

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

January 2013

From HART BEAT – 6 January 2013

- Lyn and I worshipped this morning with the good folks at **Agape, Johnson City**, where Guy Newman is the church planter/pastor. Pastor Guy went with me down to Long Island to work in the BCNY Disaster Relief kitchen one week. I have been trying to encourage him in his bi-vocational church plant.

I had intended to watch NFL Playoff Football this afternoon, but Dish Network cannot settle with Fox Network so there was no football at the Hart abode today. I guess Dish and Fox took lessons on negotiations from the President and Congress.

- **Outpouring, Oswego** – Zach Neyhard, Pastor
 - Their big on-campus event for the semester, Skate to Fight Hunger, not only pulled in a large tub of non-perishables for donation to a local food shelter, but it also allowed Outpouring Church to test out a ministry strategy they have been kicking around for a while - using community service events on campus to build relationships.
 - Pastor Zach is finishing up a sermon series on “God in the Old Testament”, and will be beginning a new series about the need to cultivate Christ-like character.
 - As you remember, Becca (Pastor Zach’s wife) is expecting their first child – a son to be named Daniel James. She’s been on bed rest because of complications with her pregnancy (low amniotic fluid). Please continue praying for her. Daniel is due to arrive in February. Pastor Zach says, “We’re really excited to meet the “little dude” in person”.
- **Freedom Fellowship, Binghamton** - Bill Deckert, Pastor
 - Currently doing an exposition of the Gospel of John for the morning worship service.
 - Currently going through the Book of Exodus in Sunday School.
 - Last year they started two Bible studies in the North Shore Towers (which is one block from the church building) which are run by two of their members who live there.
 - Recently they have started a prayer meeting in the North Shore Towers, since there are a number of people with physical disabilities who cannot actually make it to the prayer meeting at church.
 - They also continued to run the weekly meal on Saturday and the food pantry on Wednesday and Thursday. These have presented a number of good opportunities to share the gospel. One woman has started to attend church

services as a result. One young man who started to come to the Bible study after the meal, seems to have been soundly converted, and is interested in baptism and church membership.

- This year they plan a couple of new outreaches that they would appreciate pray for.
 - The main outreach they are planning is starting a Bible study in the YWCA. The woman who has started attending church services as a result of the food pantry ministry lives in the YWCA and has found a group of woman who are interested in a Bible study. They have recently applied for permission to start this Bible study. The director of the YWCA is reviewing the petition. Pray that the Lord would open this door so they can minister to these women.
 - They are also interested in starting an outreach to the Puerto Rican population in their neighborhood. They have met a number of people through the food pantry that express interest. Pray that they are able to minister to this community and share Christ with them.

- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

- **The Church's One Foundation**

- Samuel Stone - 1866

- The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord,
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her
And for her life He died.

- **Have You Heard This One?**

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object that represented their religion to share with the class.

The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David."

The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary."

The third student got in up front of the class and said, "My name is

Tommy. I am Baptist, and this is a casserole."

From HART BEAT – 13 January 2013

- Lyn and I worshipped this morning with the good folks at **Freedom Fellowship, Binghamton**, where Dan Carter preached in the absence of Pastor Bill Deckert.
- Yesterday morning I attended a meeting of Evangelical churches in Wayne County, hosted by Pastor Roger Knapton and the **Clyde BC**. They are coming together for fellowship and to see if they can work together some way to promote the spread of the gospel in Wayne County. I believe there were 5 or 6 Wayne County churches represented in the meeting.
- Yesterday evening I had dinner with Ronnie Wyatt, a North Carolina pastor who plans to start a new church in the Butternut neighborhood on the north side of the City of Syracuse. Target date to begin is March 1. Please be praying for Bro. Ronnie and his wife and family as they relocate and begin this new work.
- On Wednesday past I talked with Jeff Scott, pastor at **Canastota BC** whom we have been praying for before, during, and after his brain surgery back in November. He is continuing to recover. The doctor says he is making tremendous progress. He has returned to the pulpit and his balance issue seems to be getting much better. He appreciates all your prayers through this ordeal.
- The Executive Board of CNYBA will meet this coming Saturday, January 19th, at 10 AM at **Common Grounds Fellowship** (formerly The Church at Beaver Meadow), where Mitch Mullenax is Pastor. Beaver Meadow, NY is located on County Route 16 northwest of Norwich. The GPS address is 112 Church Street. Although the CNYBA Executive Board is made up of the pastor and one elected layperson from each church affiliated with CNYBA, the meeting is open to all.
- Wayne Sibrava. Pastor @ **Living Water, Owego** will be traveling to our CNYBA mission project in the Andes Mountains of Southern Peru May 27th for a short week. He'll be visiting Ica and Llauta. He is looking for a man to accompany him. Cost is around \$1,500.00. If you are interested, contact Wayne via phone or text at 607-760-8142 or via email @ wsibrava@stny.rr.com.
- **Newark Baptist Fellowship Church** – John DePugh Pastor
 - A young man who just received Christ as his Savior and is ready for baptism and church membership.

