

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

December 2012

From HART BEAT – 2 December 2012

- Lyn worshipped with the good folks at our home church, **Living Water, Owego** this morning. I worked in the BCNY Disaster Relief Feeding Unit on our last day of feeding on Long Island, oversaw taking it down and loading it up, then drove home. I will complete the task by taking the unit back to the BCNY office in East Syracuse tomorrow.
- **Southern Baptist Disaster Relief --Ministry Report from Superstorm Sandy** as of November 25: More than 1,200 volunteers from Canada and 34 states. 198 professions of faith and over 1.8 million meals cooked. I'm reasonably sure we're up over 2 million meals served by now.
- **The 2013 Keep the Fire Burning** Pastors' and Leaders' Conference is scheduled for March 3-5 at **Northside, Liverpool**.
- Pastor Wayne Sibrava at **Living Water, Owego**, where I am a member, sent out the following email this past week. I thought you all should see it.

The Cooperative Program is the combined effort of more than 16,000,000 **Southern Baptists** from more than 45,000 churches to work together at helping reach our world for Jesus Christ. This year the Cooperative Program budget is \$186,000,000. This sacred trust from the churches is disseminated as follows:

What	Amount
International Mission Board	\$93,372,000
North American Mission Board	\$42,389,400
Theological Education	\$41,217,600
Christian Ethics and Religious Liberties Ministries	\$3,069,000
Facilitating Ministries	\$5,952,000
Total	\$186,000,000

Through the International Mission Board (www.imb.org), Southern Baptists support approximately 5,624 missionaries who are engaging 655 people groups, of populations greater than 100,000, around the world.

New churches numbering over 1,364 are planted through the efforts of more than 5,304 North American Missionaries, whose efforts are coordinated through your North American Mission Board (www.namb.net) and individual state conventions.

Working together, Southern Baptists saw 855,756 new believers baptized in 2009!

Six Southern Baptist seminaries (Southern, Southeastern, Midwestern, Southwestern, Golden Gate, and New Orleans) educate in excess of 16,000 pastors, missionaries, and future church leaders each year.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission is dedicated to addressing social, moral, and ethical concerns, with particular attention to their impact on American families and their faith. They also provide print resources that offer scriptural responses to the moral and ethical problems of our culture.

Although they receive no Cooperative Program support, LifeWay Christian Resources, Guidestone Financial Resources and the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) actively promote Cooperative Program in publications and missions resources.

You can find more information at sbc.net. I trust that God will find us faithful during these opportunistic days in which we live.

- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

Ere you left your room this morning,
Did you think to pray?
In the name of Christ our Savior,
Did you sue for loving favor,
As a shield today?

Refrain

O how praying rests the weary!
Prayer will change the night to day;
So when life seems dark and dreary,
Don't forget to pray.

Have You Heard This One?

The young couple invited their elderly pastor for Sunday dinner.

While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having.

"Goat," the little boy replied.

"Goat?" replied the startled man of the cloth, "Are you sure about that?"

"Yep," said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mom, 'Today is just as good as any to have the old goat for dinner.'"

