



CBF-LA Begins State Mission Offering

Places of Grace

GRACED TO BRING GRACE.
BLESSED IN THE ACT OF BLESSING.

WHETHER GIVING AID IN TIME OF DISASTER, SHARING HOPE IN A LAND OF POVERTY, OR OFFERING SPIRITUAL HARBOR IN A NEW FAITH COMMUNITY -- PLACES OF GRACE HAVE BEEN BORN AS RESULT OF CBF-LA MINISTRIES.



New Church Start



Together for Hope



Disaster Response

IN GOD'S ECONOMY THOSE WHO GIVE ARE AS RICHLY BLESSED AS THOSE WHO RECEIVE.

IN HONOR AND SUPPORT OF THESE OUTPOSTS OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM, CBF-LA VOTED IN ASSEMBLY LAST MARCH TO LAUNCH A NEW STATE MISSION OFFERING THIS FALL. PROCEEDS OF THE OFFERING SUPPORT DISASTER RESPONSE, BRIDGEWATER NEW CHURCH START, TOGETHER FOR HOPE RURAL POVERTY INITIATIVE AND RELATED MINISTRIES. GIVE GENEROUSLY THROUGH YOUR CHURCH OR WITH THE ATTACHED ENVELOPE. MAY GRACE FIND YOU AGAIN IN YOUR GIVING.

Brain Food For the Disciple

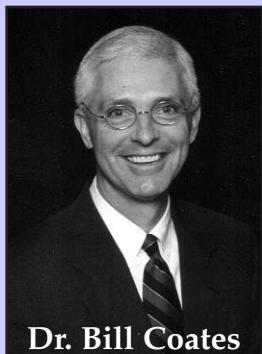
4th Annual Stagg-Tolbert Forum Features Dr. Bill Coates September 29

Dust those cobwebs off your brain. Give your mind a little food as well as your heart. The Stagg-Tolbert Forum for Biblical Studies is designed to do just that.

Named for two beloved Louisiana New Testament Scholars, Malcolm Tolbert and the late Frank Stagg, this series makes biblical scholarship accessible to the layperson.

Bill Coates addresses the Forum Saturday, September 29 at Broadmoor Church, Baton Rouge. An excellent example of the pastor/scholar, Dr. Coates received his MDiv from Southeastern Seminary where he was honored by the American Bible Society with the Award for Excellence in Biblical Studies. He was mentored by Forum namesake Dr. Tolbert who proclaims him "one of the best students we had at Southeastern during the years I taught there."

A love of language and poetry in communicating the gospel led to a Ph.D. in English at the University of South Carolina with an emphasis in religion in



Dr. Bill Coates

American Literature.

Since 1998, he has been Pastor of First Baptist,

Gainesville, Georgia, a church previously pastored by Dr. Tolbert. In fact, it was Tolbert, who presented Coates name to the search committee and who now quips that, "the people in Gainesville love me now more than they did when I was pastor because I recommended Bill to them."

Coates has also pastored in South Carolina, where he was moderator for CBF, and active in Habitat and racial reconciliation. He has also served as board member of divinity schools at both Mercer and Duke.

His passion for engaging our culture with the mystery and beauty of the gospel is reflected in his topics, "Preaching in the Postmodern Culture," and "Preaching and American Literature."

Stagg-Tolbert Forum For Biblical Studies

Broadmoor Baptist Church - Baton Rouge



10:00 - Preaching in the Postmodern Culture

11:30 - Lunch \$4 per person

12:30 - Preaching and American Literature

MEAL RESERVATION DEADLINE SEPT. 23
225-927-5454 or office@broadmoorbaptist.com



Bags of Hope Turns Into a Party

Well before the doors opened at 10:00 on August 1, a line weaved around the Lake Providence community center building and down the sidewalk. Inside, a carnival atmosphere prevailed with live gospel music, bubble gum blowing contests, face painting, free hot dogs, door prizes, dance groups, moon walks and a hoola hoop competition.