- Three senior saints prayed and asked Christ into their hearts at the Wayne County Nursing Home during NBFC's time there for the months of November and December.
- They showed the Movie "Not a Fan" this past Sunday Night. This is the second time they have shown this movie. As a result of the film, they will begin the study, "Not A Fan" in two weeks. Folks are excited about this.
- **Central Syracuse** Milton Kornegay, Pastor
 - They have streamlined their outreach ministries and have somewhat "adopted" McKinley-Brighton Elementary School and will be running their Food Pantry, Thanksgiving Basket Ministry, Back-to-School Ministry, and Christmas Gift Ministry through the school. For example, their Food Pantry – they'll tell the school how many families they can serve per month and the school will identify needy families from among their student body, who will be invited to a reception where they will be served.
 - Their youth (13-18) will be having a "Youth Winter Retreat" at Greek Peak Resort outside of Cortland, NY (1/25-27/13).
 - Their ladies will be having .. "All Girls Game Night" .. Friday (1-19-13) from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
 - The Pastoral Staff will be attending the Pastors' Conference at FBC-Jacksonville, FL (1/24-28/13).
- **Christ Is King, Syracuse** (Jon Speed, Church Planter/Pastor) is assisting a video project that will help mobilize churches to get involved in gospel ministry at abortion clinics. Here's the link to the promo that was just recently released: <http://youtu.be/S5iePBTji1I>
- **Three Pines, Doraville** (Mike Brown, Pastor)
 - Had a candle light Christmas Eve service.
 - Had a New Year's Eve celebration fellowship that lasted well past midnight
 - Replaced their pews with interlocking cushion chairs
 - Did some remodeling and upgraded some audio video equipment.
 - They now have a church website www.threepinescommunitychurch.org and pastor is starting a blog that can be accessed through the website.
 - Saw 2 professions of faith in December – both awaiting baptism and church membership
 - Senior Moments will be performing Sunday Jan 20th.
- **Transformation, Syracuse** (Pedro Abreau, Pastor)
 - Recently Pastor Abreau and another man from Transformation went down to Beaver Meadows to meet with Mitch Mullenax (Pastor @ **Common Grounds Fellowship**) and men's group during their monthly breakfast. At

Pastor Mitch's invitation Pastor Pedro spoke to the men about being "strong and courageous" according to what God calls Joshua to do in Joshua Chapter 1. They reportedly had a great time of fellowship and a good breakfast. Afterwards they had a time of outreach in the community - going house to house praying. They continue to seek God's will regarding the possible starting of a Bible study in Spanish somewhere in the Beaver Meadow area that may lead to another congregation! They request our prayers!

- Pastor Karl Novak at **Lakeshore, Cicero** reports "We've been out of town for two weeks, and our own folks filled the pulpit and all other areas of ministry while we have been gone. I consider that a blessing to report."
- **Summit, Cazenovia** is pleased to report that Steve Winiarski has joined their staff as an Associate Pastor. He will be leading their life Group Ministry, Summit Bible Institute, and will be an integral part of the teaching team. Along with Steve, they welcome his wife Sarah, and daughter Emma (2) to their church,. Steve is a Davis College graduate and is currently a PhD candidate at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Cordova TN, and is teaching at their regional campus in Schenectady, NY, as an adjunct professor. Additionally, Summit is currently in a teaching series on the Ministry of Reconciliation, and is kicking off their life group semester this week with six groups.
- **Grace, Rome** (Dan Goewey, Pastor)
 - Has a group of men going to New Hope in Watertown for the Tony Dungy Simulcast.
 - Have exceeded their LMCO goal with one week left to collect.
 - Taking a step of faith, the church restored the pastor to full-time status, as of the 1st of January.
- **Vietnamese, Utica** had one professional of faith at their Christmas Service. They are asking that we pray for their Leadership Training Program this year. Liem Do is Pastor.
- **Have You Heard This One?**

My mother once gave me two sweaters for Christmas. The next time we visited, I made sure to wear one.

As we entered her home, instead of the expected smile, she said,

"What's the matter? You didn't like the other one?"

