



## Loaves and Fishes Goal Met! *Bethlehem Church in Moldova to Have Building*

After 5 years of valiant struggle, Bethlehem Baptist Church in Vulacanesti, Moldova, a Gypsy congregation, will soon have a building for the first time in partnership with CBF-LA.



Members of Bethlehem Church in front of their soon to be completed building.

Following a mission trip in October to view Romany work, John Daugherty challenged our fellowship to sponsor the church's building efforts.

Poor in things but rich in spirit, members live in the most impoverished

nation in Europe and comprise the only all Gypsy church in the country. In a town unable to afford even one public building, the church will provide a natural outreach center for all village life.

Most members live on only a few dollars a day, making the \$30,000 price tag for refurbishing the church seem hopelessly out of reach. Local laws prevent use of the building until being brought up to code. After CBF Missionary and Louisiana native Keith Holmes and his wife Mary championed the cause of the congregation, seed gifts began to come from individuals and church groups, including a pledge from Broadmoor-Baton Rouge that included 3 months salary for the pastor.

Then in March, when Keith visited his home church of University-Baton Rouge, a vision for this work ignited with the parishioners, who pledged the remainder of the funds, nearly \$20,000! A small construction and VBS mission

trip is set for late August. To participate or assist, contact Keith Holmes at [kh@worldmail.org](mailto:kh@worldmail.org). Construction, hopefully, will be finished by year's end. Like loaves and fishes in the Master's hands, this offering brings the Bread of Life to a hearty young congregation ministering among the least of these.



Bethlehem Pastor Ion Matveev, right, and Pastor Schiopu open crayons donated by PassportKids for neighborhood outreach.

**INSIDE: Story on Bethlehem Pastor**

## Baptists of Multi Stripes Build with Habitat for 12 Katrina Families

On 12 home sites in Baton Rouge, hundreds of Baptists united for one common cause – rebuilding the lives of Hurricane Katrina evacuees. A two-week “blitz build” began late April in several neighborhoods. In partnership with Habitat for Humanity, CBF joined other Baptist organizations to fund the build, and mobilize nearly 600 volunteers.

Other groups included American Baptist Churches USA, Baptist World Aid, Alliance of Baptists, Canadian Baptist Ministries, Progressive National Baptist Convention and the District of Columbia Baptist Convention. “It’s a beautiful mixture of Baptists coming from all parts of the country,” said Daniel Vestal, CBF’s national coordinator. “For us to work together has been a joy.”

“There’s a great sense of the presence of Christ here,” said Roy Medley, general secretary for ABCUSA. For many of these families, a new house was the conclusion to an 18-month Katrina journey that took many of them from New Orleans to Baton Rouge shelters,

hotels and travel trailer parks. “This will be a better start for me and my daughter,” said New Orleans evacuee Shantrell Merrell, who has been living in a FEMA travel trailer park. “It’s a blessing from God. It’s a miracle.”

Fannie Munson, who is raising five of her 13 grandchildren, couldn’t wait to see the children’s reaction to the new house. “The joy ...only God can explain it,” Munson related. “The hope you see

in her eyes – she is so excited and working right along with us,” said Canadian Baptist Ministries volunteer Debbie Bailey, who drove 26 hours from Ontario to help with the build.

Participants came from as far as Canada and California. Some were veteran Habitat volunteers. All wanted to reach out to Katrina victims and most were Baptists experiencing one of the distinctive qualities of this build – working together beyond organizational, racial and geographical boundaries.

“Once you put people in service together, all kinds of differences break down,” said Bruce Wilson, pastor of West Main Church in Danville, Va., which sent a 10-person roofing team. “The hope of the church is in projects like these.”

Through a partnership with CBF, Texas Baptist Men provided food for volunteers, bringing two teams to provide an estimated 8,000 meals. “It’s an honor to be here and be a part of this,” said Larry Burks, a director with the Texas group. “A cup of cold water and a hot meal in Jesus’ name is what [we] are about.”

- adapted from report by Carla Wynn



Joy Yee, Past National Moderator: handy with the siding.