Now in its fourth year, the school bag and supply drive initiated by CBF-LA has become a local not-to-be-missed event embraced by the community. Over 50 local sponsors: businesses, churches, individuals and other community groups donated money, supplies and labor.

CBF-LA churches and friends from around the state collected 933 book bags with supplies, well surpassing the 800 bag goal. Local sponsors impressively provided an additional 450 bags signifying increased local investment and hope in the future of the community.

Each child received a health screening (the 3rd year for the hospital to be a partner) in preparation for school. Each child was offered a free book by another sponsor. Parenting information and other community resources were also offered to families. Approximately 450 of the bags collected by the Fellowship were delivered to Tensas Parish schools for disadvantaged students identified by principals and school staff.

Prison Ministry Update - Bill Hoffman



Ministries continue in correctional facilities in Tensas through worship services, giving away Bibles, praying, and in general trying to encourage the inmates. The woman who operated the sound system during one of the services at Newellton had been on death row, within thirty days of her execution. Her death sentence was commuted to life. After the service she tearfully shared, "First, I got life - then, I got ETERNAL LIFE!"

Highlights for me were two different Baptist services in which I had the privilege of baptizing 30 broadly smiling new Christians. I can't remember the last time I saw the joy of the Lord expressed so vividly. I thought of the parable Jesus told Simon, "...there were two men in debt to the same money-lender. One owed him 50 pounds and the other 5. And since they were unable to pay, he generously cancelled both their debts. Now, which of them do you suppose will love him more?" (Luke 7:41-42, J.B. Phillips). "He to whom he forgave most", Simon correctly responded. Then it occurred to me - I ought to be a lot more grateful. The rapture on these ladies faces ought to characterize my spirit everyday. How about you?

We recently had great services with the men in the Federal Detention Center in Waterproof. We gave away 6 cases of Bibles. Many Hispanic men were very eager to receive a Bible in their native tongue! Some men sat down and began reading immediately. Following the service, there were many decisions for Christ!

WE NEED MORE HISPANIC BIBLES! We are completely out - Can you Help? I am so grateful to each of you who pray for us, provide Bibles, and support our ministry. We are thankful to have you as partners in the work!

"Seed Grant" for Community Garden



We have received a grant of \$1,800 for community garden development through Together for Hope. Secured through the efforts of Ben Newell, this project is generating a good deal of community enthusiasm and cross racial cooperation including that of a local farmer shown here who is volunteering as a consultant.

A planning group pictured below at work, includes educators, extension agents, as well as interested community members. The first garden plot is being developed on the campus of Southside Elementary and East Carroll Middle School (a shared campus) and will be tended to primarily by the students under the supervision of the 4-H Youth Development person and the county extension agent. Plans are being developed for additional plots for senior adult housing developments.



East Carroll
Tensas
Louisiana
TOGETHER FOR HOPE



To take seriously 2,000 verses of Scripture telling us of God's special concern for the poor and marginalized

cbf rural poverty initiative

The big family gathers.

CBF General Assembly



Jeremy Lewis, Together For Hope, speaks at Louisiana meeting.

More Assembly coverage at: thefellowship.info



CBF executive coordinator Daniel Vestal speaks during a panel discussion with ABCUSA general secretary Roy Medley, left, and Tyrone Pitts, general secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, during the combined CBF/ABCUSA worship service June 29.

Assembly Highlights

- * Over 2,500 gathered June 28-29 for the 17th annual General Assembly, held for the first time in Washington, D.C.
- * First ever joint gathering with the American Baptist Churches USA.
- * Commissioned 16 CBF Global Missions field personnel to serve among the world's most neglected people.
- * Together CBF and ABCUSA co-commissioned two couples to global missions service – Marcia and Duane Binkley, who will serve in the U.S. among Karen refugees, and Nancy and Steve James, who have been serving in Haiti as CBF affiliates.
- * \$22,000 collected for the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Offering for Religious Liberty and Human Rights, one third of which will go to the Baptist World Alliance.
- * Celebrated religious freedom, addressed global concerns of poverty, hunger, HIV/AIDS, and participated in events featuring topics such as spiritual formation, congregational life, the missional church and social justice.

