

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)

May 2013

- ❖ **NOTE: This is the last month for THE ECHO, which is a compilation of excerpts from the weekly HART BEAT updates. Beginning in June the unedited HART BEAT will be posted to the web site weekly.**

From HART BEAT – 5 May 2013

➡ Hart to Heart

- ✓ Lyn and I stayed over after the Mid-year Meeting and worshipped this morning with the good folks at **Lyons Falls Bible Fellowship Church**, where Jeff Ford has been pastor since December 2010. Pastor Jeff was celebrating 15 years in the ministry today and had never missed a Sunday for sickness – until today. Lyn and I had a great time of fellowship with Jeff, Jessica, and the boys over dinner on Saturday night at a local restaurant, but Pastor Jeff got sick in the night with some kind of stomach bug. He called me at the motel this morning and asked if I could “fill in”. Of course, I was happy to. And by the way, they had a fellowship lunch afterward. Can you believe it?
- ✓ The CNYBA Mid-year Meeting went off without a hitch yesterday. **Lyons Falls Bible Fellowship Church** did a fantastic job hosting the meeting. The music was outstanding and the lunch they provided had to be the best associational meeting lunch I have ever enjoyed – salmon, fettuccine Alfredo, chicken Masala, and on and on. I didn't have enough insulin with me for all the deserts. The following recommendations from the Leadership Team were approved.
 - That the project for our 2013 Associational Mission Offering be Grace Baptist Church - to help with their reconstruction project.
 - That our CNYBA local mission trip project for 2013 be to finish the CNYBA pole barn (where we store the tents, scaffolding, block party trailer, etc for the winter)
 - That the date for our 2013 CNYBA local mission trip be August 15-17.
 - That we increase our budget support for Campus Ministry (Line #5402) \$200 (from \$1000 to \$1200) and reduce Line #5208 (Misc. Church Planting) \$200.
 - That we support Ronnie Wyatt and the new work in Syracuse in the amount of \$100 per month for May – December 2013 (Line #5208 Misc. Church Planting)

- ✓ Thanks to the efficiency of our Association Clerk, Harold Lefler, minutes of the Mid-Year Meeting are already posted on our web site.
- ✓ Please be reminded that we will attempt our first Discipleship Development Webinar via Go-To-Meeting on May 14th at 7 PM. At least two churches have indicated that they will have a group participating using their sound system and video projector. Individuals may join in from their home computer, ipad, or iPhone. The information you'll need to join the meeting will be included in next week's HART BEAT.
- ✓ I have been communicating with three potential church planters – one each from AZ, FL, and SC. Please be praying for God's will to be perfectly clear.
- ✓ Save the date: Saturday, August 31. We will have a three hour Leadership Development Conference, led by my new friend, Tom Fillinger, Director of IgniteUS Ministries. I'm not yet sure where the conference will be held, so stay tuned for further information.

While we want to remain engaged in church planting, we have two other focus areas – Church Strengthening and Cooperative Ministry. The conference on May 14th and August 31st are first steps toward greater investment in Church Strengthening. Strong churches rise on strong leadership. I'm planning a series of Leadership and Discipleship Development events for the future.

To bolster our Cooperative Ministry efforts, we have an in-association mission trip planned for August 15-17 to finish the association pole barn at North Fenton. I am also working to set up a mission trip sometime this summer or fall to West Virginia. And we still have the possibility that we may have an opportunity to do a mission trip to the Virgin Islands. Please pray about participating in one or all these events.

- ✓ I'd be interested to know if there are folks who would consider a work project mission trip to West Virginia in late summer to early fall of this year. If you're interested, please email, text, or call me – contact info at the end of this newsletter.

➡ **News From the Churches**

- ✓ **Emory Chapel, Barton** participated in a Spaghetti Dinner Benefit to help with the financial burden of increasing medical bills for a local girl. They plan a Women's Group meeting on May 8th and a Fellowship Dinner on May 19. They recently welcomed two new members. Pastor Gary Culver founded the church in December 1998.

✓ **Central, Syracuse** baptized 4 this morning! Hallelujah! Milt Kornegay is Pastor.

➡ **Missionary Story**

SBC PLANTER REACHES WORLD FROM WINDY CITY

By Tobin Perry

CHICAGO—It's a question God asks many in ministry at some point—"Is my presence enough?" Dave Choi pondered the question while he was sitting in a small chapel inside the Billy Graham museum at Wheaton College.