Daniel Vestal, right, congratulates John Daugherty on missing his thumb 7 of 9 tries.

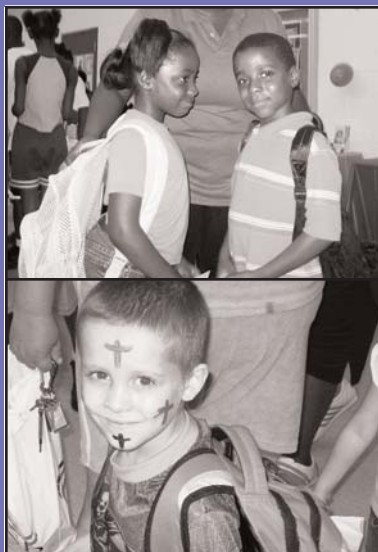
East Carroll  
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To take seriously 2,000 verses of Scripture telling us of God's special concern for the poor and marginalized

cbf rural poverty initiative

# Bags of Hope 2007



## GOAL: 800 Book Bags with Supplies

We hope to supply all eligible elementary students of Tensas and East Carroll and expand into middle and high schools. Cash gifts for bulk purchase accepted. Please give!

- Needed:**
- \* New clear or mesh book bags
  - \* Supplies per bag:
    - 100 sheets paper regular or college rule
    - 6 regular or college rule notebooks
    - 12 pencils

**Deadline: July 25** Drop off point churches: First Shreveport, Emmanuel-Alexandria, St. Charles-New Orleans, University-Baton Rouge, Broadmoor-Baton Rouge, Pineville Park, First-Winnsboro

### Broadmoor Pastor and CBF-LA Pioneer John Goodwin Retires as Church Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Just 3 months shy of 28 years as pastor, Dr. John W. Goodwin leaves Broadmoor-Baton Rouge in July for retirement. On May 20, the congregation held its 50th anniversary worship service, celebrating among many things, the excellent leadership of a servant who has shepherded the church for over half its life.



Dr. John Goodwin

Goodwin, an early leader of CBF was through the years, an unfailing supporter of the movement in Louisiana. His name is on our founding documents and his influence will endure long after the hanging up of his spikes as "professional" minister.

His popular weekly column, "Pastor's Pen Points," travels the country reflecting the pithy, to the point, fun loving personality of its author. John always seems to have a good story up his sleeve, particularly those with twists of irony and humor.

Dr. Malcolm Tolbert notes of his friend, "He has the remarkable ability to lead a church in the direction he is convinced it should take without cutting ties with the members...He is very loved by the congregation that feels extremely fortunate to have had such a loving and wise man at the helm of the church." Indeed, John is the veteran pastor who has managed to retain the humility, joy and wonder of his high calling.

## Did you know?

- OUR DISASTER RESPONSE MINISTRY HAS OVER 800 VOLUNTEERS COMMITTED FOR 2007, MORE THAN IN 2006.
- OUR VOLUNTEER NUMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO GROW EVEN MORE IN THE FALL.
- THROUGH INKIND CONTRIBUTIONS OF LOCAL CHURCHES, PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS, AND COMBINING EFFORTS WITH MINISTRIES WHO HAVE OTHER FUNDING SOURCES, WE HAVE MANAGED TO CONSERVE RESOURCES EVEN AS OUR IMPACT HAS GROWN.
- WE ARE MAINTAINING EQUIPMENT AND A MODEST RESERVE SO WE ARE NOT CAUGHT FLAT FOOTED FOR THE NEXT DISASTER.
- REID DOSTER HAS DESIGNED AND UPDATES A CBF NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE WEBSITE AT [cbfresponds.com](http://cbfresponds.com).
- REID WILL PLUG YOU OR YOUR GROUP INTO MEANINGFUL MINISTRY EXPERIENCES. TRY HIM AT 985-222-6900 OR [REID\\_DOSTER@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:REID_DOSTER@HOTMAIL.COM).



# Romany Mission

Keith Holmes and Mary van Rheenen  
romani-bible.org gypsymministries.com

## Pastor John and Bethlehem Church



Pastor Ion, at left, walks along a typical street in Vulcanesti with two church members.