Greetings from Mary Van Rheen:

Are you enjoying summer? We have never seen such a chilly, rain-soaked June. Meanwhile, in Moldova, wells are running dry and crops are crying for moisture. We have been thinking of both here and there this past month.

At the end of August, Keith is going to Moldova with a couple of volunteers to help finish the church building in the Romany village of Vulcanesti. CBF-LA adopted this church and has raised enough money to complete the building. The president of the Moldovan Baptist Union wrote, "John (Ion) Matveev was soooooo excited when he received this news."

Volunteers are coming from Texas and Cameroon via Holland. More are still welcomed, whether these volunteers go to work or stay at home to pray.

We hope to have more room in Keith's office next week. Right now, about 2,000 DVDs are stacked in and under his desk. These have Campus Crusade's Jesus video on them. Viewers can choose between 5 different Romani languages (+ 3 European ones). In May, Keith brought 500 to London for the Western Kalderash-speaking church which helped dub the video into their language. They purchased the videos to distribute to each church family, to family members, and to other Kalderash-speakers. On July 19, we delivered 500 DVDs to the Western Kalderash-speaking church in Paris.

Our CBF Gypsy Cluster includes people working from India to Hungary to here. We gather twice a year for mutual support and planning. This year, it was July 21-27.

Summer days are long here--at 10 PM we



Romany Mission

Keith Holmes and Mary van Rheen
romani-bible.org gypsyministries.com

still enjoy the afterglow of the sunset, but summer itself is short. We pray you will take time out to enjoy your summer, whether it is rainy or dry.

Praise For:

- * Funds raised to complete Bethlehem Church building, Vulcanesti, Moldova!
- * Multi-lingual Jesus DVD now in Europe.
- * New Gypsy Cluster members in Hungary & India.

Prayer Requests:

- * That Robert Ngalla, volunteer to Moldova, will receive his visa to get into the country.
- * For the distribution and use of the multi-lingual Jesus DVD in Europe and for the speedy preparation of the North American version.
- * For new workers among the Dom Gypsies of North Africa and the Middle East.
- * For continuing contributions to the CBF Global Mission Offering, to make this work possible.

Contribute at www.thefellowship.info.



Partners in Prayer Calendar
 Some missionary names omitted due to sensitive nature of work.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Glen Adkins, Romany in Hungary
- 1 Ralph Stocks, Romany in Hungary
- 3 Eric Beber, urban,, WashingtonDC
- 5 Eddie Aldape, Banjara Gypsies, India
- 5 David D'Amico, Emeritus, 2006
- 5 _____, internationals, North Africa
- 5 Amy Stocks, 1987, daughter, Ralph & Tammy Stocks, Hungary
- 6 Zachary, 1992, son, Melin & Ron, Asia
- 7 Lita Sample, internationals, San Francisco
- 12 Mary Helen, unevangelized people group, Middle East
- 13 Alyssa Aldape, 1987, daughter, Eddie & Macarena Aldape, India
- 15 Rebecca Holmes, 1994, daughter, Keith & Mary, Europe
- 16 William Burnette, 1998, son, Ellen & Rick Burnette, Thailand
- 16 Christopher Harrell, 1993, son, Melody & Sam, East Africa
- 17 _____, daughter, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 19 Wanda Ashworth, Open House Ministries, Homestead, FL
- 19 Emily, 2002, daug. Melin & Ron, Asia
- 19 _____, daughter, unevangelized people group, North Africa
- 20 Jason Smith, 1985, son, Greg & Sue Smith, Virginia
- 25 _____, unevan. pple group, Mid East
- 25 Angel Pittman, urban work, Miami,
- 28 _____, unevan. people grp, Mid East
- 30 Rebecca Wyatt, 1992, daughter, Kim & Marc Wyatt, Canada