Between ministry assignments Choi was contemplating opportunities around the country. Yet, as he did, God kept bringing another thought to his mind. What if he started a new church in the city that had become his hometown—Chicago? Choi couldn't shake the concerns. Could he support his family and plant a church? What if he failed? Taking an established ministry position seemed like the safer decision.

In that chapel God led Choi to Exodus 33 when He promised His presence to Moses.

"I felt God tell me, 'I'm going to lead you to a place to plant,'" Choi said. "You're not going to be alone because I'm going to be with you. Is my presence enough?"

After reading Exodus 33 again, Choi decided he had only one legitimate answer—yes. That night, when Choi returned home, he had an email from a man whom he had never asked for money and barely knew who offered significant support for his ministry.

"It was God's way of confirming that He was in this and His presence was going to be with us," Choi said. "He would provide what we needed."

A year and a half later, the Southern Baptist church planter is reaching one of the most multi-cultural cities in North America through Church of the Beloved in Chicago. Choi, born in America to two immigrant parents, has gone out of his way to plant a uniquely international church. Even in the early days of the church, at least 25 people not born in the United States regularly attended. Many come from countries like Algeria, Indonesia and China that are relatively closed to evangelical Christianity. Choi believes many heard the gospel for the first time at Church of the Beloved.

"These are highly influential people because they have financial resources and the academic background to study in the United States," Choi said.

With less than 10 percent of the population affiliated with an evangelical church and only one SBC church for every 31,791 people in metro Chicago, local Southern Baptists—including Choi—have been making plans to start more churches in Chicago-land through Send North America: Chicago.

Send North America is NAMB's strategy to help churches and individuals become active in all regions of North America to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ and start new churches.

Choi believes the building where Church of the Beloved meets is a great illustration as to why church plants are so critical to reaching Chicago-land. Three churches meet in the building—each reaching completely different people even though they share a meeting location.

“It’s been proven that new churches are the most effective way to reach the lost and the un-churched,” Choi said.

He points to one couple that has become regulars at Church of the Beloved as an example. Even though the husband was a Buddhist, he had been attending churches sporadically with his Christian wife. But the two failed to find a fit anywhere. Attending Church of the Beloved changed that.

“He told me he was tired of going to churches where it felt like everybody was a clique and everyone was exclusive and knew each other,” Choi said. “Churches he attended had been very insular. He figured if they attended a brand new church, there’s no way there will be cliques. He wanted to feel like he could get to know people and be welcomed. Just that little reason brought him to church.”

After about five weeks of hearing the gospel, the man accepted Christ and was baptized last summer.

Partners—from nearby in Chicago and as far away as Arkansas and Washington state have been critical to the early success of the new church plant. First Baptist Church of Fort Smith, Ark., has been active in sending volunteer teams and resources to help the Church of the Beloved. During Vacation Bible School last summer, the church’s children raised \$1,000 to help the young church plant.

“They have been incredibly generous with their resources to support us financially,” Choi said. “But they’ve also been incredible prayer resources to us. They pray for us regularly. They also have been a relational resource because they fly up here from Arkansas to encourage us from time to time.”

Church of the Beloved started a worship service at a second Chicago location on Palm Sunday. About 200 people attend the church’s two services.

For more information about Church of the Beloved, visit thebelovedchurch.org. For more information about Send North America: Chicago, visit namb.net/Chicago. To see a video about Dave Choi’s ministry, visit namb.net/videos.

➡ **Have You Heard This One?**

The students in a third-grade class were bombarding their teacher with questions about her newly pierced ears.

"Does the hole go all the way through?" "Yes."

"Did it hurt?" "Just a little."

"Did they stick a needle through your ears?" "No, they used a special gun."

Silence followed, and then one solemn voice called out, "How far away did they stand?"

From HART BEAT – 12 May 2013

➡ Hart to Heart

- ✓ Lyn and I intended to worship today with the good folks at **Vietnamese, Endicott**, but for some reason they were not having services today, SO we walked around the building and worshipped with the good folks at **Cornerstone, Endicott**, where Greg Johnson has been pastor since August 2011 when Lincoln Avenue, Endicott merged with Beautiful Plain, Binghamton to form Cornerstone.
- ✓ I still need to hear from folks who might be interested in a mission trip to West Virginia late this summer or early this fall.

