

THE ECHO of Central New York Baptist Association

(A compilation of this month's **HART BEAT**, a weekly E-update for CNYBA Pastors and Key Leaders)

April 2013

From HART BEAT – 7 April 2013

- **Hart to Heart**

- I'm a little sad and a lot glad today.
 - I'm a little sad because seven years ago today, my friend, Lash Frey, went home to be with the Lord after suffering a massive heart attack at the close of Sunday night services ten days earlier. In the providence of God, I was finishing up speaking in a missions conference in East Texas and was able to rush over to South Arkansas to be by his bedside until his passing. I was privileged to preach his funeral. I still miss his distinctive voice and great sense of humor. He was a great preacher of the Word. Some of you will remember him as the evangelist in several of our churches across the Southern Tier.
 - I'm a lot glad because Lash has been in the presence of the Lord all this time without the problems of failing health AND I'm quite sure he's somewhere around the Eastern Gate waiting for me to show up.
- Lyn and I worshipped this morning with the good folks at **Eternal Life, Auburn**, where David Kreydatus has been pastor since June 2008.
- While at Eternal Life today I learned:
 - That they plan VBS for July 8-12. Last year they had 9 professions of faith.
 - That they plan to restart "Movie Night" in May.
 - That one of their members, Randy St. Clair, who is serving as the chaplain at a race track in Cicero, is looking for two or three people who would be interested in helping him start a Back Yard Bible Club for children at the track on Sunday afternoon. If you are interested call Randy at 315-283-8003.
- Tonight, Lyn and I attended a fellowship dinner at our home church, **Living Water, Owego**, then stayed for business meeting. We are not normally there for business meeting and I was thinking how strange it is that I'm not often in a church business meeting any more after moderating one almost every month for 32 and 1/2 years while I was in the pastorate.

- Don't forget that our CNYBA Mid-year meeting will be held at **Lyons Falls Bible Fellowship Church** on Saturday, May 4th. Among other program items, Barry Whitworth, NAMB Missionary serving in Pennsylvania, will speak. We will begin at 10 AM and the church is providing lunch. You won't believe the menu. You won't want to miss it.
- Dr. Rick Martin, our CNYBA endorsed missionary to Peru, will be in CNYBA April 14th - 21st and May 5th - 12th sharing about their progress towards Peru. He would like to speak to churches at any of their services or meetings during his time here. He would like to meet with any pastors or church leaders or committees who would be willing to listen for 10 - 15 minutes. Rick can be contacted at 607-240-3755 or rmart111@yahoo.com.

- **This Week in Review**

- Yesterday Lyn and I enjoyed attending the morning session of the Mini-missions Conference at **Emmanuel, Cortland**. All four of "our guys" -- Bill Deckert (Freedom Fellowship, Binghamton), Dan Schallmo (Summit, Cazenovia, Karl Novak (Lakeshore, Cicero), and Andy Smith (Emmanuel, Cortland) – did a fantastic job relating their experiences and moving us through the stages of church development. Featured speaker, Bill Barker, a National NAMB Missionary who heads up Appalachian Regional Ministry, hit it out of the park. We had 7 churches represented. Those who attended left inspired and challenged. Those who did not attend missed a great blessing. Bill Barker also spoke Saturday night and this morning at Emmanuel.
- Yesterday afternoon, after lunch with Bill Barker, Jim and Pam Hundley, and Dan Schallmo, Lyn and I went on out to Clyde to attend the 90th Birthday Celebration for Pastor Roger Knapton. It was great to hear of the many blessings the Lord has poured out on the ministry there and to see Roger sporting a varsity sweater he received in wrestling at Alfred University some 71 years ago. The team received purple sweaters with a gold A on them, but Roger got a gold sweater with a purple A. When I asked why, he told me that it was because he was the only one on the team that was undefeated that year. Can you imagine Roger wrestling?
- On Friday night, Lyn and I enjoyed attending (with our friends John and Dody Martin) a Southern Gospel Music Concert featuring The Talleys at the Chenango Valley High School Auditorium.
- On Wednesday evening I conducted a "test run" with two of our churches in preparation for our first on-line Church Strengthening Workshop scheduled for May 14th. We discovered a few bugs with the group session using a video projector, so we will do a second "test run" this Wednesday to see if we can fix

the problems incurred when we're using Go-To=Meeting in a group setting. The individual setting worked fine.