From HART BEAT – 9 December 2012

- Lyn and I worshipped with the good folks at **Canastota BC**, where I preached in the absence of Pastor Jeff Scott, who is recovering from surgery to have a tumor removed from his brain. At his request, my sermon emphasis was missions and revolved around a power point presentation on missions in SBC life. This presentation answers the question, “How can a local church fulfill Jesus’ mandate to share the gospel with every person in the world?” I’d be happy to make this presentation to any of the churches or church groups in CNYBA.
- The annual Pastors’ and Wives” Christmas Luncheon was held yesterday at **Lakeshore, Cicero**. Attendees enjoyed a great lunch catered by Mary Wescott, a member at Lakeshore. We also enjoyed a time of fellowship, singing of Christmas Carols after hearing about their origins, and the reading of Scripture related to the Christmas story.
- As I mentioned last week, I brought the BCNY Disaster Relief Feeding Unit back from Long Island on Sunday evening last. On Monday I delivered it back to the BCNY office. Most of the next two days were used to dig down to my desk through the mound of stuff that had built up while I was involved with disaster relief. I did take time to attend a Christmas party at the home of Dr. Dino Pedrone, president of Davis College, and the regular Wednesday night service at our home church, **Living Water, Owego**.
- George & Julie Holmes, members @ **West Hill, Ithaca** are planning their 19th extended winter mission trip to Albania in Mid-January. They are associated with the Fellowship of Christian Farmers. They do a seed ministry, an eye glass ministry, a baby orphan ministry, and a “sowers” ministry in 8 villages. They are looking for people to go with them or come over later in the winter to help with these ministries. If you are interested in participating or just knowing more about what they do, contact them at jgquist@aol.com or 2 607-387-6538.
- **Nepali, Syracuse** – Bhim Biswa, Pastor
 - Reports one profession of faith in November.
 - They did a Christmas gospel event on Dec 2nd inviting 150 non-believers.
 - Their youth are going door to door with a Christmas message the 3rd week of December.
 - They now have 5 active small groups.
 - They are praying for a job for Pastor Bhim Biswa’s wife, Meena.
- **Vietnamese, Utica** – Liem Do, Pastor
 - 50 + people came for their Thanksgiving Dinner and Services.
 - They collected used clothes, and household items and distributed them to refugee people who needed them.
 - They now cook one dinner a month for refugee children.

- **Agape, Norwich** has been approved for a grant from The Oldham Little Church Foundation to be used toward the replacement of windows with insulated windows in the sanctuary. The church will need to raise \$3245 more to completely fund the project. If you or your church would like to help with this project, contact Pastor Harold Lefler via email at hjlefler@frontier.com or via phone at 607-621-3953.

Pastor Harold will present a concert of Christmas music and Scripture on Sunday, December 16th, with a Christmas Diner to follow the service. They will also have a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6 PM.

- **Common Grounds, Beaver Meadow** announces that the 11:00a.m. worship service at Beaver Meadow will join the 9:00a.m. service at Lincklaen in an effort to free up space . The building at Beaver Meadow will be used for community outreach. The open time slot may be used for a new small group. It also appears that the Lord may be opening doors to begin a Spanish speaking small group. This small group would meet the need for a growing Latino population. They are also praying for a few mission teams to join them for a week this summer to help in building a new parsonage on a great building lot centrally located in their network region. Common Grounds will host the January 19th CNYBA Executive Board Meeting at the Beaver Meadow property. Mitch Mullenax is Pastor.
- The following is a short update email received from Rick & Donna Martin, our Missionaries to Peru in waiting.

Hello from the Martin family in Richmond, Virginia! We hope this short message finds everyone in the CNYBA (and beyond) well in health and spirit. Many prayers have been answered as both Donna and Rick have jobs working together as manager trainees at the same Chick-Fil-A! And Elizabeth has made new friends some of whom will be coming to her Birthday party soon. And if anyone is interested in joining a missions team to Peru, please know that Rick is planning to lead a team there next year May 27th - June 11th. Please contact him for details at rmart111@yahoo.com or call him at 607 240 3755. We wish you all His best this season and always! The Martin Family.

- **RiverEdge, Baldwinsville**, (Allan Covington, Church Planter) a mission sponsored by **Living Water, Owego**, plans
 - A Ladies Christmas Ornament Exchange on December 12th.
 - To receive a Christmas Offering on December 16th, 50% of which will divided between four mission causes to help intervene in some needed areas. The other 50% will go toward the ongoing ministry of preventing lives from being messed up by leading people to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

- A special Gathering at The Red Mill Inn on Christmas Eve beginning at 5:00 pm
- A new round of Community (Small) Groups beginning in January

- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

City of Gold

There's a city that looks o'er the valley of death,
 And the glories can never be told;
 There the sun never sets, and the leaves never fade,
 In that beautiful city of gold.

Refrain

There the sun never sets, and the leaves never fade;
 And the eyes of the faithful our Savior behold,
 In that beautiful city of gold.

Have You Heard This One?

A young businessman had just started his own firm. He had just rented a beautiful office and had it furnished with antiques.

Sitting there, he saw a man come into the outer office. Wishing to appear the hot shot, the businessman picked up the phone and started to pretend he had a big deal working.

He threw huge figures around and made giant commitments. Finally he hung up and asked the visitor, "Can I help you?"

"Yeah, I've come to activate your phone lines."