➡ News From the Churches

- ✓ **Living Water, Owego** – Wayne Sibrava Pastor
 - During the worship service this morning:
 - One was Baptized
 - Three couples dedicated children to the Lord.
 - 5 people joined the church by transfer of membership
- ✓ **Lakeshore, Cicero** plans a Men's Breakfast on May Saturday, May 18th. Karl Novak is Pastor.
- ✓ **Northside, Liverpool** plans a Spring Women's Retreat for June 14-15 with guest speaker, Carol McLeod. Bruce Aubrey is Pastor.

➡ Baptist Beginnings - by Leon McBeth

The English Background

No one knows who first brought Christianity to England or when. An old tradition suggests that Paul the apostle or one of his converts may have preached in Britain. By the seventh century most English people were at least outwardly Roman Catholics. In the following centuries some evangelical groups flourished, and some remnant of these groups may have survived in the sects which later opposed Romanism, such as the followers of John Wyclif (sometimes called Lollards).

By the sixteenth century, multitudes of English Christians were demanding reform in their church. They sensed that the church had become corrupt and selfish, and that it had largely left the simple message of the Bible. Several factors contributed to this clamor for reform: the teachings of such great reformers as Martin Luther in Germany and John Calvin in Geneva; the new translations of the English Bible which allowed the common people once again to read the Word of God; and social and political changes which led people to want more participation in their church.

Several English rulers in the sixteenth century sought to reform the Church of England to some extent. However, none of these reforms went far enough to satisfy those who wanted to return to the simple teachings and practices of the Bible.

One militant group within the Church of England genuinely desired to recover biblical teachings and practices. Deeply influenced by the reforms of John Calvin, they became known as "Puritans," perhaps because they insisted upon more purity of doctrine and practice in the church.

Another group seeking reform was called "Separatists." Most of the Separatists were frustrated Puritans who had given up hope of reforming the church from within. Separatists decided to separate from the Church of England and form their own independent congregations. By 1600, there were already several of these congregations in England, and they mushroomed by 1625.

The Separatists included many groups holding a variety of views. Some of them later helped populate such diverse churches as Quakers, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and assorted independents and nonconformists. Some of these Separatists, studying the Bible, adopted believer's baptism and became known as Baptists.

➡ Have You Heard This One?

Mother Quotes

Paul Revere's Mother: "I don't care where you think you have to go, young man. Midnight is past your curfew!"

Humpty Dumpty's Mother: "Humpty, if I've told you once, I've told you a hundred times not to sit on that wall. But would you listen to me? Noooo!"

Columbus' Mother: "I don't care what you've discovered, Christopher. You still could have written!"

Michelangelo's Mother: "Mike, can't you paint on walls like other children? Do you have any idea how hard it is to get that stuff off the ceiling?"

Custer's Mother: "Now, George, remember what I told you-don't go biting off more than you can chew!"

Abraham Lincoln's Mother: "Again with the stovepipe hat, Abe? Can't you just wear a baseball cap like the other kids?"

Barney's Mother: "I realize strained plums are your favorite, Barney, but you're starting to look a little purple."

Batman's Mother: "It's a nice car, Bruce, but do you realize how much the insurance is going to be?"

Goldilocks' Mother: "I've got a bill here for a busted chair from the Bear family. You know anything about this, Goldie?"

Little Miss Muffet's Mother: "Well, all I've got to say is if you don't get off your tuffet and start cleaning your room, there'll be a lot more spiders around here!"

Albert Einstein's Mother: "But, Albert, it's your senior picture. Can't you do something about your hair? Styling gel, mousse, something...?"

George Washington's Mother: "The next time I catch you throwing money across the Potomac, you can kiss your allowance good-bye!"

Jonah's Mother: "That's a nice story, but now tell me where you've really been for the last three days."

Thomas Edison's Mother: "Of course I'm proud that you invented the electric light bulb, Thomas. Now turn off that light and get to bed!"