More than pastor, Ion ("John" in English) Matveev has served as "bishop" of the Baptist churches in the Vulcanesti region of Moldova. In addition, with his wife Vera, he has been foster parent to a sort of mini-orphanage of about 8 kids for 5 years, which has supplied their housing and much of their income. However, they are expecting another child of their own shortly, so will turn the "orphanage" over to another couple. Pastoring Bethlehem Church is a faith step for the family financially.

Pastor Ion is ethnically Romanian. Under his leadership, the church in Nisporeni (sort of the "parish seat" of the region) moved from being in the red to not only paying their bills but giving to missions and outreach. With background in agriculture, he built a greenhouse to start early tomatoes and watermelons (which fetch a higher price at the local markets) as an example for church members in Nisporeni and in Vulcanesti. He also led the church in Nisporeni to partner with Christians in Scotland in ministry to a residential school for mentally handicapped children. They provided the school with blankets and other necessities as part of their outreach.

Pastor Ion has also spearheaded Christian summer camps for his church and children in other unchurched towns. Well known and respected among Baptists in Moldova, he brings much needed spiritual gifts of pastoral leadership and administration to an often chaotic setting. Keith, reflecting on Mary's recent trip, states, "People, whether ethnically Russian, Romanian, or Romany, are warm and hospitable. However, Moldova is not a very organized place, and traveling there involves a lot of faith and more than a pinch of good humor."

Mary reports Pastor Ion has prioritized tasks yet to be done to the interior and exterior of the church. He also envisions mentoring young believers to be leaders and involving them in a Bible college. A new outreach literacy program for youth is in the planning stages. Mary notes, "Many children in the village don't trouble themselves to go to school. Then, when they grow up some, they realize it would be very beneficial to know how to read and write!"

Bringing good news in word and deed is a biblical, wholistic presentation of the gospel that Pastor Ion has committed to with enthusiasm. His work and that of the Holmes and the other 150+ CBF missionaries is dependent on our gifts to the Global Mission Offering. With books closing soon on the annual offering, your help is needed in reaching our national goal of \$6,300,000 to grow these ministries. It's not just a Christmas thing! Give generously. Designate in the enclosed envelope or give on line at [thefellowship.info](http://thefellowship.info).



Pastor Ion discusses future site of tomato greenhouse with member who will use earnings to support his family.



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

### JUNE

- 2 Emily Morrow, 1990, daughter, Frank & Karen Morrow, Texas
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_, unevang. groups, SE Asia
- 7 Diann Whisnand, El Paso, TX
- 8 Janice Newell, Albanian/Balkan
- 8 Kyle Smith, 1989, son, Greg & Sue, Virginia
- 9 Michelle Cayard, China
- 10 Kim Wyatt, internat., Canada
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_, unevang. group, Mid East
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_, 1985, daughter, mobilizer unevang. groups, SE Asia
- 16 \_\_\_\_\_, 1988, daugh., unevang. groups, SE Asia
- 17 Margie Thibodeaux, Georgia
- 18 Elizabeth Fortenberry, Los Angeles
- 19 Ana D'Amico, North Carolina
- 20 Lonnie Turner, HIV/AIDS, Africa
- 21 \_\_\_\_\_, 2000, daughter, unevangelized people group, Asia
- 21 \_\_\_\_\_, unevang. people group, Mid East
- 22 Brenda Lisenby, China
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_, scripture translation, Asia
- 22 Darrell Smith, Albanian/Balkan peoples, Macedonia
- 23 Sarah Ballew, partnership advocate, Macau, China
- 23 Helen McNeely, Emeritus, 2002
- 23 Martha Shaw, Albanian/Balkan peoples, Macedonia
- 23 \_\_\_\_\_, 1998, son, scripture translation, Asia
- 24 Hannah Myrick, 1989, daughter, Lori & Tim Myrick, Jordan
- 25 Brian McAtee, Oklahoma
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_, unevang. people group, N Africa
- 26 Tim Myrick, Bedouin people, Jordan
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_, 2005, daugh., unevang. ppl group, Asia