From HART BEAT – 16 December 2012

- Lyn and I worshipped with the good folks at **Crossroads, Sherburne** this morning, where Ken Fallon has been pastor since May 2005. They had a nice brief memorial and prayer for the victims and families of the recent tragedy in Connecticut. They are in the midst of collecting toys for needy children in the area and are planning a Christmas Eve Service at 7 PM.
- Lyn and Holly plan to accompany me to my sister's home in Arkansas where we will enjoy Christmas dinner with her and her husband, as well as my brother and his wife, who live nearby. We leave on Thursday and should be home before New Year's Day. I'm not sure if there will be a HRAT BEAT next Sunday night. It depends on internet accessibility.

- **Good News, Waverly** had our Christmas Craft and Bake Sale on Saturday, Dec 8th, to raise money for missions. Everyone pitched in and they were able to clear \$250. The Missions Awareness Team decided to use half of the raised money for Disaster Relief. The rest they will add to their regular Lottie Moon offering. John Talada is Pastor.
- **Emory Chapel, Barton** had a Fellowship luncheon on December 9th and are planning a Christmas Eve Service at 6 PM. They have two small group Bible studies that meet weekly on Monday and Thursday night. Gary Culver is Pastor.
- **Crosspoint, Whitesboro** – (Sam Macri, Pastor)
 - Heard Mark Schultz in brief concert after the Sunday morning service last week.
 - Are in the midst of their annual “Giving Tree” campaign, where folks take a tag from the tree and give a gift to some needy person for Christmas.
 - Had several volunteers spend several days helping BCNY and SBC Disaster Relief Units with food preparation and clean-up operations on both Long Island and Staten Island.
- **Lakeshore, Cicero** – (Karl Novak, Pastor)
 - Hosted the recent CNYBA Pastors’ and Wives” Christmas Luncheon
 - Held a Christmas Festival on December 14th
 - Plans a Christmas Eve Service
- **Three Pines, Doraville** had a Christmas Dinner today (wonder how I missed that) and plan to have a Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 6:30 PM. Mike Brown is Pastor.
- **Lyons Falls Bible Fellowship Church** plans a Christmas Eve Service at 6 PM. Jeff Ford is Pastor.
- **Northside, Liverpool** – (Bruce Aubrey, Pastor)
 - The Worship Choir sang "The Hope of Christmas" in concert last night and tonight.
 - Christmas Eve Services are planned for 3:30, 5:00, 6:30 & 11:00 PM.
- **Stamford BC** – (Waylen Bray Pastor)
 - Has a goal of \$450 for this year’s Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

- Plan a “Reason for the Season” drama presentation during the morning worship service next Sunday.
- Plan a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

Come And Dine – Charles Widmeyer 1906

Jesus has a table spread
 Where the saints of God are fed,
 He invites His chosen people, Come and dine;
 With His manna He doth feed
 And supplies our every need:
 O tis sweet to sup with Jesus all the time!

Refrain

Come and dine, the Master calleth, Come and dine;
 You may feast at Jesus’ table all the time;
 He Who fed the multitude, turned the water into wine,
 To the hungry calleth now, Come and dine.

Have You Heard This One?

Four expectant fathers were in a Minnesota hospital waiting room while their wives were in labor.

The nurse comes in and tells the first man, "Congratulations, You're the father of twins."

"What a coincidence!" the man exclaims. "I work for the Minnesota Twins baseball team!"

The nurse returns a short while later and tells the second man, "You are the father of triplets."

"Wow, what a coincidence!" he replies. "I work for the 3M Corporation."

When the nurse comes again, she tells the third man that his wife has given birth to quadruplets.

"Another coincidence!" he tells her. "I work for the Four Seasons Hotel!"

At this point, the fourth guy faints. When he comes to, the others ask him what was wrong.

He moans, "I work for Seven-Eleven!"

