

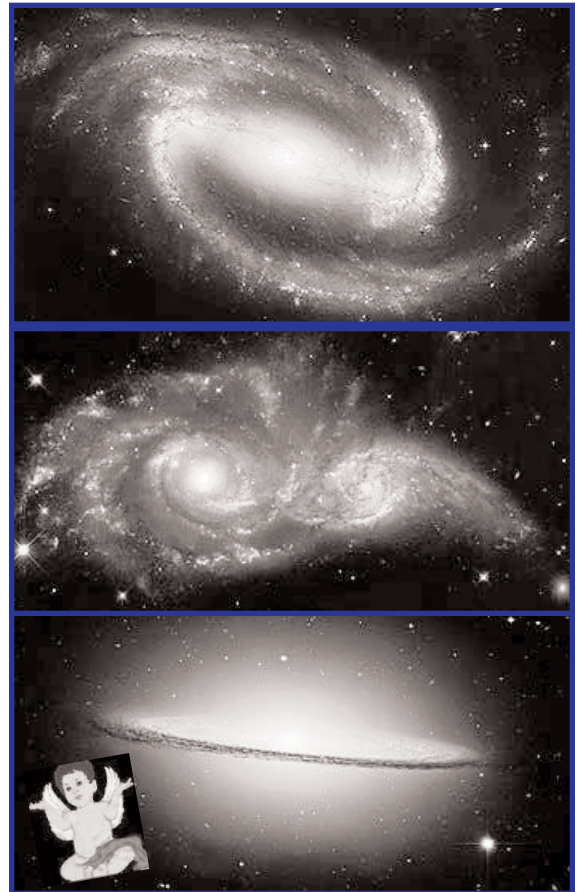
Louisiana Fellowship People

cbfla.org

Newsletter of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Louisiana
November-December, 2006 Volume 13, No. 6

Was there a moment, known only to God, when all the stars held their breath, when the galaxies paused in their dance for a fraction of a second, and the Word, who had called it all into being, went with all his love into the womb of a young girl, and the universe started to breathe again, and the ancient harmonies resumed their song, and the angels clapped their hands for joy? ~ Madeleine L'Engle

*As seen from Hubble Space Telescope, Top: Barred Spiral Galaxy; Middle: Interacting Spiral Galaxies; Bottom: Majestic Sombrero Galaxy



Advent 2006

Expanded Sponsorship of Gypsy Ministries Proposed

Enthusiasm, warm hospitality, engaging worship, music that was "overpowering and beautiful," – these were just some of the experiences that greeted John and Phyllis Daugherty on their recent Romany trip. Worship services were a multi-language affair, they report, with sermons communicated in Sinti, German, English and Dutch all at once. They saw first hand, the gifted work of our missionaries and the perseverance of Romany Christians, poor in things of the world, but rich in matters of faith. John and Phyllis returned from the Netherlands eager to step up CBF-LA support of the Romany mission.

In March of last year, CBF-LA in spring assembly, voted to formally adopt the mission and work of CBF missionaries Keith Holmes

(native of Louisiana) and his wife Mary van Rheenen. To date sponsorship has meant a line item in the budget and prayer support. The purpose of this October trip was to explore with the Holmes ways that churches, individuals, and the Louisiana fellowship can further support and participate in the work among the Sinti-Roma Gypsy populations of Europe.

Romany are one of the world's most neglected people groups. Sometimes referred to as a scapegoat minority, they are frequently shunned and often desperately poor. Typically distrustful of outsiders, they have strong community mores and taboos which make it difficult to penetrate their social and communal life.

Both Keith and Mary are trained anthropologists, a tremendous tool which has assisted them in breaking down barriers to the gospel. Keith, as a vernacular media specialist with the Wycliffe Bible Translator team is actively engaged in several projects to make audio recordings of Bible portions and to dub existing Christian videos into several different Romany dialects. John was able to

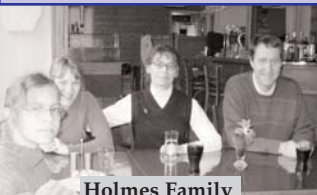


Give GENEROUSLY to the Offering for Global Missions
National Goal: \$6,300,000

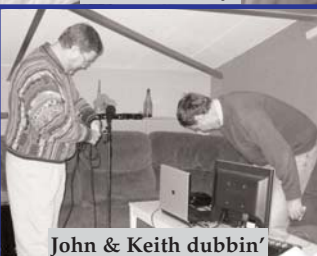
observe Keith's impressive work in recording and synchronizing Sinti phrases with video images.

Mary communicates with supporters through a monthly e-mail newsletter for their unit and by updating the team's web site gypsministries.com. She compiles an annual week-long prayer guide, and uses her considerable skills in interpreting often complex cultural information regarding Romany for team members and volunteers.

