



New Wineskins: Called To Do a New Thing

Spring Assembly Casts Vision of Following New Directions of the Spirit

"It is human nature...to reduce the divine into terms we can understand and 'handle,' which is translated CONTROL. And that is the real problem: if we can control the image of God, the place of God, the scope of God, the power of God to such small dimensions, God ceases to be God." -- John Daugherty

In the midst of destruction and loss of community, be it victims of hurricanes, Israelites in exile (conference passage Isaiah 43), or believers in a post-Christian/postmodern era, God still moves to bring a new thing. CBF-LA Coordinator **John Daugherty** fleshed out this theme in the state assembly at Emmanuel-Alexandria March 17-18.

Citing the work of McNeal and Hammett, he noted that "Jesus didn't **grow** a church, **build** a church or **develop** a church. Jesus called a movement into being. The movement was one of going, being, doing." A common trap, Daugherty stated, is defining our gifts, "by how they are expressed in service to the church, rather than how they are applied in our everyday lives as the church in the world."

He continued with a challenge, "...can we break free from an institutional vision of faith and open our lives to the possibility of being the presence of Christ in the worlds in which we live?" We are not called to be self-absorbed religious consumers, but servants in the Master's kingdom, in the Master's name.

"To give to others in Jesus' name is not some imperialist act, but is a loving expression of God's interest in people. God's timeless goal is a loving relationship, not to control people's behavior. Love changes people's behavior. For example, we serve our spouses and families out of love, not out of obedience to some laundry list of expectations posted on the refrigerator door. Sadly, I sense too many folks see God as someone trying to gain entrance into their lives in order to control them. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could coach folks to understand that loving God and loving one another is not some add-on activity, but the very essence of who we are called to be in our love relationship with God?"

Throughout the weekend participants and

facilitators together shared and envisioned their sensing of the Spirit's movement of love in their lives and communities. **Reid Doster** talked of repeatedly leaning into faith when obstacles in responding to disaster needs were overwhelming. Doster also spoke with joy and hope, at the birthing of the new Bridgewater congregation.

Todd Harrington recounted his passion to try out new wine skins in *Emergent and Missional Concepts*. He pointed to the model of St. Patrick, who understanding Irish culture from the underside as a slave, returned to Ireland, after receiving his freedom, in a "Macedonian call" late in life. By engaging Celtic culture both he and the island were transformed by something new God was doing.

Tom Prevost noted movement in all five national regions of Together in Hope Rural Poverty Initiative. Volunteers become transformed in being grasped by God's concern for justice, for the poor and marginalized. Inevitably, the "Why do you do this?" questions emerge leading to natural, unforced testimonies of Grace and subsequent openness to receive.

Daugherty gave a final charge after lunch on Saturday pointing to all the lively ministries that have captured the excitement and imagination of Fellowship members around the state. "I believe what God is doing through CBF of Louisiana is worth devoting my life to. I pray you share that passion and will plan to make our ministry and Fellowship a priority in the year to come."

At cbfla.org:

- * Complete texts of Daugherty's messages
- * Annual Financial Report and Budget
- * Proposed Changes in By-laws



State Coordinator John Daugherty gives Progress Report and Challenge to Fellowship to seek God's Kingdom



Jay Hogewood, Pastor, University-BR, succeeds Charlene Kelley as Moderator



Bridgewater Community Church-Madisonville, Reid Doster-Pastor

A Church is Born

bridgewaterchurch.info

Bridgewater has met seven times for public worship at The Maritime Museum. Set up in the treetops, the meeting room has plenty of light. Attendance has averaged 36 per Sunday. Offerings have averaged \$950 each week. This young congregation has committed to support global missions by sharing 10% of offerings with CBF. Last week, 3 couples were there for the first time and all expressed intentions of coming back. If everyone who has attended at least once would show up on the same Sunday, Pastor Reid notes, "we would run out of hymn books."

