

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

March 2012

From HART BEAT – 4 March 2012

- I'm a little late with this post. It's been a long day, but a great day in the Lord! Lyn stayed home today and worshipped at our home church, **Living Water, Owego**, partly because it was going to be such a long day and partly because I was not sure what the weather would do. I thought I might have to stay in Syracuse tonight and she has to substitute teach in the morning.

I left home a little after 7 AM this morning – in time to make the early morning worship service at **Emmanuel, Cortland** (Jim Hundley, Pastor) at 8:30 AM. I heard Associate Pastor, Andy Smith, preach from Ps. 27 about having confidence in God.

After a brief time of fellowship with Jim and Andy after church, I headed for **Central, Syracuse** in time for the 11 AM worship service. Pastor Milt Kornegay preached another sermon in a series he's preaching on their theme for the Year – "To Know Him..." from Phil 3. The sermon today was from 2 Pet 1 entitled "To Know God is to Know His Provisions".

Next I headed for the 2 PM service at **Nepali, Syracuse**, where Bhim Biswa is pastor. Today, they observed the Lord's Supper, where at the spontaneous invitation of Pastor Bhim, I officiated. Associate Pastor Marten Mager preached from Ex. 3 – I think. I think I heard something about Moses and the burning bush. At the end of the service, they had a baby dedication service. Unfortunately I was not able to stay for the feast they had afterward. When your Director of Missions doesn't have time to eat, you know something is wrong with this picture.

Not to worry. The reason I had to rush off was to meet the Hispanic pastors for dinner at 5 PM. I had a great time of fellowship and discussion about the possibility of expanding Hispanic work in CNYBA. There men are genuine men of God who are concerned about lostness in the Hispanic community. I hope you'll join me in praying that their ideas and efforts can be realized for the Glory of God.

After dinner at Smokey Bones, we headed over to **Northside, Liverpool** (Bruce Aubrey, Pastor) for the opening session of their "Keep the Fire Burning" Conference for Pastors and Leaders. I saw several CNYBA folks there. Although the worship leader and one of the speakers could not make it because of the weather, David Aubrey (Bruce and Kathy's son) led the worship and Dr. O.S. Hawkins Preached a great sermon introducing the theme for the conference – the Seven Churches of Revelation. I came home in order to be here to teach my course at Davis College tomorrow, but I plan to return for the Monday evening and Tuesday sessions. The conference continues through Tuesday noon. I encourage you to attend if at all possible.

- I attended the BCNY Listening Session regarding the future of BCNY that was held at **Central, Syracuse** this past Tuesday evening. Facilitator, Pastor Milt Kornegay, heard from a wide variety of pastors and laity. He will report the data he collected back to the Listening Task Force, who will in turn bring recommendations to the BCNY Executive Board. Another such session is planned for March 20 at 2 PM at Davis College, as well as several others across the state. I urge you to consider attending one of these sessions and let your voice be heard.
- **Outpouring, Oswego** (Zach Neyhard, pastor)

- Octavia Morrison (student from Brooklyn, NY) is our new worship leader! Thank you for praying! God provided for us!
- We're sharing the Gospel with our friends and families; lots of stories this month of what God did over break.
- We're getting a lot out of studying the Gospel of Mark as a church.
- We were able to move a weekly meeting for CCM to a different night (Fusion); it now meets on Thursdays, which the students say is more strategic.
- Women's bible study: once a month. The first one went great!

- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,
Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

- **Have You Heard This One?**

A Sunday School teacher asked little Willie who the first man in the Bible was.

"Hoss." said Willie.

"Wrong," said the teacher. "It was Adam."

"Aw, shucks!" Willie replied. "I knew it was one of those Cartwrights."

From HART BEAT – 11 March 2012

- Only one other time in my 15+ year tenure as a Director of Missions have I had the experience I had this morning – showing up for church and they were not having church! This time it was my fault. Lyn and I traveled to Oswego intending to worship with the good folks at **Outpouring, Oswego** this morning. This is a church meeting on the campus of SUNY Oswego. The last time I communicated with Pastor Zach Neyhard, he gave me the dates of spring break and a couple of other times when he would be gone. Somehow, I guess I wrote the “bad” dates down as the “good” dates. In any case, nobody was there when we arrived for church. We'll try that again in a couple of weeks – after I check for the “good” dates with Bro. Zach.