### JULY

- 3 Nathanael Ballew, 1994, son, Larry & Sarah Ballew, China
- 3 Jesse Burnette, 1990, son, Ellen&Rick, Thailand
- 4 Alex Smith, 1990, son, Darrell & Kathy Smith, Macedonia
- 5 Jeanette Lochner, teacher, China
- 5 Bob Potts, Emeritus, 1998
- 6 Shelah Acker, West Africa
- 6 Sam Harrell, East Africa
- 6 Becky Shenton, Fremont, CA
- 8 Doug Shenton, Fremont, CA
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_, internationals, Europe
- 11 Allie McNary, 1995, daughter, Dianne & Shane, Slovakia
- 12 Elizabeth Houser, 1990, daughter, Ana Marie & Scott, Southern Africa
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_, unevang., M. East/N. Africa
- 12 Mark Podgaisky, 1999, son, Gennady & Mina Podgaisky, Ukraine
- 14 John Deal, Emeritus, 2001
- 14 Erik Smith, 1985, son, Becky&Jim, Germany
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_, 1996, son, unevang. group, Asia
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_, mobilizer, unevang. groups, SE Asia
- 19 Anne Burton, intern students, Los Angeles
- 19 Jason Pittman, urban work, Miami, FL
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_, son, unevang. group, N Africa
- 21 \_\_\_\_\_, daugh., unevang. group, Mid East
- 22 Dorothy Potts, Emeritus, retired 1998
- 23 Butch Green, internationals, Belgium
- 26 Rick Sample, internationals, SanFrancisco CA
- 27 Sarah Morrow, 1988, daughter, Frank & Karen Morrow, Texas
- 28 \_\_\_\_\_, 2000, daugh., script. translation, Asia
- 29 Christina Houser, 1997, daughter, Ana Marie & Scott Houser, Southern Africa
- 29 Karen Morrow, unevang. group, Texas
- 30 James Francovich, Banjara Gypsies, India

## Looking Ahead:



**June 27** Christian Ethics Today sponsored conference "The Minister and Politics: How to be Prophetic Without Being Partisan" featuring Tony Campolo and Jim Wallis; 1-5pm prior to start of General Assembly.

**June 28-29** CBF General Assembly, Washington DC; information at the-fellowship.info

**July 12-15** "Happily Ever After" International Marriage Enrichment Celebration, Orlando, Florida; information at bettermarriages.org.

Register at: [thefellowship.info](http://thefellowship.info) or 800-352-8741

## General Assembly

WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 28-29, 2007

Auxiliary events June 27 and 30

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Louisiana Meeting Speaker: Jeremy D. Lewis Rural Poverty Initiative Specialist



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 to the whispering of  
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 the blessing.*

**Save a Tree. Save CBF-LA Some Dough.**

Receive our newsletter by email in PDF format. Sign up at [kylek1@bellsouth.net](mailto:kylek1@bellsouth.net).

## 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	Mar-May	Fiscal Year 3/01/07-2/28/08
Undesignated	\$15,354.01	\$15,354.01
Together for Hope	\$3,675.01	\$3,675.01
Disaster Relief	\$50.00	\$50.00
Extra-budget Designated funds	\$3,940.00	\$3,940.00
Credits	\$941.00	\$941.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,542.73</b>	<b>\$24,542.73</b>

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 8646 Ridgemont Dr., Pineville, LA 71360

**John Daugherty, Coordinator**  
 318-640-5782 cell:318-229-3738 [cbfla@suddenlink.net](mailto:cbfla@suddenlink.net)  
**Reid Doster, Disaster Response Coordinator and  
 New Church Start Pastor**  
 985-222-6900 [reid\\_doster@hotmail.com](mailto:reid_doster@hotmail.com)

**Jay Hogewood, Moderator**  
**Charlene Kelley, Past Moderator**  
**Greg Hunt, Representative to National CBF**  
 Send communications about newsletter to:  
 Editor-Kyle Kelley, [kylek1@bellsouth.net](mailto:kylek1@bellsouth.net)