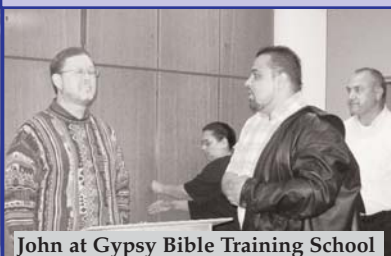
Much of the work involves encouraging, supporting, training and empowering indigenous Sinti evangelists and pastors in their work. John was a guest lecturer in a small Bible training school for church leaders and pastors. He states, "I brought an apologetic of sorts on growing Christian education within the local congregation. In short, I encouraged the leaders to consider their churches as schools for the entire congregation to fulfill our Lord's command to make disciples of all



Holmes Family



John & Keith dubbin'



John at Gypsy Bible Training School

DISASTER RESPONSE NEWS

Through a stream of volunteers from around the country and Canada, CBF-LA is near the final stages of rebuilding work with four New Orleans churches and their pastors. Needs on the ground remain catastrophic. Volunteers are lined up through the end of the year. Other opportunities lay before us. Please pray for our leadership as we seek discernment for future efforts.



John and Phyllis Daugherty look on as former President Bill Clinton greets Ray Higgins of CBF-Ark. Reid Doster captures the moment on video.

BUSH-CLINTON KATRINA FUND TO AID LACOMBE

The community of Lacombe, where CBF has restored more than 50 homes, is receiving funding from the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund. Former President Bill Clinton made the announcement recently in New Orleans, where \$7.5 million was given to several nonprofit organizations working in Katrina-damaged areas along the Gulf Coast.

Lacombe's grant was awarded to Rotary Club 99 of Little Rock, Ark., which joined the Fellowship's existing efforts in Lacombe last fall. CBF-LA began working in Lacombe just weeks after Katrina with volunteers coming from all over the country and Canada. CBF of Arkansas partnered in the effort, sending volunteers, supplies and funding. Rotary Club 99 learned of the Fellowship's Lacombe effort and began sending its own volunteers and resources.

In the grant, CBF-LA is named as a partner and, along with CBF of Arkansas, is recognized as being the foundation for past and future Lacombe rebuilding efforts. "Rotary has looked to CBF for relationships in Lacombe and identifying people's needs," said CBF of Arkansas coordinator Ray Higgins. "CBF has looked to Rotary for passionate volunteers and extra resources. This grant is a positive result of what faith-based and civic groups can do together. We are making a difference in rebuilding this historic African American community."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CBF/HABITAT BATON ROUGE BLITZ APRIL 23-MAY 5

CBF and Habitat for Humanity are teaming up to build 12 houses for Katrina victims. More than 325 volunteers a day are needed for this major two-week build. "We need CBF churches to respond to this opportunity with love and hammers," said Timothy Wood, CBF volunteer program manager.

Twelve families who lost their homes during Katrina will be chosen for the new homes. Habitat subsidized the cost of the homes, with several Baptist organizations contributing the remainder. CBF has given \$105,000 to the effort, which included an initial three-house build in October.

Both skilled and unskilled volunteers are needed. Volunteers should register and receive additional information through CBF's Volunteer Office, which is coordinating the Fellowship's volunteer efforts on this project. There is a \$100 per week fee, which covers three meals a day and lodging. If other lodging facilities are used, the fee is \$50.

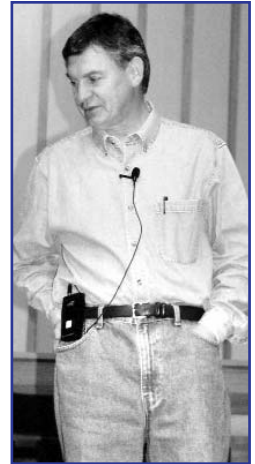
Contact Timothy Wood at (800) 782-2451 or twood@thefellowship.info.



Al Staggs

at left as
Dietrich
Bonhoeffer

and right as
Clarence
Jordan



STAGG-TOLBERT BIBLICAL FORUM

Al Staggs brought to life the message and legacy of two modern prophets, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Clarence Jordan. A letter from Evelyn Stagg, widow of the late Dr. Frank Stagg was read at the Forum. Mrs. Stagg now lives in Louisville and is no longer able to travel. She sent her greetings and delight in the Forum topics noting that she and Frank had studied Bonhoeffer (in the German) during a sabbatical in Europe before his writings were available in English. They also had fond memories of visiting Clarence Jordan several times at Koinonia. The Staggs and Jordans had studied together at Southern Seminary.



At left Evelyn Stagg is pictured in 1998 with her late husband Dr. Frank Stagg. At right Dr. Malcolm Tolbert was again able to be present with us for the Forum.