Worship services are designed to provide inspiration and encouragement, balancing traditional elements of Baptist worship with a few liturgical components. Most attendees come from non-Baptist backgrounds. Several Roman Catholic friends attend mass in Madisonville before coming to the Bridgewater service. These "Batholics" are welcomed with open arms reports Reid.

Adult Bible Study averages 18 in attendance, with a current six-week study based on Willow Creek's *Tough Questions* series considering the age-old dilemma: "Why Does God Allow Suffering and Evil?" Though no young people, as of yet, attend Bible Study, 2 children come forward for the Children's Sermon, which Reid states, "I always share whether or not any 'chronological children' are present. The 'adult children' would be upset if I left them out!"

A small groups ministry has begun, focused around specific needs: weekly Divorce Support, Grief Support and a monthly Movie Group, after which participants share a meal and discuss the film.

Currently, three churches in Louisiana give direct support: Broadmoor in Baton Rouge, Emmanuel in Alexandria and First Shreveport.

Reid requests continued prayers as the congregation seeks to reach those scattered by Katrina. Three families who have received assistance now worship regularly at Bridgewater. "All of this seems to be a part of God's sovereign plan," said Reid.



Since September 2005, we have coordinated the work of over 300 volunteers from all over North America who have come here wanting to help in the wake of Katrina.

Between now and July, at least 200 more are on the way. Through partnerships with The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, New Covenant Presbyterian Church, Rotary International and others, we have been able to provide housing, food and shower facilities for these generous-hearted workers.

We have also been able to help fifty families get back into their homes. Each step of the way, God has provided everything we've needed, and at just the right time.

disaster relief update

Two weeks ago I was stunned to learn that we were losing the fine shower trailer on loan to us from a gracious Baptist group in another state. Its owner had made other commitments for the shower trailer prior to Katrina.

For us, it was going to be a real problem because nothing feels better to tired disaster relief workers than a hot shower. In fact, we coined a phrase: "He who has the shower has the power," but shower trailers are amazingly scarce. If you have one, it can be a magnet to attract volunteers. One of the first questions they ask is: "Do you have adequate shower facilities?"

I scrambled to find another shower trailer, calling every person who might have an idea, but

without results. Starting to feel panicky, I called another friend and explained the situation. We agreed to keep on praying about it, trusting that God would provide.



by Reid Doster

I had just hung up the phone when my eye caught a new email that suddenly appeared on the computer screen. The subject line read: "Could You Use A Shower Trailer." I nearly fell out of my chair!

The story is that Doug Ivey, pastor of The Oaks Baptist Church, in Vidalia, Georgia, happened to mention to a group of laymen that shower trailers were needed for disaster relief. One of these men, Robert Moore, III, took it upon himself to build one.

When it was completed, he and Doug Ivey began looking for someone who could put it to good use. Timothy Wood, CBF Coordinator of Volunteers, heard about it and sent out an email broadcast. Being the first one to respond and explaining how timely and providential this was for us, we are now back in business!

Our photo at the top shows the two drivers who work for Lark Builders, in Vidalia, Georgia. These gentlemen set up the trailer and hauled the previous one back closer toward its owner, who met them half way.

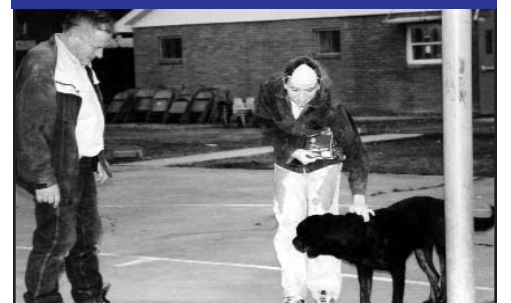
One driver was a part-time pastor himself who had a radio broadcast and worship service the next morning, but who made the time to bring us what we needed to continue our work.