It was after 11 AM so there was no options about getting to one of our other churches, so we had lunch. Then we headed across the association to **Agape, Norwich**, where we attended their 4 PM revival service, where Southwestern Seminary student, Ben Hollan, preached a very good message from Colossians.

- As I reported to you last week, I attended the opening session of the Pastors' and Leaders' Conference at **Northside, Liverpool** last Sunday night. After teaching my course at Davis College on Monday, I returned to Syracuse for the remainder of the conference on Monday evening and Tuesday morning. In my opinion, it was a great conference and has been, and will be, a tremendous venue for encouragement, inspiration, and strengthening of pastors and churches across CNYBA and the Northeast. "Keep the Fire Burning" Pastor Bruce!
- I just received the February CNYBA Treasurer's Report from Billie. A copy has been sent to each of our pastors, as we do each month. I want to thank each church that has made a contribution, or contributions, this year.

The report shows that we are \$662.17 behind the projection for income from our churches YTD. It's early and some, if not all, of this is probably because some of our churches give quarterly. In any case, let me just remind you that we are self-sustaining now, which makes it even more important that ALL our churches contribute to the work of the association. May the Lord bless our every effort to reduce lostness across the CNYBA territory,

I have written an article entitled "Why Participate in CNYBA?" It is posted on our web site under the Info Center tab/ About CNYBA.

- **Stamford Baptist** (Waylen Bray, Pastor)
 - Will hold their annual spring revival with a preacher from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, TX beginning today and running through Wednesday. This year the evangelist is Bernard EuiKyoon Ahn, PhD, originally from South Korea. Services on Sunday will be at 11 Am and 7 PM. On Monday through Wednesday the services will be at 7 PM.
 - Will hold their next Family Movie Night on Friday, March 16, at 7 PM
 - Saturday, March 17, (St. Patrick's Day) they will be providing luncheon for the Stamford Village Apartments
 - This year, Palm Sunday will be April 1st, Good Friday will be April 6th, and, Easter will be April 8th. They will be taking the Annie Armstrong Easter offering on Easter Sunday, April 8th. The goal is \$400.
- **Agape Baptist, Norwich** (Harold Lefler, Pastor) will conduct spring revival services beginning today and running through Wednesday, with a preacher from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, TX. Sunday services will be at 11 AM and 4 PM. Services on Monday through Wednesday will be at 6 PM.

The seminary student evangelist will be Ben Hollan, Youth Pastor at First Baptist, Hillsboro, Texas.

- **Summit, Cazenovia** (Dan Scha;;mo, Pastor) hosted a simulcast of the documentary “Love Costs Everything” tonight at 7 PM. 200 Million people live in fear for their lives each day because they are Christians. This film documents the real-life heroic struggle of Christians facing persecution because they live and love as Jesus taught. For them, no price is too high because they know that **Love Costs Every Thing**.
- “The Friendship Inn, Cazenovia”, a community outreach that is intended to enhance the lives of local residents by offering a free weekly meal in a welcoming atmosphere, will open its doors on March 19 at 5:30 p.m. This is a united effort of the community and **Cazenovia College** toward a common goal. **Summit Church** has stepped forward to host the meal and to take the responsibility of organizing the weekly meal offering
- **Clyde BC** (Roger Knapton, Pastor) is participating in the Spring Evangelism Practicum from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, TX. Thomas Sutton is the seminary student who will be preaching today through Wednesday. He is bringing a brother with him and the two of them will visit another brother in Rochester while they are here. The folks at Clyde are praying for a breakthrough during these services.
- **Southport, Elmira** (Duane Arnold, Sr., Pastor) will also participate in the Spring Evangelism Practicum from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, TX, beginning today and running through Wednesday. This will be their 3rd year to use a seminary student evangelist. This year it is Trey Dimsdale.
- **Bellewood, North Syracuse** has a MS mission team working on their new building this week. Matt Hallenbeck is pastor.
- Vision Teams from TN and TX will be in CNYBA this week looking at possible mission projects for this summer.
- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide.
What can we do to wash it away?
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide,
Brighter than snow you may be today

Grace, grace, God’s grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

- **Holly's Prayers**

You may remember Holly, our Pomeranian – featured in my book, “The Gospel According to Holly.” Sometimes she lays in my office with her head on her front paws, which makes it look like she's in prayer. Here are some of her prayers.