From HART BEAT – 23 December 2012

- **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**
- Lyn and I worshipped this morning in the early service with the good folks at Mt. Holly Community Church in Mt. Holly, AR, where my sister attends. At the 11:00 hour I preached and we worshipped with the good folks at Sylvan Hills Baptist Church near Camden, AR, where my brother is pastor. Tonight, we attended a special black light Christmas program at nearby Salem Baptist Church, where I had spoken several times back 25 years ago or so, when the church was supporting us in our church planting efforts in Minnesota.
- A new newsletter from our Missionaries to Peru is posted on our web site (www.cnyba.org) under the Info Center tab. Click on CNYBA Missions Reports to see the newsletter from the Rick Martin family.
- **Northside, Liverpool** has some resources that they longer use and are making them available on a first-come-first-served basis. If anyone is interested they should contact Laurie Hartman at lhartman@northsideonline.org or 315-352-3160. She will mail them out to you.
 - ***Crisis Care : Hope for the Hurting*** (a Series of 9 VHS tapes, training to help someone in a crisis)
 - ***Keys to Loving Relationships*** By Gary Smalley (VHS tapes and study guides)
 - DVD Series: ***So You're Getting Married*** by Dr. H. Norman Wright (a pre-marriage counseling series)
 - ***Elevate*** (a Six Week Bible study for 20 and 30 year olds, VHS tapes and Leader's guide)
- **Christ Is King, Syracuse** (Jon Speed, Pastor)
 - Pastor Jon asks pray for his family as they continue to adjust to life without his mother-in-law, Diane, who passed away recently. Pray for all of those who heard the gospel at her memorial service.
 - They have begun an abortion clinic ministry at a clinic which has never had any ministry done there before and they need prayer as they face threats from the clinic workers, the ire of some in the community, and as they work with local law enforcement to establish the boundaries of what they can and cannot do
 - They will try some new avenues of ministry in January. They are going to move the location of their Thursday night Bible study from a home to a coffee shop.

- Pastor Jon asks that we pray that unsaved men and women will respond as they minister on college campuses, at bus stops, and in their neighborhood by going door to door, on busy street corners, and at special events.
- **Vietnamese, Utica** helped provided Christmas presents for one elderly woman and 17 children in their church. They sent out over 60 invitations in three languages (Vietnamese, Khmer, and English) for folks to join them at their special Christmas service, which was held today. Liem Do is Pastor.
- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

O Come Let Us Adore Him

(A hymn tune written in 1743. The text itself is believed to have been written in the 13th century by John Francis Wade)

O come let us adore Him,
 O come let us adore Him,
 O come let us adore Him,
 Christ the Lord.

For He alone is worthy,
 For He alone is worthy,
 For He alone is worthy,
 Christ the Lord.

We'll give Him all the glory,
 We'll give Him all the glory,
 We'll give Him all the glory,
 Christ the Lord.

- **Have You Heard This One?**

A guy bought his wife a beautiful diamond ring for Christmas.

A friend of his said, "I thought she wanted one of those pretty 4-Wheel drive vehicles."

"She did," he replied, "But where in the world was I going to find a fake jeep!!"

From HART BEAT – 30 December 2012

- Tonight's report will be short. As you know, Lyn and I have been in Arkansas spending the Christmas holidays with my sister and brother. We had intended to make it to Rochester yesterday and worship with the good folks at **Newark**

Baptist Fellowship Church this morning on the way in, but we ran into a snow storm and decided to “ride it out” an extra day in Medina, OH.

We made it over to Jamestown, NY today with much prayer and slow driving. We plan to make it home sometime tomorrow - in daylight, since I’m sure I’ll have to dig our way into the driveway.

I think we will be rethinking Christmas time travel.

One silver lining in all this is that we got to watch the Syracuse football game on Saturday and the Vikings football game this afternoon – wins both!

- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

Come Unto Me – Eliza Hewitt

Hear the blessed Savior calling the oppressed,
Oh, ye heavy-laden, come to Me and rest;
Come, no longer tarry, I your load will bear,
Bring Me every burden, bring Me every care.

Refrain:

Come unto Me, I will give you rest;
Take My yoke upon you, hear Me and be blest;
I am meek and lowly, come and trust My might;
Come, My yoke is easy, and My burden’s light.

- **Have You Heard This One?**

A well-worn one-dollar bill and a similarly distressed twenty-dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation.

The twenty-dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the country. "I've had a pretty good life," the twenty proclaimed. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean."

"Wow!" said the one-dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting life!"

"So, tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?"

The one dollar bill replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church."

The twenty-dollar bill interrupts, "What's a church?"