- **This Week in Preview**

- Today (7th) – ANV Andy & Faith Smith (P&W @ Emmanuel, Cortland)
- Mon (8th) – BCNY Strategic Implementation Team Meeting
- Mon (8th) – BCNY Order of Business Committee Meeting
- Tues (9th) - We will have another of our Pastors' Gatherings on-line. We will conduct identical sessions at 10 AM and 7 PM so that Pastors can choose the time that best fits their schedule. As you know, I love Pastors and want to do all I can to help them be as effective as possible. I urge you to pray for your Pastor on a regular basis. God has put him where he is for a purpose.
- Wed (10th) – ANV Bill & Rita Turner (former P&W @ Cornerstone, Endicott)
- Thurs (11th) – Pick up and deliver refrigerators and freezers from Freedom Fellowship, Binghamton to Emmanuel Campground in Maryland, NY
- Sat (13th) – BCNY Executive Board Meeting

- **Missionary Stories**

EUROPE — It was a dark day when David Eilenberg* faced the statue of Christ just outside the Catholic Church and bellowed, "Where are you, Jesus?"

Silence.

That day, in the depths of the Holocaust, the Polish Jew hung up belief. Millions of Eilenberg's fellow Jews died and were put in the ground before World War II ended.

Then six decades later, in the midst of their graves, he met Dirk Stockton* who was cleaning the cemetery, and something big changed.

"I have watched you and what you Baptists are doing in our cemetery," Eilenberg told Stockton, reaching out to touch his chest. "I don't believe in God, but I see God in you."

It's exactly what Stockton had hoped for, that wrong relationships might be put right through the love of Jesus Christ.

For a long time, Stockton had been wondering how Baptists could speak into the injustice done to Jews during the Holocaust, when 6 million Jews were systematically killed in camps in Poland alone.

"When I approached the Jewish community about bringing Baptist volunteers to clean and restore this Jewish cemetery, I was asked, 'Why do you wish to do this?'" Stockton said. "I simply said, 'Reconciliation.'"

That one word began an eight-year journey of renewing Jewish cemeteries and relationships. Matthew Jackson*, who also serves among Jews in Poland, said Stockton and others have done "an incredible amount of work in Jewish cemeteries in and around the city of Warsaw."

Stockton said he believes it's making a difference.

"I have heard this question many times, 'Why would you, a Christian, do this for us, a Jew?'" Stockton said. "This question presents an opportunity to say simply, 'Love. I love God, and I love my neighbor. I love the Jewish people and I honor them as the root of everything that I know about God, as you have given us the Scriptures.'"

His Jewish friends, he said, find it hard to believe.

"Some Jews have responded to me by saying, 'If what you are doing, I told to people in Jerusalem, they would not believe,'" he said.

They find it even harder to believe that people would come all the way from the United States to help, but the volunteers' intent is to show Christ's love in a practical way, focusing on things Jews and Baptists share.

One commonality, Stockton said, is a command to "love your neighbor."

"We are seeking to open a dialogue with both Jews and Gentiles about the true nature of God's love," Stockton said. "Love is not an abstract thought or a fleeting emotion. It is action. Jesus said, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.'"

It's proven to be a striking picture for Polish Jews, he said.

"One survivor of the Holocaust told me, 'What you are doing on earth, the angels are proclaiming and rejoicing about in Heaven,'" Stockton said.

**Names changed.*

- **Have You Heard This One?**

A man and his wife were devastated when they learned that someone had stolen the wife's credit card. The husband frantically began to try to fix it – calling the local police, the credit card company, and the bank.

Then the credit card bill arrived and he discovered that the person who has stolen the credit card wasn't spending as much as his wife had been spending.

So he thought. "I don't think I'm going to continue trying to fix this. I think it would be cheaper to let the thief keep the card."