- Dear God: Is it on purpose our names are the same, only reversed?
- Dear God: Why do humans smell the flowers, but seldom, if ever, smell one another?
- Dear God: When we get to heaven, can we sit on your couch? Or is it still the same old story?
- Dear God: Why are there cars named after the jaguar, the cougar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray, and the rabbit, but not ONE named for a Dog? How often do you see a cougar riding around? We do love a nice ride! Would it be so hard to rename the 'Chrysler Eagle' the 'Chrysler Beagle'?
- Dear God: If a Dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad Dog?
- Dear God: We Dogs can understand human verbal instructions, hand signals, whistles, horns, clickers, beepers, scent ID's, electromagnetic energy fields, and Frisbee flight paths. What do humans understand?
- Dear God: More meatballs, less spaghetti - please.
- Dear God: Are there mailmen in Heaven? If there are, will I have to apologize?

From HART BEAT – 18 March 2012

- Lyn did not travel with me today because she is suffering from some sort of knee problem. She went to the doctor three times last week and will go again tomorrow. It looks like arthritis. The first attempt at treatment will probably be a cortisone shot.
- I worshipped with the folks at **Christian Bible, Oneida** this morning where Pastor Dick Fort preached from Ephesians 6. On the way, I stopped by and had a cup of coffee with Pastor Mitch Mullenax at **The Church at Beaver Meadow** and dropped off the projection screen donated by **Stamford Baptist Church**.
- This past week was full! My wife is asking, “When is the half time going to kick in”? I'm working on it, but haven't figured out how to say no when stuff needs to be done.

On Monday past I was privileged to visit the revival services at **Southport, Elmira**, (Duane Arnold, Sr, Pastor) where Southwestern Seminary student, Trey Dimsdale, preached.

On Tuesday past Pastor Clint Potter (**North Fenton BC**) accompanied me on a day trip to Maryland and Stamford. We had lunch with Pastor Calvin Stedge (**Maryland BC**) and a couple of men from TN who were here scouting out a mission project for this summer. We went on over to Stamford, where we visited with Pastor Waylen Bray (**Stamford BC**) and picked up a projection screen being given to **The Church at Beaver Meadow**. We stayed and attended the revival service where Southwestern Seminary student evangelist, Bernard EuiKyoon Ahn, preached.

On Wednesday evening past, Lyn and I responding to an invitation from Pastor Leim & Oai Do (**Vietnamese, Endicott & Utica**) and enjoyed a great time of food and fellowship in their home.

On Thursday past I meet with Pastor Jeff Scott (I'm serving as a supervisor for one of his college courses) and then stopped by (**Bellewood, North Syracuse**) where a mission team from Oxford, MS was working and where I left my truck for a couple days. Steve Sallis was kind enough to drive me over the airport, where I met up with three guys from Houston, TX who were here scouting out a mission project for this summer. We headed for **The Church at Beaver Meadow**, stopping off at **Summit**, Cazenovia. We spent the night in Norwich.

On Friday I took the TX team to **Agape, Norwich, Crossroads, Sherburne, Crosspoint, Whitesboro, Lyons Falls Bible, and Lakeshore, Cicero** before winding up back at Bellewood, where I picked up my truck. We spent the night in Syracuse. The TX team flew back to Houston on Saturday.

Yesterday I attended the funeral of Patricia Kornegay's grandmother at **Central, Syracuse**, before heading for home.

- BCNY will coordinate a mission trip to Puerto Rico in July 2012. This Mission Trip is for high school students, college age, and adults Deadline to sign up is March 30. The cost is \$1200 per person (which can be paid incrementally) and includes air fare, emergency travel insurance, lodging, ground transportation, all meals and activities. Contact Jonathan Santiago for more detail and/or to sign up at 315-433-1001 or via email - jsantiago@bcnysbc.org
- At 2:00 PM on March 20th on the campus of Davis College, BCNY will hold another of their "Listening Sessions." Our State Convention voted last fall at the BCNY Annual Conference to form a Task Force for the purpose of determining the future God has for BCNY. To that end the Task Force has scheduled Listening Sessions around the BCNY territory for pastors and leaders of our churches. This one on

March 20th is the last to be held in the CNYBA territory. I encourage you to attend, if at all possible, and let your voice be heard.

