

THE ECHO of Central New York Baptist Association
(Excerpts from **HART BEAT**, a weekly E-update for CNYBA Pastors and Key Leaders)

January 2012

From HART BEAT – 1 January 2012

- Lyn and I worshipped with the folks at **Freedom Fellowship** today, where I was privileged to participate in the initial service with new pastor, Bill Deckard. Pastor Bill becomes the third pastor of the mission sponsored by **North Fenton BC**, which has met (and will apparently continue to meet) in the 38 Carroll Street property formerly owned by CNYBA. The property has been given to Davis College. Pastor Bill brought a wonderful, clear, and substantial message from 2 Tim 3:16-17 about the Word of God being the foundation of all we believe, do, and strive to become. Welcome, pastor Bill and Katie. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship. We will asking the Father to continue to bless the outreach in the inner city of Binghamton.

I was blessed today, not only by the service, but by the presence of Bill Aten, who was part of the original Bible Study Bill Turner and I started at 99 Court Street many years ago. I believe I baptized Bill in those early days and today Mark, a man Bill influenced to accept Christ, was part of the praise team. Lives are being touched. People are being changed. May their tribe increase!

- If you've been following Lyn on Facebook, you know that I have been a bit under the weather with a winter cold. It started on Christmas Day and continues even as we speak. It was a little tough driving back from Florida, but we took an extra day, let Lyn drive some, and made it home just fine. We enjoyed a great time with family we had not seen in some years. I played golf on the day after Christmas with my nephew. The temperature was in the 80's! With the cold coming on, the sand and water in strategic spots on the course, and my ineptness, I didn't do as well as I wanted, but enjoyed myself just the same.
- Today begins a new chapter in the history of CNYBA. We have become self-sustaining = with no outside funding. My tenure with NAMB, as well as that of Rick Martin, has ended. Rick is moving on to become our missionary to Peru and I will continue on as Director of Missions on a half-time basis. Please don't hesitate to call when you need help. It's my privilege to serve you. Whenever you call, it'll be the half time I'm on duty.
- During the holidays I received emails from Jon Speed (Church Planter in Syracuse), Becky Hill (IMB Journeyman Missionary in Senegal), and Rick Martin (our new missionary to Peru) with updates on their various ministries. I have posted all of them on our web site under the Information Tab/Missions Reports. Go to www.cnyba.org and read what the Lord is doing with our missionaries.

- **Crosspoint, Whitesboro** plans their 4th annual Winter Potluck Dinner family event – a Sledding Party on Feb 12th. Sam Macri is Pastor
- **Northside, Liverpool** baptized 5 last Sunday. They will have a child dedication service on the week-end of Feb 11th & 12th. They will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Sat, Jan 14th. The Half Notes Children's Choir Kick Off Party will be held on on Sunday, January 8th. The Northside Worship Choir Kick Off is Wednesday, January 11th. Bruce Aubrey is Pastor.

From HART BEAT – 8 January 2012

- Lyn & I worshipped with our home church folks at **Living Water, Owego** this morning, where Pastor Wayne Sibrava brought a good, biblical, practical sermon on Biblical Friendship – which was the 9th and final sermon in a series entitled “Lord, Change Me.” I’m still a little “under the weather” and didn’t feel like traveling today. I have been wrestling with what I thought was a bad cold since Christmas, but just about time I think I’m getting over it, it gets worse. I’m OK as long as I’m sitting fairly still, but when I get up and move around I start coughing and get tired in a hurry. Lyn thinks I should see the doctor and I guess I will this week. I already have appointments with the retina specialist and the ear-nose-and throat guy who’s going to remove a growth from inside my ear. I might as well add the family doctor to the list and give the new Medicare and Supplemental Insurance cards a real work-out.
- The first week of our new half-time work week is history and went fairly well. Fortunately, most of it could be accomplished from the office – i.e. On-line Peru Team meeting, emails, phone calls, web site updates, etc. I did get out to attend the initial service with Pastor Bill Deckert at Freedom Fellowship last Sunday, to deal with an issue regarding the transfer of the Carroll Street property to Davis College on Tuesday, and to meet with our treasurer regarding closing out the 2011 CNYBA books on Wednesday. I hope to be back to full strength in a few days.
- While praying about how I could help add value to the ministry of our pastors and churches, while spending less time on the road and less days “at work”, the Lord brought to mind the fact that most of the Leadership Development Seminars I have done in our churches could be done on-line. I will be developing additional Leadership Development seminars as well. I can do them with a church groups (scheduled through the pastor) or with folks from several churches. The Go-To-Meeting limit is 15. The group does not even have to be in the same place. All it takes is an internet connection. .

