects of the church with a view toward multiplication. Amen!

- On the way to Syracuse early this morning, just as we were about to get onto I-81 north, we hit a pothole and something about the car's exhaust system broke. I think the muffler was dragging. All the way to church and all the way home it sounded like what you hear on a small airplane – except like we were riding outside. Between the sound and the sunlight flashing through the trees like a strobe light, Lyn and I both got home with a giant headache. We took the car straight to the repair shop and left it for them to fix tomorrow.

### ➡ **News From the Churches**

- **Missio University, Syracuse** is planning to reproduce their Missional Community (Bible Study Group). They have identified a nearby neighborhood as the target for this new missional community. They have started a new evangelistic outreach group at the Presidential Plaza in the Jefferson Towers. This past week they had 7 in this group. In addition, they are working with the PTO and the principal of a neighborhood elementary school to see how they might serve them. CNYBA is supporting this effort in our 2014 budget. Read their most recent newsletter on our CNYBA web site > Info Center > Missionary Reports. Brandon Owen in the church planter/pastor.
- **Vietnamese, Utica** continues to focus on training members in the establishment of Vietnamese community. Pastor Liem Do spoke to a large gathering of the Vietnamese community at the Lunar New Year Celebration. They already have a significant Cambodian population attending their services with translation from Vietnamese to Cambodian. They are now also working with the Burmese community – seeking some way to impact that community for Christ.

### ➡ **This Week in Preview**

24<sup>th</sup> – Teach a class @ Davis college  
25<sup>th</sup> – Meet with Pastors about possible church plant  
26<sup>th</sup> – Discipleship Class @ West Hill, Ithaca  
27<sup>th</sup> – ANV Bernie & Kristen Elliott (Assoc. P&W @ Missio, Syracuse)  
28<sup>th</sup> – Teach a class @ Davis College  
1<sup>st</sup> – BD Margaret Culver (PW @ Emory Chapel, Waverly)

### ➡ **March Ministry Anniversaries**

- Clint Potter – North Fenton BC since March 1999
- Ariel Ruiz – Nueva Esperanza, Syracuse sine March 1999

➡ **4th Sunday – The Gospel According to Holly** (re-run from 28 May 2005)

Chapter twelve of my evolving book (inspired by my wife's Pomeranian puppy) "The Gospel According to Holly" is entitled **Sometimes We Just Need to Cuddle**. Sometimes when I'm in the office working Holly will come in and does a low growl, which being interpreted means, "I need to go outside". But sometimes she comes over and paws my leg. In dogese, this means I want to be held. If I'm really busy I try to pacify her by patting her on the head and going on about my business. Sometimes that's enough, but more often than not she isn't satisfied until I pick her up. When I do, she often cuddles down and takes a nap. She doesn't need food, water, or to be let outside. She just needs to cuddle. Often we go to the Master asking to be let out of a situation or assignment, to get spiritual food and sustenance, etc., but sometimes we just need to cuddle. We would feel a lot more satisfied and contented in our spiritual life if we would spend some "quality time" with the Lord – not to get something, or even to prepare something – but just to be close to Him. It's so restful.

➡ **Have You Heard This One?**

He was not well-educated and rather rough and crude around the edges, but he was recently converted and now on fire for the Lord.

He was constantly pestering the pastor to give him some work that would be helpful to the church. Finally the pastor agreed. He gave the man a list of ten people who hadn't been in church for years nor made any financial contribution. Some of these were quite prominent in the community.

The pastor said, "What I want you to do is get these people back to church, however you can. You can use church stationery if you want, but get these people back to church."

Three weeks later the pastor got an envelope in the mail from a prominent doctor whose name had been on the list, along with a check for \$1,000 and a note that read, "Dear Pastor, Please excuse my inactivity at church. I really have no excuse. Accept this check as a partial contribution for all the

Sundays I've missed, and be assured I will never, by choice, miss worship again.

Sincerely, J. B. Jones, M.D.

P.S. - Will you kindly tell your secretary that there is only one "t" in dirty and no "c" in skunk?"