From HART BEAT – 14 April 2013

Hart Beat

(An E-update for CNYBA Pastors and Key Leaders)

14 April 2013

- Hart to Heart

- Lyn and I worshipped with the good folks at **Vietnamese, Utica** where Liem Do has been pastor since he started the church back in 2010. The church has some Cambodian members and today was the Cambodian New Year, so they celebrated with special music by the Cambodian believers and some Cambodian food. Pastor Liem spoke mostly in Vietnamese (with some English thrown in once in a while for the English speakers present) and one of the Cambodians translated from Vietnamese into Cambodian. When a Cambodian believer was asked to share a testimony, he translated from Cambodian into Vietnamese. I did not understand all that was said, but I was certainly moved by the Holy Spirit of God. Isn't it great that God understands all praise in whatever language. In fact, that is the short version of God's plan for mankind – that His name be known, honored, and worshipped in every nation, tribe, and people group on the earth.
- BECOMING A DISCIPLE will be the theme for our first Discipleship Development Webinar on May 14th @ 7 PM. Tommy Echols from BCNY will be our facilitator. Becoming a disciple does not indicate a destination but a journey. We must all continually grow as a disciple. In our time together we will discuss some basic habits of the heart needed to grow as a disciple; identify where we are in the growth process; and, receive tools to move us forward. Information on how to join the webinar from any computer connected to the internet will be in the May 12th HART BEAT. At least one church will be logging in, and using their PA system and video projector, will allow a group to participate in the webinar. If any other churches would like to try this approach, just let me know.
- Don't forget that our CNYBA Mid-year Meeting is coming up on Saturday, May 4. It will be held at **Lyons Falls Bible Fellowship Church**, beginning at 10 AM. The church is providing lunch. NAMB Missionary, Berry Whitworth from Pennsylvania, will be our special guest speaker.

- News From the Churches

- ❖ **Agape, Norwich** has exceeded its \$400 goal for the Annie Armstrong Offering for North American Missions. Harold Lefler is Pastor.

- ❖ **Vietnamese, Utica** has met in the facilities of the Lighthouse Baptist Church since its beginning. They have outgrown the original space and have moved to larger space in the church's annex building across the street. They now have two children's Sunday School classes that meet during adult worship plus a Bible study for adult Vietnamese and adult Cambodians on Saturday.
- ❖ **Vietnamese, Endicott**, which meets in the **Cornerstone, Endicott** facilities, has a new leader. Pastor Liem Do, who had been pastoring Vietnamese, Endicott and Vietnamese, Utica, has turned the Endicott church leadership over to long time deacon, Tan Do (no relation to Pastor Do). They have moved the Sunday worship services back to 11 AM, rather than the afternoon time slot they were using while Pastor Liem was preaching both congregations.

- **This Week in Preview**

- ✓ Today – BD Lisa Arnold (PW @ Southport, Elmira)
- ✓ Tues – CNYBA Leadership Team Meeting
- ✓ Thurs – Scholarship Banquet @ Davis College
- ✓ Fri – Meeting with World Relief regarding Immigration Ministry

- **Baptist Heritage**

Baptist Beginnings - by Leon McBeth

Who was the first Baptist, and where was the first Baptist church? When did Baptists begin, and who was their founder?

A lot of people ask these questions. We want to know about our denominational roots. To know our beginnings will help us understand ourselves today.

These sound like simple questions, and one might expect brief and simple answers. The story of Baptist beginnings, however, is surprisingly complicated; and not everyone agrees on the conclusions. Perhaps this is one reason such questions have been so controversial in the past.

Some people try to trace organized Baptist churches back to New Testament times or to John the Baptist. One writer even suggested that Adam was the first Baptist! Certainly we believe that our doctrine and faith root in the New Testament, but we first meet our organized denomination considerably this side of Adam.

Our best historical evidence says that Baptists came into existence in England in the early seventeenth century. They apparently emerged out of the Puritan-Separatist movement in the Church of England. Some of these earnest people read the Bible in their own language, believed it, and sought to live by it. They formed separate congregations which accepted only believers into their membership, and they

baptized converts upon their profession of faith. Their opponents nicknamed them “Baptists,” and the name stuck. The next installment will fill in some of the details of that story.