Soon, I will also begin offering periodic Leadership Development Seminars via on-line meetings. These will be evening sessions to allow working folks to attend.

You'll have to respond to the announcement in order for me to email you the information you'll need to "join the meeting." Stay tuned for the first attempt.

- **Clyde Baptist Church** reports welcoming 5 new adults by baptism recently, with 2 more joining by letter. They are also working on broadening their use of technology, including a new web site, some ideas about electronic outreach, and even radio capabilities. Check out their new web site, www.clydebaptist.org. Roger Knapton is Pastor.
- Pastor Harold Lefler writes, "The **Agape Baptist Church** (Norwich) wants to thank the churches of the CNYBA for giving our church \$1,000 of the 2011 Roger & Mary Knapton Missions Offering. We used the money to help us have some very needed new insulated windows installed in our pastorium in December. We conducted a "Christmas Vacation" Bible School the week after Christmas with 11 children and workers enrolled and 1 teenager was saved."
- Pastor Mike Brown at **Three Pines, Doraville** reports. "We baptized 3 last month and had 2 come to salvation who are awaiting baptism now. In addition, our growth in 2011 has been tremendous. The church is stuffed to overflowing. We are out of seating and parking. Our finances won't allow the purchase of a larger facility, and we've run out of room to grow. I am still praying for His answer. So I guess growth is our biggest problem, but a problem I don't mind dealing with."
- **Stamford BC** will show the film "Forgiven" at their Family Movie Night this coming Friday, Jan 13th. Waylen Bray is Pastor.

From HART BEAT – 15 January 2012

- Lyn and I worshipped this morning with the good folks at **Christ is King Baptist Church** in South Syracuse, where Church Planter/Pastor Jon Speed preached a good, Biblical sermon from Mark 2. He is preaching his way through the Gospel of Mark. I was able to deliver a communion set sent by a church in Alabama. This is a new church plant, and as I enjoyed the service I harkened back to church plants I led in Missouri and Minnesota – a living room, folding chairs, makeshift pulpit, singing without music, an expectant spirit about the future. I felt right at home.

After the services Lyn and I enjoyed a time of fellowship with Jon and Kim over lunch, then I delivered some scaffolding to **Bellewood, North Syracuse**. It looks like the outside of their building is near complete. I look forward to seeing the inside soon.

- The past week has been medical week at the Hart household. I was in 5 different medical facilities during Monday-Friday. Even the dog had to have a procedure that required anesthesia. But, Praise the Lord, good reports all around.

- A while back I got a call from Andrew Knopka, a member at **One Heart, Floyd**, about starting a new church in the Rome area. I met with Andy and we visited about some possibilities. When he “put out the word” that he wanted to start a Bible Study, two people responded with offers to use their homes. On January 8, Sunday Night Tabernacle began with two Bible Studies –in Orinskany at 3 PM and in Rome at 6 PM. Let’s be praying for Bro, Andy in this new start attempt.
- **Emory Chapel, Barton** has two weekly Bible Studies that meet away from the building each week and they are in the process of starting a third. Last summer they put vinyl siding on the back of the building and are looking to do the west side this summer. They have the money for materials, but need a volunteer group to do the labor. Recently a couple who had left the church came back and made rededications of their lives to the Lord. During the winter months they are averaging about 30 in Sunday morning worship. Pastor Gary Culver and his wife, Margaret, started the church 13 years ago. They are excited to have their son, Eric, home for a few days this month. He has been in the Air Force for 23 years and will be deployed to Saudi Arabia in February.
- **Canastota BC** held its first monthly SON-Tastic Sunday - a time of Christian fellowship for the youth. They had two teens who were first time visitors. Our next meeting will be on Feb 12. Please pray that this outreach will result in decisions for Christ. Jeff Scott is pastor
- **Grace, Rome** will host the CNYBA Executive Board meeting on Saturday, January 21, beginning at 10 AM. They will also host the NE Cluster 5th Sunday Sing-along on January 29th at 6:30 PM. Dan Goewey is pastor.

