

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

February 2013

From HART BEAT – 3 February 2013

- Lyn and I worshipped with the good folks at **Summit, Cazenovia**, where I preached in the absence of Pastor Dan Schallmo. Dan and Cindy are in Virginia for the birth of their 4th grandchild. Some of you will remember their son, Matthew, and his wife, Kelly. Early this morning Kelly gave birth to Gracelyn Marie Schallmo. The grandparents are doing fine..
- **Inlet Community Church** accepted two new members this past Sunday. They now have 17 official members (with many non-member attendees). They are paying for 100 official members. Yogi Best is Pastor.
- **Emory Chapel, Waverly** plans to observe the Lord's Supper on Sunday, February 10th and enjoy a Fellowship Luncheon after church on Sunday, February 17th. Gary Culver is Pastor.
- **RiverEdge, Baldwinsville** (a mission church sponsored by **Living Water, Owego**) had a Super Bowl Gathering at one of the member's home tonight. Their Community Groups are "kicked off" and going. The focus for this semester is ENGAGE. Allan Covington is Pastor.
- **West Hill, Ithaca** baptized 4 people today. One of those baptized was Pastor Bill Lower's son Billy's fiancée Kathleen. Pastor Bill, and his wife Chris, will leave next week for a 10 day vacation in Florida.
- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

Down In The Valley

By Mary Barrett

Down in the valley with my Savior I would go,
Where the flowers are blooming and the sweet waters flow;
Everywhere He leads me I would follow, follow on,
Walking in His footsteps till the crown be won.

Refrain

Follow! follow! I would follow Jesus!
Anywhere, everywhere, I would follow on!
Follow! follow! I would follow Jesus!
Everywhere He leads me I would follow on!

Down in the valley with my Savior I would go,
Where the storms are sweeping and the dark waters flow;
With His hand to lead me I will never, never fear,
Danger cannot fright me if my Lord is near.

- **Have You Heard This One?**

Christian Football

Quarterback Sneak - Church members quietly leaving during the invitation.

Draw Play - What many children do with the bulletin during worship.

Half-time - The period between Sunday School and worship when many choose to leave.

Benchwarmer - Those who do not sing, pray, work, or apparently do anything but sit.

Staying in the Pocket - What happens to a lot of money that should be given to the Lord's work.

Two-minute Warning - The point at which you realize the sermon is almost over and begin to gather up your children and belongings.

Instant Replay - The preacher loses his notes and falls back on last week's illustrations.

Sudden Death - What happens to the attention span of the congregation if the preacher goes "overtime."

End Run - Getting out of church quick, without speaking to any guest or fellow member.

Flex Defense - The ability to allow absolutely nothing said during the sermon to affect your life.

Blitz - The rush for the restaurants following the closing prayer.

From HART BEAT – 10 February 2013

- Hopefully by now you all are dug out from the effects of the snow storm. I tried to wait until it quit snowing, but finally went ahead and dug out late Saturday afternoon.
- Lyn and I worshipped with the good folks at **Cornerstone, Endicott**, where Greg Johnson has been pastor since Beautiful Plain and Lincoln Avenue Baptist Churches merged in August 2011.

This afternoon we had intended to worship at the 3:00 PM service with the good folks at **Vietnamese, Endicott**, where Liem Do has been pastor since September

2002. But instead we spent a couple of hours at the emergency room. Near the end of lunch with Pastor Bill Turner and his wife Rita, Bill passed out. We called 911 and got him to the hospital. So far, at this writing, tests indicate low blood pressure, high blood sugar, and dehydration. He will stay in the hospital at least overnight while more tests are being run. I'll get back to you with more information as it comes in. Please be in pray for Bro. Bill and Rita.