- **Good News, Waverly** baptized 4 this afternoon using the baptistery at **Living Water, Owego**. Good News plans a Good Friday service at 3 PM on Friday, April 6 and a concert featuring Les & Linda Green on June 15 at 7 PM. John Talada is pastor.
- **Northside, Liverpool** will host an Impact 1 Men's Conference on April 27-28. The cost by April 15th (\$40), After April 15th (\$50). Price will include Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast. To register call 315-652-3160 or go to www.northsideonline.org.
- **The Church at Beaver Meadow** recorded a record 20 present for their Thursday night outreach Bible Study in South Otselic, which meets at the local coffee shop.
- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe!
You that are longing to see His face,
Will you this moment His grace receive?

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

- **Have You Heard This One?**

There was a barber that thought that he should share his faith with his customers more than he had been doing lately. So the next morning when the barber got up out of bed he said, "Today I am going to witness to the first man that walks through my door."

Soon after he opened his shop the first man came in and said, "I want a shave!" The barber said, "Sure, just sit in the seat and I'll be with you in a moment." The barber went in the back and prayed a quick desperate prayer saying, "God, the first customer came in and I'm going to witness to him. So please give me the wisdom to know just the right thing to say to him. Amen."

Then quickly the barber came out with his straight-edged razor in one hand and a Bible in the other while saying, "Good morning sir. I have a question for you.....Are you ready to die?"

From HART BEAT – 25 March 2012

- I had intended to worship today, for the first time, with the folks at **Outpouring, Oswego**. This is one of two churches in our association that meets on a University campus and is made up primarily of students. It is also a good example of God raising up someone from within the fellowship to be the pastor. Zach Neyhard (recently married) assumed the role of pastor 4 1/2 years ago and is doing a fine job. It's not easy when 1/4 of your congregations graduates and moves on each year. He never gets to quit "gathering".

But, for the third time, my intentions to worship at Outpouring did not come to fruition. On Friday, Harold Lefler, Interim Pastor @ **Agape, Norwich**, fell and broke a knee cap – again. He had surgery on Saturday and needed someone to preach for him on Sunday. I was unable to find a substitute, so I filled in today. I will be preaching again at Agape on Easter Sunday morning AND will have the unusual opportunity to baptize several folks that day standing in for Pastor Harold. Your church's contributions to CNYBA make it possible for me to be available to our churches for services like these.

- Rick Martin WAS at **Outpouring, Oswego** today, sharing his story of God's call on his life to go to Peru and further our associational project of starting churches among the Quechua Indians in the Andes Mountains of southern Peru. I hope you will commit to pray for Rick and Donna, along with their daughter Elizabeth, as they raise the needed funds and make the move of their lives sometime later this year. I hope you and/or your church will consider making a monthly financial commitment to the Martins. Check out their web site missionsperu.org.
- Lyn did not travel with me this week-end. She worshipped at our home church, **Living Water, Owego** so this afternoon she could visit with a teacher friend from the school where she was a principal in Calcium, NY. Diane was playing in a volleyball tournament at BCC this week-end.
- This past week, in addition to the normal office duties like email and web site maintenance, I was privileged to visit (face to face) with a couple of pastors, attend the Davis College Pastors' Conference, attend the BCNY general Listening Session held at Davis College, attend funeral calling hours yesterday for Ruth Swearingen, a member of West Hill, Ithaca whom Lyn and I got to know while I served as their interim pastor a few years back, and visit with Pastor Harold Lefler and Jan in the hospital in Norwich yesterday afternoon.
- **Canastota BC** is asking their children's church kids to volunteer to do extra chores around the house to earn money to be contributed to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Refrain

Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

- **Have You Heard This One?**

As a new bride, Aunt Edna moved into the small home on her husband's ranch near Snowflake. She put a shoe box on a shelf in her closet and asked her husband never to touch it.

For fifty years Uncle Jack left the box alone, until Aunt Edna was old and dying. One day when he was putting their affairs in order, he found the box again and thought it might hold something important.

Opening it, he found two doilies and \$82,500 in cash. He took the box to her and asked about the contents. "My mother gave me that box the day we married," she explained.

"She told me to make a doily to help ease my frustrations every time I got mad at you."

Uncle Jack was very touched that in 50 years she'd only been mad at him twice.

"What's the \$82,500 for?" he asked.

"Oh, that's the money I made selling the doilies."