ROMANY, from page 1

the nations. It was...warmly and enthusiastically received."

Multiple avenues for the Louisiana fellowship to plug in were discovered. These fall into three broad categories: scripture ministries, support ministries and hands-on team projects/financial support. Whether helping to get scripture in the native tongue of the Romany, participating in a Bible school, sponsoring the training of a pastor, rounding up Christmas gifts or school supplies for children, supporting Project Ruth literacy, medical and other ministries to the poor, or taking part in empowering small entrepreneurs through Christian Agency for Micro Enterprise Development (CAMED) – there is a myriad of possibilities not exhausted in this beginning list.

A high priority item for John though, and perhaps the first place to start is in helping Bethlehem Baptist Church of Vulcanesti. Located in Moldova, the poorest nation in Europe, it is the only all-Romany church in the country. Five years ago the small con-

gregation purchased an old church building and began slowly renovating it. Due to financial and other obstacles, the project remains incomplete. Local authorities will not allow occupancy until the exterior and the interior are completed. This has forced the continued use of private homes for worship and church functions which limits numbers and outreach. John states, "It imperative, for the future of this congregation, to have the building completed, both for their use and the overall witness to the community." Through work teams and financial support, CBF-LA could facilitate a "loaves and fishes" result.



Bethlehem Church

This work's primary support as well as that of over 150 CBF missionaries around the world is underwritten primarily by the Offering for Global Missions. A disturbing trend across all American denominations of the past few years has been the decline in such offerings. We have a beautiful ministry to the Romany, one of many advancing the Kingdom. Give generously to the CBF Offering for Global Missions.



Partners in Prayer Calendar

Some missionary names omitted due to sensitive nature of work.

NOVEMBER

- 15 Grace Shaw, 2000, daughter, Martha & Rick Shaw, Macedonia
- 16 Anita Snell, Mission Teams, Georgia
- 17 _____, son, 2004, internationals, Europe
- 17 _____, son, 2004, internationals, Europe
- 21 Ana Marie Houser, Southern Africa
- 21 _____, unevangel. pple grp, Mid East
- 22 Lisa Orr, urban work, Kenya
- 22 Becky Smith, Mission Teams, Germany
- 25 Lindsey McClintock, youth, Germany
- 27 Macarena Aldape, Banjr.Gypsies, India
- 28 _____, internationals, Europe
- 30 John David Hopper, Emeritus, 11-99
- 30 Lucas Pittman, 2003, son, Angel&Jason, FL.

DECEMBER

- 3 Shane McNary, Romany, Slovakia
- 3 Gennady Podgaisky, urban, Ukraine
- 4 _____, unevang. people group, Mid East
- 4 Wade Whisnand, 1985,son Diann&Philip, TX
- 5 Joshua Rich, 1996, son, Jim & Monica, TX
- 8 Stephanie Glenn, internat. Los Angeles
- 9 _____, internationals, North Africa
- 9 Jason Edwards, Palaung, Thailand
- 13 Tom Cleary, Emeritus, 12-02
- 16 Ina Winstead, Emeritus, 1-02
- 17 Joshua Smith, urban, South Africa
- 17 Kathy Smith, Macedonia
- 19 Anna-Grace Acker, 2005, daughter, Jade and Shelah Acker, West Africa
- 20 Monica Rich, RPI, Rio Grande Valley
- 21 _____, unevang. people group, N. Africa
- 23 Zachery Johnson, 1986, son, Connie & Rodney Johnson, Mexico
- 24 Bogdan Podgaisky, 1997, son, Gennady & Mina Podgaisky, Ukraine
- 25 Taylor McNary, 1993, son, Dianne & Shane McNary, Slovakia
- 27 _____, video production, Internationals
- 28 Brandon Green, 1988, son, Butch & Nell, Belgium
- 30 Revonda Deal, Emeritus, 2-01
- 31 Nathaniel Newell, 1998, son, Ben&Leonora, Ark.

JANUARY


- 1 Sam Bandela, unevang., N. India, Georgia
- 1 Dave Harding, 1991, son, David & Merrie Harding, Florida
- 2 Gabriella Newell, 2002, daughter, Ben & Leonora Newell, Arkansas
- 2 Tammy Stocks, Romany, Hungary
- 2 Paul Thibodeaux, urban work, Georgia
- 3 Karen Barnes, English teacher, China
- 3 Connie Johnson, indigenous, Mexico
- 8 Ellen Burnette, Palaung people, Thailand
- 9 Bill Cayard, coordinator/teacher, China
- 9 Jonathan Myrick, 1994, son, Lori & Tim, Jordan
- 10 Melody Harrell, development, East Africa
- 13 Dianne McNary, Romany, Slovakia
- 15 Christen Green, 1986, daughter, Butch & Nell Green, Belgium
- 15 _____, 2003, daughter, unevangelized, Asia