From HART BEAT – 22 January 2012

- Lyn and I worshipped with the good folks at **The Church at Beaver Meadow** this morning, where Pastor Mitch Mullenax brought a good, practical message on the Prayer of Jabez. They are planning a new outreach Thursday night Bible study in a near-by community. After the service we enjoyed a time of fellowship with the congregation and then a time of fellowship with Pastor Mitch and son Seth over lunch. Lisa, Mitch’s wife, was traveling to Texas with their new daughter-in-law.
- The CNYBA Executive Board met yesterday at **Grace, Rome**. Several called to say that they had started out, but turned back because of the weather. However a good band of hardy souls braved the weather and carried on the business of the association. They discussed and voted to adopt four recommendations from the Leadership Team.

- That we drop Hope Chapel, Elmira from the list of CNYBA affiliated churches – at their request.
- That we give the property at 1906 Genesee Street in Syracuse to Nueva Esperanza Iglesia Bautista.
- That we give Freedom Fellowship (the mission church meeting in the Carroll Street Ministry Center) \$400 this month and \$200 per month for the next 23 months. * *Note: the money to come from the funds remaining from the Carroll Street Ministry Center budget.*
- That we move \$5000 from our Reserve Fund into the Emergency Fund.

The Executive Board also discussed a fifth recommendation from the Leadership Team and voted to adopt an amended version. The amended recommendation was that we give Rick Martin a one time, lump sum parting gift of \$5000. * *Note: the money to come from the funds remaining from the Carroll Street Ministry Center budget.*

After the Executive Board meeting we enjoyed a tasty soup and sandwich lunch provided by the ladies of the church.

- **Crosspoint Church, Whitesboro** is offering the 13-week support program, DIVORCE CARE, starting on Wednesday, January 18th, at 6:30pm. DIVORCE CARE is an amazing program that affords persons going thru separation or divorce an opportunity to learn, to vent, and to heal. Sam Macri is Pastor.
- **Northside, Liverpool** – Bruce Aubrey, Pastor
 - **ASL ~ American Sign Language** will be offered in January– February, 2012 for those interested in being trained as an interpreter.
 - **A new semester of FAITH** will begin on Wednesday, January 18th at 6:00 PM. \
 - **A New Ladies' Bible Study is beginning on** Friday mornings: Mercy Triumphs, the study of the book of James, by Beth Moore begins February 3rd.
 - **An Easter Musical, Risen Redemption,** will be presented the week BEFORE Easter, March 30-April 1.

- **A Mission Trip to Puerto Rico is planned for July 7-15, 2012.** The trip will include opportunities to serve with Vacation Bible School as well as several construction projects.
- **Other Upcoming Events**
 - March 4-6, 2012 ~ Keep the Fire Burning Conference
 - April 27-28, 2012 ~ Men's Conference with James Merritt
 - October 5-6, 2012 ~ Women's Conference with Jennifer Kennedy Dean
- **Did You Hear This One?**

"I hope you didn't take it personally, Pastor," an embarrassed woman said after a church service, "when my husband walked out during your sermon."

"I did find it rather disconcerting," the preacher replied.

"It's not a reflection on you, sir," insisted the church goer.

"Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

From HART BEAT – 29 January 2012

- I'm a little late tonight because my wife and I got started watching the movie, "Fireproof", which we had taped off the cable. I didn't realize what time it was getting to be. If you haven't seen the movie, I highly recommend it to you.
- Lyn and I worshipped with the good folks at **Northside, Liverpool** this morning, where Pastor, Bruce Aubrey preached from John 4.
- This afternoon Lyn and I worshipped with the good folks at **Lighthouse, Syracuse**, where Pastor James Pannafino preached Luke 1, introducing a series on the Life of Christ.
- Rick Martin writes concerning the parting financial gift recommended by our Leadership Team and voted by our Executive Board, "Wow! It is a cliché, but to say thank you does not seem to be enough".
- Due to low registration, LifeWay has canceled the World Changers event scheduled for Binghamton in July 2012.
- As you probably know, our Leadership Team asked me to write ALL the churches affiliated with CNYBA to ask if they were still in sympathy with the purposes of the association and still willing to support the work of the association. Many of our

churches have responded positively – some overwhelmingly so. We are still waiting for some to respond.

However, the response of **Hope, Elmira** was that they did not intend to support the association. I reported to you last week that the Executive Board had voted to drop them from the list of affiliated churches.

This week, the Leadership Council at **Lamson Road, Phoenix**, which has not supported the association during the past two years, asked us to drop them from the list of affiliated churches. Of course we will comply.

- **Lakeshore, Cicero** (Karl Novak, Pastor)
 - Zumba (a form of aerobic exercise) on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.
 - Celebrate Recovery on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
 - Parents of Prodigals Support group (for parents of adult children who have walked away from the Lord) -- Started in January and will meet once a month in various homes
 - Extreme Marriage Makeover--Friday, Feb. 10, 6 p.m. (starts with dinner at 6, and then 3 couples will be sharing their stories and challenging/encouraging couples to improve their marriages)
- **West Hill, Ithaca** (Bill Lower, Pastor)
 - Held their semi-annual Alive-Between-the-Lakes Youth Rally yesterday evening in partnership with three other area churches. Yesterday's event was held at Trumansburg High School and included games, food, handing out Gideon Bibles, and a guest speaker. The speaker for last night's event was Dave Parks, Director of the area Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Assistant Football Coach at St. Fisher College.
 - Baptized 3 in this morning's service – including the wife of Pastor Bill's son Billy's friend
 - Had 4 attend the 101 membership class last week
 - Ladies made quilts, filled buckets with basic necessities, and delivered them to The Jungle, a place where the Ithaca homeless live
 - They are working with others who are trying to take the gospel to the homeless community
 - Ladies also make quilts for people with cancer and others in the hospital
 - Ask prayer for members, George & Julie Holmes, who are on their annual missions trip to Albania with the Fellowship of Christian Farmers.
- **Summit, Cazenovia** (Dan Schallmo, Pastor) held their monthly Family & Friends Meal after church today, which included soup and fixins.
- **Northside, Liverpool** (Bruce Aubrey, Pastor)

- Child Dedication – Feb 11th & 12th
- Mission Trip to Haiti – Mar 18th – 25th
 - Children's Ministry
 - Light Construction
- Student Mission Trip to Puerto Rico – this summer
- Kicked off a new College & Career Group
- Senior 50+ Activities coming up
 - Italian Buffet
 - Breakfast for Dinner
 - Game Night
 - Family Picnic
- Looking for an Administrative Assistant for Children's Ministry
- Risen Redemption Easter Musical – March 30th – April 1st.
- Junior High Retreat – March 9-11
- Student Ministry Winter Retreat – March 23rd – 25th.
- New Ladies' Bible Study (Book of James) – begins Feb 3rd
- Keep the Fire Burning Pastors' & Leaders' Conference – Mar 4-6, 2012
- Men's Conference with James Merritt – April 27-28, 2012
- Women's Conference with Jennifer Dean – Oct 5-6, 2012

- **February Congratulations**

- Mike Brown – 4 years as Pastor @ Three Pines, Doraville

- **Did You Hear This One?**

A husband and wife were at a party chatting with some friends when the subject of marriage counseling came up.

"Oh, we'll never need that. My husband and I have a great relationship," the wife explained.

"He was a communications major in college and I majored in theater arts."

"He communicates real well and I just act like I'm listening."