From HART BEAT – 19 May 2013

➡ Hart to Heart

- ✓ I worshipped this morning with the good folks at **Korean, Vestal**, where Daniel Song has been pastor since July 2005. While the service was in Korean, of course, I did enjoy the music as always. Pastor Song will be traveling to Cambodia soon on a "vision tour" mission trip. **Korean, Vestal** has gone to Honduras on mission trips for many years, but now is looking for a new mission partner place.
- ✓ Lyn started out with me this morning, but shortly after we left she discovered a wardrobe malfunction. I took her back to the house, dropped her off, and went on to Vestal. After redressing, she worshipped this morning at our home church, **Living Water, Owego**.
- ✓ Today began the Week of Prayer for Associational Missions across SBC life. Hopefully your bulletin this morning included an insert with items of prayer for each day of this week. I hope you will participate in the week of prayer. The CNYBA Associational Mission Offering associated with the Week of Prayer for Associational Missions will go to help **Grace, Rome** in the repair of the south wall of their Fellowship Hall which has been damaged by water getting behind the wanes coat brink. They plan to remove the brick, repair the rotten wall, and install new siding.
- ✓ It's not too early to plan to participate in our "in association" mission trip this summer scheduled for August 15-17. We will finish installing and painting the board and bat siding on the associational pole barn located on the property of **North Fenton BC**. We need to get this done before we store the tents, scaffolding, and block party trailers for the winter. I am meeting a garage door

man there in the morning to see about putting springs on the 12 foot door so one person can open it. Put this date on your calendar. You don't need an engineering degree to nail up boards and paint.

- ✓ I had an unusual experience this past week. Out of the blue I got a phone call from a first cousin who lives in Mississippi. We concluded that we had not talked in about 60 years. He is doing some research on our family history. Apparently on my father's side there are only about six or seven living first cousins. Back in the day we didn't have cell phones, email, face book, etc. As we came to live in various parts of the country, we just lost touch. I'm happy to be back in touch and am looking forward to the final version of his research.
- ✓ Let's not forget to continue to pray for Allen and Jill Covington (church planters in Baldwinsville) as they return from the funeral of Jill's mother in Wisconsin this past week.
- ✓ Summer is upon us and we all will get very busy. Some of you know that we've just gotten the 34 x 96 pole barn style roof structure finished over our mobile home. There are projects under that roof that will last me until I'm 95 years old at least – to say nothing of finishing the RV, truck and trailer shed and storage room I started last summer. And the grass – it's growing like the weed that it is. Let's not get so busy this summer at we forget to stay "tuned up" through prayer and the study of God's Word for the most important tasks of witnessing and discipling.

➡ **Truths from the Old Hymns**

Fairest Lord Jesus – 1677 by anonymous author

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 tough old cowboy once counseled his grandson that if he wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a little gunpowder on his oatmeal every morning.

The grandson did this religiously and he lived to the age of 93.

When he died, he left 14 children, 28 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren and a fifteen foot hole in the wall of the crematorium.

From HART BEAT – 26 May 2013

➡ **Hart to Heart**

- ✓ Lyn and I worshipped today with the good folks at **Grace, Rome**, where Dan Goewey has been pastor since June 2003. We took the scenic route home so we could stop by one of our favorite places to eat – partly because of the name. We had lunch at the Quack Diner just outside the village of Madison.
- ✓ This is Memorial Day week-end. Perhaps we all have different thoughts about what this special day should mean and why. I don't think I could sum it up any better than it was summed up in an email sent out by Allan Covington to his folks at **RiverEdge, Baldwinsville**. Here's part of that email.

This weekend we also remember those who have lost lives serving our nation. Even in the midst of political turmoil and financial crisis we live in an incredible nation. As I was writing this a couple sat down at the table next to me in the coffee shop. He had a hat on that said Navy Veteran. I asked him "what does this weekend mean to you." I wish I could tell you all that he (and his wife) shared for the next 20 minutes. He was on an amphibious assault craft just off the shores of Cuba in the early 60's for what we now know of as the Cuban Missile Crisis. His sense of pride, respect and camaraderie was evident in everything he said. But when asked the previous mentioned question he said "it is a time I remember those friends I lost." I must admit that instilled a greater appreciation for all that have served. The words to the song by Lee Greenwood came to mind that says:

And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free.
And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me.

And I gladly stand up, next to you and defend her still today.
' Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land, God bless the USA.

- ✓ Some of you may be wondering what we can do to help the storm victims in Oklahoma. I assure you that Southern Baptist Disaster Relief was headed that way the day after the storm. Your Cooperative Program gifts, through your church, is helping to fund that response. But there are other expenses that will be borne by the Oklahoma Baptist Convention. The best way we can help is by making a cash donation.