I have to confess that I am a world-class wor-

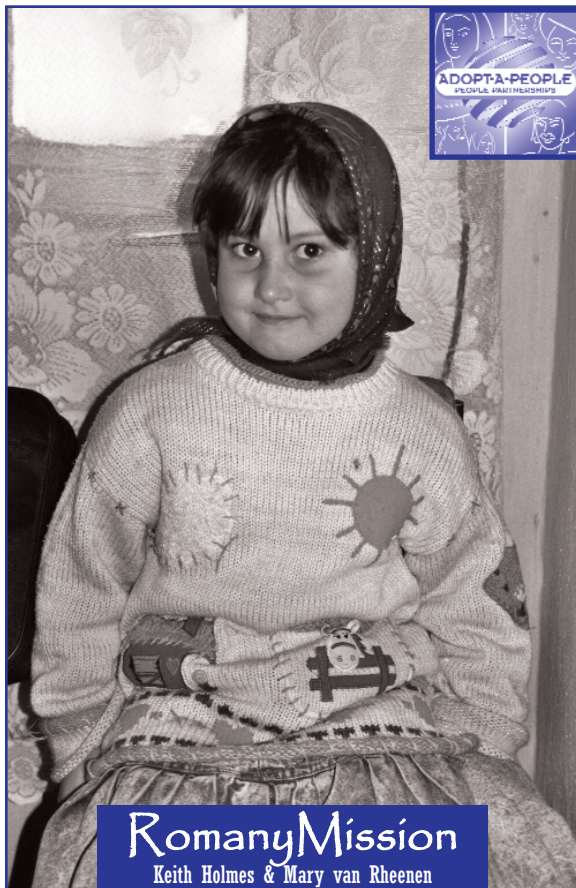
rier. My great-grandmother on my father's side was a champion worrier. When will I ever learn to stop trying and start trusting, not to wrestle but just nestle?



Rev. Freddie McCloud, Reid Doster, Johnny Gillis, Jim Rowalt



4-Legged survivor makes friends with Canadian Baptist and Louisiana Anabaptist



Romany Mission
Keith Holmes & Mary van Rhee
romani-bible.org gypsministries.com

ORPHAN TONGUE

During a recent media project, Keith wanted to know why, if there were 50,000 Sinti Romany in Germany, it was so hard for him and Armin, the Wycliffe Bible translator, to find Sinti speakers to record the parts for the Bible story. Part of it has to do with finding: a) Christians who b) are willing to have their voices recorded and c) speak in a recordable manner - no strange accent, lisp, or mumble.

Point "c" took an unusual turn this last recording effort. Keith and Armin recorded an older Sinti who was the voice of "Samuel" in the David and Saul video. They thought perhaps the man's upper adolescent sons would also do well as voices for some bit parts. However, these young men could not speak the Sinti language at all! They could not even pronounce things properly, when their father repeatedly tried to tell them what to say and how to say it. According to him there were a good number of the Sinti people in that region who no longer spoke Sinti Romani. Armin asked why? The man said that in the WWII concentration camps they were not allowed to speak Sinti. Even after the war was over, some Sinti survivors decided not to ever speak their Romani language around Germans. Their theory was that they would be less likely to be picked up and put in camps should anything like Nazism rule again. They reasoned that their children would be safer in the future, too, if they were not taught to converse in the Sinti dialect of Romani. "It's sad," Armin commented to Keith. "Now instead of speaking two languages well, they only speak one poorly."

Please join with Christians around the world in making the strangers and the marginalized people in your home community as well as in the global community to feel safer regardless of one's language. The maxim applies: It is not enough to abstain from doing evil but we must actively pursue the good.

Partners in Prayer Calendar



Some missionary names omitted due to sensitive nature of work.