- The CNYBA purpose statement is “CNYBA exists to glorify God by encouraging and assisting the churches and missions in fulfilling **their** God given purpose.” Here’s a couple of ways we are accomplishing that purpose.
 - I hope you are saving the date of April 6th on your calendar so you can attend the VBS Training @ Bellewood, North Syracuse from 8:45 AM to 1 PM. The cost is \$5 per person. Even if you’re not doing a full-fledged VBS at your church this year, you can still benefit from the training.
 - I got a note this week from George Russ, Director of Missions for the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, showing that CNYBA had gathered and sent a total of \$5,643.50 for Hurricane Sandy Relief. Billie tells me that that was just the check we sent in November. In December we sent another \$1,244.00 for a total of \$7,187.50. These funds came from several sources that chose to send their contributions through CNYBA – including gifts from CNYBA churches, individuals, and a church in Ohio. Praise the Lord for the generosity of His people.
 - I’m scheduled to sit down with the Pastor and leaders from one of our smaller churches this week to talk about how to structure pastoral compensation for maximum benefit to the pastor. I’m thrilled to be able to be of service in this way.

I appreciate what our larger churches are doing. We can learn a lot from them about how to get larger - and SHOULD. However, you don’t have to be large to be effective. As most of you know, I’m from a small church background. I understand where you are. With the Pastor’s permission, I’d be happy to come sit down with you and talk about most any aspect of “church life.” Don’t let “small” be a bad word. The Lord uses “small”. I was saved in a small bi-vocational church.

- As you may know, BCNY is developing a relationship with Davis College. I have been collaborating with Professor Bonnie Novak (whom I call Bonnie Gal) in making some recommendations about restructuring the Missions Concentration at Davis. Lyn and I are teaching at Davis on an adjunct basis. Please join us in praying that the Lord will use us in the training and development of young people for Ministry.
- Speaking of restructuring, as President of BCNY I am involved with the Strategic Implementation Team, which is working hard to turn the observations and

recommendations of last year's Listening Task Force into actual proposals to be brought back to the convention to consider in annual session in September. I hope you'll join me in praying regularly for this team as they "wade through" the task of recommending changes.

- On Thursday past Lyn and I had lunch in Horseheads with a retired couple from SC who are interested in church planting. The wife is from the Elmira area. I'm not sure where this will lead, but keep praying that the Lord of the harvest will send workers into our field.
- I also talked this week with a potential Hispanic church planter from Florida who is interested in the Binghamton area. Again, pray that the Lord's will can be clearly known by this "empty nester" couple who have a desire to be missionaries to their people group.
- **Newark Baptist Fellowship Church** held a Super Bowl party last Sunday evening, with an attendance of 32. Two people accepted Christ during the half time Bible study. Pastor John DePugh and Deacon Ted Peck are working together on preaching about Worship using Ron Owen's book "Return To Worship and Warren Wiersbe book "Real Worship." In two weeks they will begin two classes on a study entitled "Not a Fan by Kyle Idleman.

- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

Down in the valley with my Savior I would go,
Where the [flowers](#) are blooming and the sweet waters flow;
Everywhere He leads me I would follow, follow on,
Walking in His footsteps till the crown be won.

Follow! follow! I would follow Jesus!
Anywhere, everywhere, I would follow on!
Follow! follow! I would follow Jesus!
Everywhere He leads me I would follow on!

Down in the valley with my Savior I would go,
Where the storms are sweeping and the dark waters flow;
With His hand to lead me I will never, never fear,
Danger cannot fright me if my Lord is near.

Down in the valley, or upon the mountain steep,
Close beside my Savior would my soul ever keep;
He will lead me safely in the path that He has trod,
Up to where they gather on the hills of God.

Have You Heard This One?

One day a man drove his secretary home after she fell quite ill at work. Although this was an innocent gesture, he decided not to mention it to his wife, who tended to get jealous easily. Later, that night the man and his wife were driving to a restaurant. Suddenly he looked down and spotted a high-heel shoe half hidden under the passenger seat. Not wanting to be conspicuous, he waited until his wife was looking out her window before he scooped up the shoe and tossed it out of the car. With a sigh of relief, he pulled into the restaurant parking lot. That's when he noticed his wife squirming around in her seat. "Honey," she asked, "have you seen my other shoe?"