Our BCNY Executive Director has called for a time of prayer today and a special offering for next Sunday to help with the Oklahoma Tornado Relief effort. ANY financial gifts you wish to send to the storm relief should be sent to BCNY (6538 Baptist Way, East Syracuse, NY 13057) clearly marked as OK Storm Relief. If you prefer, you can send your gifts for this purpose to our CNYBA treasurer, Billie Winskie (589 Abell Road, Little Meadows, PA 18830). In either case, 100% of your gifts will be sent directly to the Oklahoma Baptist Convention for use in disaster relief.

It wasn't long ago that Oklahoma Baptists were in the forefront of sending money and volunteers to New York to help with the Sandy Hurricane Relief. We should reciprocate and send as large a gift as we can to help them in their hour of need.

- ✓ In case you haven't noticed, I started a rotation of topics in the "next to last" slot in the HART BEAT each week. The schedule is as follows:
 - 1st Sunday – Missionary story
 - 2nd Sunday – Baptist Heritage
 - 3rd Sunday – Truths from the Old Hymns
 - 4th Sunday – The Gospel According to Holly
 - 5th Sunday – Truths from the Old Hymns

➡ **News From the Churches**

➡ **Christ Is King, Syracuse** - Jon Speed Pastor

- Had a "Church in the Park" outreach last week. They rented a pavilion at Adam's Eden Camp to have church there and asked their folks to invite unsaved friends. With a few of their regulars missing, they had 33 in attendance with 16 visitors. The gospel was preached and they had many good conversations with visitors about the gospel and the church. They also enjoyed a hayride, a camp fire, a hike to some gorgeous waterfalls, and great fellowship.
- Finished up the paperwork and filed for incorporation.

- ➡ **Northside, Liverpool** – Bruce Aubrey Pastor – plans the following summer events
 - Women's Spring Rrteat – June 14-15
 - Cheerleader Camp – July 15-18
 - Boy's Basketball Camp – July 19-20
 - Girl's Basketball Camp – July 26-27

- ➡ **Lyons Falls Bible Fellowship Church** will conduct their annual AWANA Carnival on June 2nd. Jeff Ford is Pastor.

- ➡ **Lakeshore, Cicero** plans a block party on June 1 and a Men;s Breakfast on June 15th. Karl Novak is Pastor.

- ➡ **Maryland Baptist Church** will participate in the annual Schenevus/Maryland Lawn Sale on August 3rd. They will be selling items for \$1 and be giving away free hot dogs, hamburgers, water, tracts and Bibles. Calvin Stedge is Pastor

- ➡ **Grace, Rome** will host a Baptist Convention of New York Disaster Relief Training event on Friday evening (May 31) and Saturday (June 1) under the direction of Mike Flannery, BCNY Disaster Relief Coordinator. There will be training for Chaplaincy, Feeding Unit, Chain Saw Unit, and Recovery Unit. Dan Goewey is Pastor.

- ➡ **The Gospel According to Holly** (rerun)
 Chapter three of my evolving book (inspired by my wife's Pomeranian puppy) "The Gospel According to Holly" is entitled **Don't Pick Up More Than You Can Carry**.

Holy loves to go out in the back yard to play. Our yard is dominated by a huge, ugly willow tree. That's one of the things I want to ask God when I get to Heaven. "Did you make the willow tree on purpose?" And "What were you thinking?" The roots come up out of the ground (making mowing a real chore) and the tree sheds limbs constantly. I sometimes have the same thoughts I have when looking at Niagara Falls - it seems like the flow ought to dry up eventually. Anyway, one of Holly's joys is to pick up a limb and run across the yard with it. I've been trying to train her to drop them at the edge of the woods - no success so far. She does fine until she picks up a limb so large and so long that the ends dig into the ground. When this happens she gets so frustrated. That's when she reminds me of me (and some of you). We do just fine when we operate within the limits of the gifts God has given us. When we get into trouble is when we try to pick up a load for which we were not designed. That's when we get frustrated and start blaming God or someone else for all our trouble, when in fact it's just because we've tried to pick up a load that's more than we can carry. We are much better off just operating within the giftedness God has assigned to us.

➡ **Have You Heard This One?**

Definition of a Golfer

1. a person who yells "fore," takes six, and puts down five;
2. a guy who has the advantage over a fisherman - he doesn't have to bring home anything when he brags he had a great day.