- **Have You Heard This One?**

Once I worked as an operator on an old IBM 370/Model 138 mainframe at a local college. My position had been reclassified to fall into a new area outside of the I/S staff.

One day, my new supervisor entered the room and stared at the air conditioning unit directly behind me. He studied the two flashing lights for a few moments and asked what job it was currently processing.

I killed my career by replying, "Actually, sir, it's cooling the room. The computer is over there

From HART BEAT – 21April 2013

Hart Beat

(An E-update for CNYBA Pastors and Key Leaders)

21 April 2013

- **Hart to Heart**

- ✓ Word came early Thursday morning that Pastor Bill Turner had gone to be with the Lord earlier that morning. Funeral services will be held at **Cornerstone, Endicott** (911 E. Main Street) on Monday, April 22, beginning with visitation from 10 AM until noon, followed by the memorial service at noon.

When I first came to New York as Director of Missions, Bill was pastor at Fellowship, Elmira Heights. I led his ordination service. Later he and I started a Bible study in downtown Binghamton, which today is known as Freedom Fellowship Church. For several years Bill was pastor of the historic Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church in Endicott and led in the merger of that church with Beautiful Plain Baptist Church to form Cornerstone Community Church, where he served as co-pastor until his retirement recently. Bill was retired Navy and went home at age 70. Please lift up his wife, Rita, during these days.

- ✓ Lyn and I worshipped with the good folks of **Common Grounds Fellowship** at their 9 AM worship service in Lincklaen, NY this morning. This is one of 9 weekly groups that make up Common Grounds.

Pastor Mitch Mullenax became the bi-vocational Pastor of The Church at Beaver Meadow in August 2009. This is, without doubt, one of the most rural areas in our association territory. In the process of time, he started a Bible study in the next village over – in a coffee house called The Daily Grind. They named the Bible study Common Grounds at the Daily Grind. Attendance soon became larger than the church attendance. Someone in the first group asked if something could be started closer to their home. One thing has led to another and groups were added – and continue to be added. They kept the **Common Grounds** name and have set up a common treasury to support a common budget. I am always happy to encourage folks to think outside the box. Pastor Mitch tells me that there is some overlap between the groups, but not much. Periodically they have a common worship service that involves all the groups. Pastor Mitch's goal is 20/20 – 20 groups by 2020.

- ✓ The March newsletter from Brandon Owen, Pastor @ University, Syracuse and Director of Baptist Campus Ministry is posted on our web site under the Information Center tab/Campus Ministry News. Brandon will be speaking at our CNYBA Mid-year meeting – which will meet at **Lyons Falls Bible Fellowship Church** on May 4.
- ✓ In a few days I'll be getting the CNYBA trailers out for updating, licensing, inspections, and any necessary repairs to make them road ready for this coming season. Updated schedules for use of CNYBA Block Party Trailer, Tents, and Scaffolding are posted on the CNYBA web site under the Info Center tab. If your church or church group would like to use one or more of these resources, check the web site to see if your date is open and then call, text, or email me to get on the list.
- ✓ Calendar Dates to Save:
 - September 22-24 – BCNY Annual Conference at Almherst Baptist Church
 - October 4-5 – Women's Retreat in Ellenville, NY
 - October 19 – CNYBA Annual Meeting at Emory Chapel, Waverly
 - It's not too late to sign up for the Disaster Relief Training (including chaplaincy) that will be held at **Grace, Rome** on May 31-June 1. Go to the BCNY web site (www.bcnysbc.org) and look for the Disaster Relief icon.
 - As I talked with Pastor Dan Goewey this week I learned that his wife (Lorraine) and daughter were in Boston cheering on a friend who was running in the Boston Marathon when the bombs went off. They were actually standing in front of the building where the first bomb went off about 30 minutes before. They had made a purchase at the store where the windows were blown out and had moved to another location - just in time praise the Lord!