From HART BEAT – 17 February 2013

- **Hart to Heart**

- You're receiving HART BEAT a might earlier than normal this week so that I can get on down to Scranton, PA area this afternoon in preparation for catching an early morning flight out to Nashville, TN. I've been invited to observe a meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.
- Lyn and I worshipped in the 8:30 morning worship service at **Emmanuel, Cortland**, where Jim Hundley has been pastor since April 1991.
- **Lakeshore, Cicero** held a Valentine Banquet this past week. They called it

- **Last Week in Review**

- In case you have not heard, Zach & Rebecca's first son was born on February 11. His name is Daniel James Neyhard. If you'd like to send a congratulatory note or e-card, their email address is zneyhard@yahoo.com.
- Last evening, Lyn and I attended the 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration for Waylen and Cherlyn Bray at **Stamford BC**. Praise the Lord for their commitment to each other and to the Lord over these years. They will take a celebratory trip to Ireland in the next few days.
- On the way to Stamford yesterday, Lyn and I had lunch with Lynn and Shirley Finch. They have been long time friends. Lynn did a lot of volunteer electrical work at Carroll Street Ministry Center right after we bought the building and were "getting it in shape" to begin ministry there.
- On Friday evening past Lyn and I had dinner with Elton & Billie Winskie. I'm sure you know Billie – Treasurer of CNYBA. Afterward we attended a play starring our medical doctor in the lead role. Quite interesting.

- On Thursday past I was privileged to consult with one of our pastors and some of his leadership regarding church budgeting and pastoral compensation. I thank the Lord for the opportunities to serve the churches.
- During the week I had several opportunities to visit with pastors, in person and via phone, as well as doing the normal email responses, web site updates, etc. One of the things I worked on this week is finding a missionary to speak at our Mid-year meeting on May 4th. Be praying that I can find just the right person to help us be more aware of and pray more intelligently for missions. We'll be entering the Week of Pray for North American Missions soon. I hope your church will participate in both the praying part and the Annie Armstrong Offering part.

- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
 And it told Thy love to me;
 But I long to rise in the arms of faith
 And be closer drawn to Thee.

Draw me nearer, nearer blessèd Lord,
 To the cross where Thou hast died.
 Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessèd Lord,
 To Thy precious, bleeding side.

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
 By the power of grace divine;
 Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
 And my will be lost in Thine.

O the pure delight of a single hour
 That before Thy throne I spend,
 When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God
 I commune as friend with friend!

There are depths of love that I cannot know
 Till I cross the narrow sea;
 There are heights of joy that I may not reach
 Till I rest in peace with Thee.

- **Have You Heard This One?**

A Hunter walking through the jungle found a huge dead elephant with a pigmy standing beside it. Amazed, he asked: "Did you kill that?"

The pigmy said, "Yes."

The hunter asked, "How could a little bloke like you kill a huge beast like that?"

"I killed it with my club." The astonished hunter asked, "How big is your club?"

The pigmy replied, "There's about 60 of us."

From HART BEAT – 24 February 2013

- **Hart to Heart**

- Lyn and I worshipped this morning with the good folks at **Christ Is King, Syracuse**, where Jon Speed is the founding pastor. Jon has been in the process of planting the church since September 2011. This mission congregation is currently meeting in the sanctuary of Onondaga Valley Presbyterian Church at 11:30 AM each Sunday morning. They are sponsored by **Lakeshore, Cicero**, where Karl Novak is church planter/pastor.
- As you probably know, CNYBA has two tents, a block party trailer, and some scaffolding – all on trailers. If your church would like to use one of these associational resources, it's not too early to reserve it. Some have already begun reserving. We operate on a first-come-first-served basis.

- **News From the Churches**

- **RiverEdge, Baldwinsville** (a new work sponsored by **Living Water, Owego**) has their community groups up and running for this semester. The current focus is prayer. Soon they will move the focus to finances, using videos from Dave Ramsey as the basis for studying stewardship. They continue their monthly Gatherings - a special time to experience the church together and is primarily a worship time with music, testimony and communion, with food and fellowship to follow. Now how Baptist is that!
- **Christ Is King, Syracuse** will sponsor a "God's Glory in the Church" Conference March 10-13 with Randall Easter and other speakers. Sessions will be at 11:30 AM on Sunday and 7:00 PM on Monday through Wednesday. A special course on the local church, called "Life in the Father's House" will begin on Monday evening, March 18th. Pastor Jon Speed just returned from a week long East Coast Tour with 40 street preachers from across the country.
- **Northside, Liverpool** will host their annual "Keep the Fire Burning" Conference for Pastors and Church Leaders beginning Sunday evening, March 3rd and running through noon on Tuesday, March 5th. You can register and/or find more information about the conference at the church's web site – www.northsideonline.org.