From HART BEAT – 20 January 2013

- Lyn and I worshipped this morning with the good folks at **Maryland BC**, where Calvin Stedge has been pastor since November 2011.
- The CNYBA Executive Board met yesterday at the Beaver Meadow campus of **Common Grounds Fellowship** where Mitch Mullenax is pastor. Due to the efficiency and proficiency of our clerk, Harold Lefler, the minutes are already posted on our web site under the Info Center tab.
- Earlier I sent out a prayer request to our pastors asking prayer for Clyde Johnson, first pastor at **Agape, Norwich**, who is now pastoring in Michigan and having some health issues. Test revealed the need for by-pass surgery. He had a 5 bypass surgery Friday and is recuperating in ICU. Let's continue to lift our brother and family up in prayer.
- **Grace, Rome** set a goal for the 2012 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering of \$832.46. They received \$1081.20! Dan Goewey is Pastor.
- **Agape, Norwich** set a goal of \$400 for the 2012 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. They received \$412.75.
- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

Did You Think To Pray

Mary Pepper Kidder

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?**

An elderly woman walked into a local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps.

"Where would you like to sit?" he asked politely. "The front row, please," she answered.

"You really don't want to do that," the usher said. "The pastor is really boring."

"Do you happen to know who I am?" the woman inquired. "No," he said. "I'm the pastor's mother," she replied indignantly.

"Do you know who I am?" he asked. "No," she said. "Good," he answered.

From HART BEAT – 27 January 2013

- Lyn and I worshipped this morning with the good folks at our home church, **Living Water, Owego**, where Wayne Sibrava has been pastor since the last day of December 1997. We elected to attend there this morning so we could attend the baby shower for one of our young couples immediately after church and be close by for an afternoon service.

This afternoon at 3:00 PM we visited and I preached at the Johnson City Community Church, which was begun last year by two students from the Church Planting Class I taught at Davis College last spring. Tommy McElwrath and Aamir Din are the founding pastors.

I have had on several hats this week. It's been a full week. In addition to the normal email, text, phone calls, sermon preparation, etc.....

- I had the privileged of meeting with Tommy McElwrath, and at another time with Guy Newman – both young church planters – to provide encouragement, as well as some coaching. I hope you'll join me in praying for these two brand new congregations.
- I also meet with Bonnie Novak and Dr. Gilbert Parker this week about revamping the missions concentration at the college. In the future I hope to be able to teach several courses related to missions and/or pastoral ministry,
- I was honored to be asked to serve on an Advisory Council at Davis College and we met this week. I was asked to lead one of three "brain storming" groups regarding ideas for helping Davis College better minister to the community and local churches. This institution is a great asset for our churches. I hope you'll get better acquainted.
- I spent the better part of Friday meeting with the BCNY Strategic Implementation Team, which is working hard to take the recommendations of last year's Listening Task Force, adopted by the convention at last year's annual meeting, and turning them into recommendations for change in structure and style to be considered by the convention at this year's annual meeting.

- Then last night, Lyn and I enjoyed participating in the Retirement Celebration for Pastor Bill Turner, former pastor at **Lincoln Avenue, Endicott** and co-founding pastor at **Cornerstone, Endicott**.
- **Vietnamese, Utica** baptized one this past month as the result of a free Community meal, which they did on the last week-end of the month. Over 70 people attended and one was saved. Liem Do is Pastor.
- **Christ Is King, Syracuse** did a Christmas outreach at the local Dollar Tree plaza and the surrounding businesses. They distributed about 200 specially wrapped Christmas presents which contained candy, a hand sewn gift from the ladies of the church, a DVD with a gospel message, a gospel tract, and information about their church's services. They continue meeting in a local Presbyterian church building, but have moved the time of the Sunday service to 11:30 AM. Jon Speed is Church Planter/Pastor.
- **Newark Baptist Fellowship Church** had a “Wear Your Favorite Team Jersey” Sunday today. I understand that Pastor John DePugh wore a New York Giants’ jersey.
- Word has come that Clyde Johnson, first pastor at **Agape, Norwich**, and for whom many of you have been praying, has gone home from the hospital after 5 bypass surgery and seems to be doing well.
- **This Week in Preview**
 - Tues (29th) BD Sam Macri – Pastor @ Crosspoint, Whitesboro
 - Fri (1) Ch ANV Mike Brown – Pastor at Three Pines, Doraville (Feb 2007)
- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

Down At The Cross
Elisha A. Hoffman

Down at the cross where my Savior died,
Down where for cleansing from sin I cried,
There to my heart was the blood applied;
Glory to His Name!

Glory to His Name, glory to His Name:
There to my heart was the blood applied;
Glory to His Name!

I am so wondrously saved from sin,
Jesus so sweetly abides within;

There at the cross where He took me in;
Glory to His Name!

Come to this fountain so rich and sweet,
Cast thy poor soul at the Savior's feet;
Plunge in today, and be made complete;
Glory to His Name!

- **Have You Heard This One?**

A gorilla walked into a drugstore and ordered a \$1.50 chocolate sundae. He put a ten-dollar bill on the counter to pay for it.

The clerk thought, what could a gorilla know about money? So he gave the gorilla a single dollar bill in change.

As he did, the clerk said, "You know, we don't get too many gorillas in here."

"No wonder," the gorilla replied, "at nine dollars a sundae."