- **News From the Churches**

- ❖ Pastor James Pannafino (**Lighthouse, Syracuse**) has moved into a 'new' apologetics ministry, TheMarketplace.org.
- ❖ **Central, Syracuse** will soon go to closing on property they just purchased for relocation of the ministry. They purchased 5.7 acres near the Outer Comstock area. They already have some interest for the purchase of their current facility. They plan to relocate in late July .. early August. The name will still be Central Baptist Church. They are seeking to position themselves for future growth and impact on lives in the city of Syracuse. Milt Kornegay is Pastor.
- ❖ **Stamford BC** heard CNYBA endorsed Peru bound missionary Rick Martin on Wednesday night. They have two awaiting baptism - a 71-year-old gentleman and an eight-year-old young lady. On Friday at 7 PM they will have their monthly movie night and will be showing "Secret at Arrow Lake".
- ❖ **Three Pines, Doraville** – Mike Brown Pastor
 - They have a four point purpose – Evangelism, Exaltation, Encouragement, and Equipping.
 - They are planning another "Community Day" in the town park this summer. This has proven to be fruitful in the past.
 - The guys with motorcycles are gearing up for another summer of motorcycle outreach rides.
 - They have begun an expansion fund. They have run out of room, are landlocked, and parking is an ongoing problem. They are looking for God's leading and solution. In the first month over \$3,000 has been donated.
 - Last fall they replaced their pews with interlocking chairs - increasing seating by 25%
 - They plan to refinish the hardwood floors this summer. During this project they will have an outdoor church service (giving the floors a week to dry).
- ❖ **Lakeshore, Cicero** We had 6 folks go through their 101 "Introduction to Christianity" class recently. Several of them are candidates for baptism. Karl Novak is Pastor.
- ❖ **The Neighborhood Church** is a new work start in the north Syracuse neighborhood of Butternut/Schiller Park. The church planter, Ronnie Wyatt, his wife and three daughters have moved on the field and have begun the task of starting a new church. Here are a few update items.
 - New phone # is: 315 - 876 - 0558
 - New email address is tncsyracuse@yahoo.com

- (tnc = The Neighborhood Church)
- God has begun to open doors of influence in the community. A few days ago Pastor Ronnie met with workers at the Schiller Park Rec Center. He will be joining them to help feed kids throughout the neighborhood every day.
- They were also told that they could use the Park Rec Center as a gathering place for The Neighborhood Church when we reach the point of needing a building – at a very minimal cost.
- Recently the Wyatts attended the 2nd Annual Butternut Police Community Center Gala - a Fund Raising event that supports the community center on Butternut Street where kids are ministered to every day as well.
- Beginning next week the Wyatts will join the Volunteer crew at the center! Both of these opportunities allow them to show AND share the hope of Jesus!
- They have tentative plans to bring in some brothers and sisters from "The South" to help reach out to the neighborhood on August 11-14 . They will be doing some handy man work in local stores and shops to build relationships with people in the community, doing Block Parties and VBS, etc!!!!

Please be praying for Ronnie, Michele, Abi, Tori, and Juli.

❖ **Agape, Norwich** will resume their monthly first Sunday night Praise and Worship Services on Sunday May 5th at 6PM. The Pine Cones, a musical group from the **Three Pines, Doraville**, will be singing. Harold Lefler is Pastor.

- **This Week in Preview**

- ✚ Mon – Funeral for Pastor Bill Turner

- ✚ Tues – Thurs – I'll be meeting with a representative from a ministry specializing in coaching and advising congregations in the area of Church Strengthening, to see how we might partner to provide opportunity for CNYBA pastors and churches.

- ✚ Fri – I'll be doing Treasurer Training for Transformation, Syracuse

- **Truths from the Old Hymns**

Fairest Lord Jesus

Written by German Jesuits in the 17th Century

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
 O Thou of God and man the Son,
 Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
 Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine,
Fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forever more be Thine.

- **Have You Heard This One?**

- A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."
- A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."
- A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."
- Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away. "Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer." said his mother. "I don't need to," the boy replied. "Of course, you do" his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house." "That's at our house." Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook."