Northside Student Ministries announces that this year's Winter Retreat for Junior and Senior students will be at Camp of the Woods in Speculator, NY on March 15-17. Students will engage in Worship, Biblical teachings, small group time, house group time, community building activities, not to mention the rock climbing wall, indoor heated pool, basketball courts, volley ball. Arcade, and outdoor snow games. Registration for the retreat will cost \$140 per student (additional students in same family receive a discount) if registered by February 12th. Registration fees cover lodging, transportation, meals, t-shirt, and all the full group activities including the rock climbing wall. Email jsalvagni@northsideonline.org with any questions.

- **Stamford BC** had a guest speaker today. Chuck Joyce preached in the absence of Pastor Waylen Bray, who with his wife, Cherlyn, is on a 50th Wedding Anniversary trip to Ireland. On March 9th ladies from the church will attend a Women's Conference at Loudenville Community Church. On Mar 10-13 the church will hold Spring Revival services with Olukayode Oluleye of Nigeria, a student at Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, TX

- **This Week in Review**

- In my role as President of BCNY, I spent Monday - Wednesday traveling to, attending, and returning from the SBC Executive Committee meeting in Nashville, TN. I sat in on some Work Groups, heard Fred Luter (President of the SBC), and visited with a friend, Larry Allen, who is President of the Michigan Baptist Convention.
- Lyn and I enjoyed dinner and a visit at the home of Dr. Dino (President of Davis College) and Bobbie Pedrone, along with two other couples.
- On Friday I met with Brandon Owen, who will soon become the Director of Baptist Campus Ministry at Syracuse University and Pastor of University Baptist Church, which meets on the campus. I was very impressed with this young man and believe that he will do an excellent job in this new role. For some time now he has been serving in a bi-vocational role at **Missio, Syracuse.**
- I also met with Tim Bissell, the NAMB Church Planting Catalyst assigned to CNYBA. Tim and I work closely together, especially when we are trying to obtain NAMB funding for a project. We are working on a new work start in the northern sections of the City of Syracuse, which looks like it will begin shortly. We're working on two other projects as well at the moment.

- Next week we will begin the annual Week of Prayer for North American Missions. If your church has not received materials for this week, you can find lots of information on the NAMB web site, www.namb.net. Scroll down the home page and click on 2013 Week of Prayer Missionaries right under the pictures of the missionaries. This week long emphasis also includes a special offering – the Annie Armstrong Offering.

Each year, we honor the life and work of Annie Walker Armstrong (1850-1938) when we give to the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions. As a tireless servant of God and a contagious advocate and supporter of mission efforts throughout the world, Annie rallied churches to give more, pray more, and do more for reaching people for Christ. The Annie Armstrong website provides a wealth of resources for promoting the offering in the local church, including supplemental materials available only online. AnnieArmstrong.com

- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

Each Step I Take - *Elmo Mercer*

Each step I take my Savior goes before me,
And with His loving hand He leads the way,
And with each breath I whisper "I adore Thee;"
Oh, what joy to walk with Him each day.

Each step I take I know that He will guide me;
To higher ground He ever leads me on.
Until some day the last step will be taken.
Each step I take just leads me closer home.

At times I feel my faith begin to waver,
When up ahead I see a chasm wide.
It's then I turn and look up to my Saviour,
I am strong when He is by my side.

I trust in God, no matter come what may,
For life eternal in His hand,
He holds the key that opens up the way,
That will lead me to the promised land

- **Have You Heard This One?**

Children in Church

- One particular four-year old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

- A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."
- A Sunday School teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."