Thank you note from Bags of Hope recipient to Jay Hogewood, CBF-LA Moderator

Dear Pastor,
 I want to thank you for donating the school supplies. I really needed them you must spent a lot of money on them. Some of those supplies were very helpful so thank you again. I think my teacher would like say thank you I guess you know Ms.Coleman, and Ms.Johnson. I really thank you.
 I Respect you enough to donate a dollar that all I have right now but I still will. My class wants to thank you so there writing a note. I want to thank everyone that there the Deacons, choir, and you the Pastor. Thank you so much Pastor Jay for those supplies thank you. All right I'll write you later.

Respectfully,
 Devin Do Cook

Pray for our "As You Go Affiliate" request to fulfill our ministry vision of having a full time presence in East Carroll Parish. Interested persons may contact John Daugherty at cbfla@cox.net or 318-229-3738.



World AIDS Day Dec. 1, 2006

With an estimated 40 million people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS, there is a lot to be concerned about. More than 3 million people died from AIDS-related causes in 2005. And it's spreading - fast. An average of 11 people a minute are infected with HIV. When it comes to this global health pandemic, how will you respond? How will your church respond? How will CBF respond? We serve a God who knows no compassion fatigue. Learn ways to meet our Lord at the places the Spirit is moving to bring compassion to the "least of these" our brother and sisters at: thefellowship.info.

CBF-LA 'BRIEFS'



CBF's GLOBAL MISSIONS GIFT CATALOG provides hundreds of opportunities to support and participate in the work of CBF Global Missions field personnel serving around the world. Gifts are often given in memory or honor

of a loved one as holiday presents. These gifts - even the small ones - make a large impact. Based on requests of missionaries, the catalog contains project descriptions with the specific amount of money needed to fund each project. Gifts range in price from \$0.33 to \$20,000. For example, \$2 provides for a shirt and pair of socks for an orphaned child in Macedonia. Other gifts include food, educational training, Bibles, school supplies, church construction, systems for supplying clean water, medical services, livestock, seedlings, seeds and underwriting large scale projects. Go to: thefellowship.info/globalmissions/giftcatalog.

CHINA SUMMER PROJECTS 2007 Volunteers for China (VFC) placed sixty-six volunteers in China this past summer. Included were two of our own, Kenny and Shirley Crump. In most cases the Christian volunteers were the first foreigners and first Christians the Chinese locals had every met. Summer programs for May, July and August have been posted at website: volunteersforchina.org. Contact: David and Ann Wilson, 865-983-9852.

45,000 MILE CHECK-UP: Daugherty Completes First Year After 25,000 miles on the road and 20,000 miles in the air, John Daugherty has completed year one with CBF-LA. Taking that impossible 21 bullet job description we gave him, John highlighted his activities of the last year, delineated around each point and submitted a thorough first year report to the Coordinating Council. Interestingly enough, nothing among those 21 bullets we gave him said anything about Disaster Response! The many highlights of the year included: Bridgewater new church start, expanding Together For Hope rural poverty initiative, bylaw changes and a new Strategic Ministry Plan, expanding partnerships, welcoming new churches, an unprecedented disaster response, and now proposed enhancement of our Romany Mission Adopt-a-People partnership. In the report he states, "Thank you for the wonderful privilege of serving with you as your Coordinator! We are falling in love with our new home state and especially with the Fellowship folks here in Louisiana."

GIVING GOOD GIFTS You give twice when Christmas shopping with fair trade catalogs. Low income artisans in developing countries share fairly in profits. See WMU's "World Crafts" at wmustore.com/wc and Serv International at agreatergift.org.

IDENTITY: We are a fellowship of Baptist Christians and churches who share a passion for 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.



Looking Ahead



March 16-17 CBF-LA Spring Assembly
St. Charles Ave Baptist, New Orleans

April 23-May 5 CBF/Habitat Blitz Build
Baton Rouge

June 27-30 CBF National Assembly
Washington D.C. Register at:
thefellowship.info or 800-352-8741

CBF-LA Receipts	Sept-Oct	Fiscal Year 3/01/06-2/28/07
Undesignated	\$11,944.03	\$50,194.98
Together in Hope	\$4,240.21	\$12,170.56
Stagg-Tolbert Forum	\$914.25	\$1,082.67
New Church Start	--	\$6,226.66
Disaster Relief	--	\$200,010.00
Misc. Designated Funds	--	--
Credits	--	\$1,150.00
TOTAL	\$17,098.49	\$270,834.87

Louisiana Fellowship People Sent to you free for the asking.

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