From HART BEAT – 28 April 2013

Hart Beat

(An E-update for CNYBA Pastors and Key Leaders)

28 April 2013

- **Hart to Heart**

- ✚ On Monday past I was privileged to have a part in the funeral service for Pastor Bill Turner. Please be in prayer for his wife, Rita, as she makes this major transition in her life.
- ✚ Lyn and I worshipped today with the good folks at Clyde BC, where Roger Knapton has been pastor since the church began in November 2005. A couple of weeks ago I reported to you that Lyn and I attended Roger's 90th birthday celebration. Yes, he's still preaching. After the service this morning we enjoyed a time of fellowship over lunch.
- ✚ By now I hope you know that the Mid-year Meeting of CNYBA is this coming Saturday, May 4. We will meet at Lyons Falls Bible Fellowship Church, where Jeff Ford is the Pastor. It is located in the village of Lyons Falls (3938 Rt. 12, Lyons Falls, NY 13368) right beside Hwy 12 about 45 miles north of Utica. We will begin at 10 AM. **A complete Book of Reports is posted on our CNYBA web site. Look under the Info Center tab and scroll down to Book of Reports.** Our special guest will be Barry Whitworth, NAMB Missionary in Pennsylvania. We will also hear from Brandon Owen, who is the new director of student ministry at Syracuse. He will share with us all about the changes that are taking place at Baptist Campus Ministry and University Baptist Church.
- ✚ Hopefully you recall my mentioning the national evangelism initiative from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. It is a national one evening event where people invite friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc into their home for dinner and a viewing of a video by Billy Graham. Pastors, churches, or individuals can get all the information about this event and materials for training in advance of the event by going to www.myhopewithbillygraham.org . I encourage you to do so.

- **News From the Churches**

- **The Neighborhood Church, Syracuse** is our newest church plant effort led by church planter, Ronnie Wyatt, on the north side of the city of Syracuse. They have a new web site, which is www.tncsyracuse.com . Check it out.

- **Crosspoint, Whitesboro** is involved with “The Water Project”, which is an effort to bring clean water to villages in Africa. They also are also collecting winter wearables to send to House of God, a Baptist church they help sponsor in L’viv, Ukraine. Pastor Sam Macri will deliver the annual sermon at the Baptist Convention of New York Annual Meeting in September.
- **Stamford BC** will show “Breaking Men” at their Family Movie Night on May 17. Waylen Bray is Pastor.

- **This Week in Preview**

- ✚ 29th - Perspectives Class Workshop – Hawthorne, NJ
- ✚ 4th – CNYBA Mid-year Meeting @ Lyons Falls BC

- ➔ **May Ministry Anniversaries**

- ✚ Jeff Scott – Pastor @ Canastota BC since May 2004
- ✚ Dan Schallmo – Pastor @ Summit, Cazenovia since May 2005
- ✚ Ken Fallon – Pastor @ Crossroads, Sherburne since May 2005
- ✚ Andy Smith – Associate Pastor @ Emmanuel, Cortland since May 2009

- **The Gospel According to Holly** (rerun)

Chapter two of my book (inspired by my wife's Pomeranian puppy) "The Gospel According to Holly" is entitled **He Cares For You.**

Holly has an attitude! When I say come on let's go, guess what she does. She runs around wanting to play. When I say stop barking, guess what she does. She barks even more. When I say eat your own ice cream, guess what she does. She jumps up on my chair and tries to get mine. When I say be still and go to sleep, guess what she does. She jumps on my face. When I say quit licking my arm, guess what she does. She starts licking my nose. But you know what? In spite of all her antics, I love and care for the little rascal anyway! Aren't you glad that our Heavenly Father loves and cares for us anyway, even in spite of our antics? The Bible says "Cast all your cares on Him, because He cares for you."

- **Have You Heard This One?**

Several women, each trying to one-up the other, appeared in court, each accusing the others of causing the trouble they were having in the apartment building where they lived.

The judge, with Solomon-like wisdom decreed, "Okay, I'm ready to hear the evidence...I'll hear the oldest first."

The case was dismissed for lack of testimony