OCTOBER

- 1 Tina Bailey, Arts, Asia
- 1 Cokie Westfall, medical work, India
- 2 _____, unevan. people grp, Mid East
- 2 Keith Holmes, Romany people, Europe
- 3 Jonathan Bailey, unevan. ppl gp, Asia
- 5 Jo Ann Hopper, Emeritus, 1999
- 10 Nomie Derani, internationals, Brooklyn
- 12 Ben Newell, Rural Poverty Initiative, Helena, Arkansas
- 13 Fran Turner, HIV/AIDS, sub-Saharan Africa
- 13 Bob Newell, Albanian/Balkan peoples, Greece
- 15 _____, son, unevangelized people group, Middle East
- 18 _____, unevan. people group, Mid East
- 20 Annette Ellard, , video production, Internationals
- 20 Daniel Houser, 1988, son, Ana Marie & Scott Houser, Southern Africa
- 25 Suzie, scripture translation, Asia
- 26 Dean Dickens, Associate Coordinator, Mission Teams, Texas
- 28 Erin Binkley, 1991, daughter, Duane & Marcia Binkley, Ohio
- 29 _____, unevan. people group, N Africa
- 30 _____, daughter, unevangelized people group, North Africa



IN MEMORIAM
Dr. Robert Wilson

CBF-LA mourns the loss and celebrates the life and example of Dr. Robert Wilson long time supporter and encourager of the fellowship. He is pictured here in a 2004 CBF-LA Assembly meeting.

CBF-LA treasurer Kenny Crump and his wife Shirley recently returned from their 11th mission trip to China to teach English to pastors and church workers. Growth of the church has been exponential in China, thus an acute need for training.

The Crumps sang (top) before a church in Xinyu, that re-opened in 1990 following the Cultural Revolution with no building and 100 members. Now its 3,000 seat sanctuary fills to overflow each Sunday.

Eighty-year-old Pastor Xie (bottom) is one of Shirley's students. He was a Physics professor at a local university. During the Cultural Revolution his students forced him to wear a dunce



cap because he was a Christian. Afterward he was sent to the countryside to work for 5 years. Today Pastor Xie teaches at a seminary, and preaches each Sunday to about 40 people in a church that meets in his home, then goes to preach at another home church.

Like many of the countryside churches this one (center) in the village of Yao Xu is very poor. It meets in a small, dingy room that will hold at most 75 persons. The picture shows the "pulpit" area of the church. 400 people attend each Sunday, most of whom must listen from outside. Even at the 2 PM Tuesday afternoon meeting, when it is extremely hot, not everyone can get inside.



My next move will
 be to support
CBF-LA.

*A fellowship celebrating
 freedom in Christ and
 reaching out in his name.*

Support it generously.
 Give a monthly
 or quarterly pledge.

IDENTITY:

We are a fellowship of Baptist Christians and churches who share a passion for the Great Commandment and the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and a commitment to Baptist principles of faith and practice.

VISION:

Being the presence of Christ in the world.

MISSION:

Serving Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission.

CBF-LA Receipts	June-July	Fiscal Year 3/01/07-2/28/08
Undesignated	\$12,138.80	\$27,492.81
Together for Hope	\$2,391.67	\$6,066.68
Disaster Relief	\$1,011.12	\$1,061.12
Extra-budget Designated funds	\$520.00	\$4,460.00
Credits	-	\$941.00
TOTAL	\$16,422.15	\$40,964.88

Louisiana Fellowship People
 Sent to you free for the asking.

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Charlene Kelley, Past Moderator

Greg Hunt, Representative to National CBF

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Save a Tree.

Save CBF-LA Some Dough.

Receive our newsletter by email in PDF format. Sign up at kylek1@bellsouth.net.