APRIL

- 2 Frank Morrow, unevangelized people group, Germany
- 2 Leonora Newell, Rural Poverty Initiative, Helena, Ark.
- 3 Benjamin Shaw, 1998, son, Martha & Rick, Macedonia
- 5 _____, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 5 _____, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 11 Steve James, Affiliate, Haiti
- 13 Glenn Herrington, Affiliate, China
- 15 _____, unevangelized people group, Mid East
- 20 _____, unevangelized people group, N. Africa
- 22 Lucas Newell, 1997, son, Ben & Leonora, Ark.
- 27 Carter Harrell, 1995, son, Melody & Sam, Kenya
- 30 Erika Houser, 2001, daughter, Ana Marie & Scott, Southern Africa

MAY

- 3 Leah Harding, 1992, daughter, David & Merrie, Florida
- 5 Annie Rich, 1992, daughter, Jim & Monica, Texas
- 5 _____, 2004, son, scripture translation, Asia
- 9 David Harding, Internat. Coord. - Emergency Response, Florida
- 11 Larry Ballew, Affiliate, Macau, China
- 11 Robbi Francovich, Banjara Gypsies, India
- 15 _____, 2002, daughter, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 16 _____, daughter, unevangelized people group, N. Africa
- 16 _____, 2001, son, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 17 Nell Green, internationals, Brussels, Belgium
- 19 Joshua Stocks, 1989, son, Ralph & Tammy, Hungary
- 20 Micah James, 1994, son, Nancy & Steve, Haiti

Dear Friends... A Day in the Life of Us

At the request of a mission group, our CBF-LA Romany Mission Partners in Holland share a "typical day".

6:35 AM The alarm rings. Time to get Ellen ready for school.

7:20 Ellen bikes off with books and lunch. Her junior high & high school, in Arnhem, is 30-45 minutes away. The Big Dipper is clearly visible above the bike shed as she heads off.

7:30 Time to get Rebecca ready for school.

8:20 Rebecca bikes off with her mid-morning snack. Just this week it was light enough that she didn't need her lights on. In 5-10 minutes she'll be at her elementary school—her last year there.

8:30 Pick up, drink more tea, go upstairs for quiet time and to begin own day.

Keith at home: After watching English-language news on CNN &/or BBC, goes up to his office in the garret to answer e-mails, then work on the current media project. He will spend his time on the computer mixing the separate parts he recorded into one sound track, so David and Saul are actually talking to each other. He will also tweak the recorded words, sometimes stretching or shortening them, to synchronize speech and lip movements.

Keith in the field: After creating a quiet place to record, waits for someone to show up to be recorded. Since Romany tend to be event and people-oriented rather than time oriented, this is often an exercise in forbearance. Romany also tend to be night people. No one will show up before 10 (or 11 or 12 . . .). However, they might work until 10 or 11 or Current projects: David & Saul (Sinti; mainly recorded in Germany) and the Jesus video (Western Kalderash; recorded in London).

Mary, usually at home: Will mix writing, answering e-mails, putting together prayer materials like this one, and attending to projects like micro-economic development in Moldova, with household chores. Monday is the weekly planning/prayer time with Keith. Tuesday the European front-loading, water-saving washing machine begins its first 2-hour load of wash. Thursday is grocery shopping with the car rather than the bike. Friday morning is the weekly outdoor market in the center of town (bike rather than car). Good place to get cheese, eggs, and vegetables. Spend 20 minutes outdoors to counter dearly effects of shortened days (biking to store, walking, yard work).

12:00 noon Rebecca is free to come home for lunch. She returns to school at 1:15.

Keith & Mary: afternoon brings more of the same.

3:15 Rebecca is out of school for the day; Wednesdays she's free at 12:15. Usually no homework at this level. Philosophy is that kids should work at school and play at home.

4:50 Ellen returns from school; most homework is done during study periods there. It is dusk. Her bike lights are on again.

5:30 Supper

6:30 Evening chores for kids (dishes, feed cats . . .). Followed by relaxing activities like playing games, watching TV (limited), playing on the computer (popular, but also limited), reading, making things.

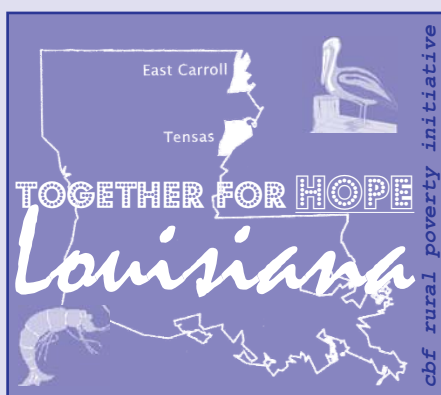
8:30 Adjust cat door so the two cats will stay in for the night. Send girls towards bed.

9:15 Lights out for girls.

10:00 Theoretical lights out for parents. Keith may still be reading a bit on his "through-the-Bible-in-a-year" schedule; Mary may still be journaling.

It is an everyday life for us, but we appreciate your prayers while living it.

Mary, Keith, Ellen, & Rebecca



"Taking seriously 2,000 verses of Scripture telling of God's special concern for the poor and marginalized."

Mission Events

**April 8 Planting Hope
 Lake Providence**



Landscaping Hospital Walking Track - A Place for community building; see cbfla.org or call 318-640-5782; supplies and labor needed.

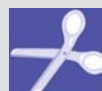


Spring and Summer Bookbag and School Supply
Collection starting now for delivery in early August.



July-School Painting Event
 TBA

Spring Pruning of Addresses



Our newsletter mailing list has grown like Kudzu. If you haven't given or attended a meeting we may not know of your interest. Let us know at the address or email below to avoid a "clipper snip" and remain on our list. Deadline is April 15, a date you can remember!

Passing the Gavel

Dear CBF-LA.

Thank you for recognizing my 3 years of service as Moderator with the lovely plaque presented to me at our recent Assembly. Thanks especially to Pam Williams and Lynn Hawkins for their support and guidance. Jay, may God continue to guide CBF-LA through your leadership as the new Moderator. **Sincerely,**



Charlene Kelley

CBF-LA 'BRIEFS'



Tony Campolo and Kate Campbell will be featured leaders at the CBF Arkansas Spring Assembly to be held at 2nd Baptist in Little Rock April 21-22. Contact: rhiggins@cbfar.org or 501-223-8586.

Discovering New Directions for the Traditional Church, a regional conference for pastors, pastoral team ministers, and lay leaders, will be held May 15-16 at Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark. Led by: Michael Tutterow, Dave Odum, and Bill Bruster; contact: 501-223-8586.

CBF National Assembly, June 22-23, Omni Hotel, Atlanta, GA; extra events 21st & 24th. Register NOW at: thefellowship.info or 800-352-8741. On June 21-22 there will be an HIV/AIDS Summit *"Breaking the Silence: Compassion for an HIV Positive World."*

PASSPORT Summer Youth Camp, July 17-22, LSU-Baton Rouge. Contact: passportcamps.org, 800-769-0210

Greg Hunt, CBF-LA National Representative reported on national issues at state assembly, citing new church starts, growing numbers of endorsed chaplains and vibrant mission work. He also reflected on his recent trip to India to see first hand CBF mission work among **Banjary Gypsies**. Greg's reflections are at thefellowship.info.

Right: With ministers from VA, GA, & MO.
 Center: Tsunami relief in Cuddalore, India.
 Far right: Giving computers to technical school for children of lepers and Gypsies



CBF-LA Receipts	Jan/Feb	Fiscal Year 3/01/05-2/28/06
Undesignated	\$14,206.07	\$66,735.47
Together in Hope	\$3,546.34	\$25,314.80
Stagg-Tolbert Forum	-	\$50.00
New Church Start	\$9,333.33	\$11,854.88
Disaster Relief	\$21,450.00	\$179,990.00
Misc. Designated Funds	-	\$550.00
Credits	\$114.43	\$1,712.60
TOTAL	\$48,650.17	\$287,153.11

News and Views

Sent to you free for the asking.

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