

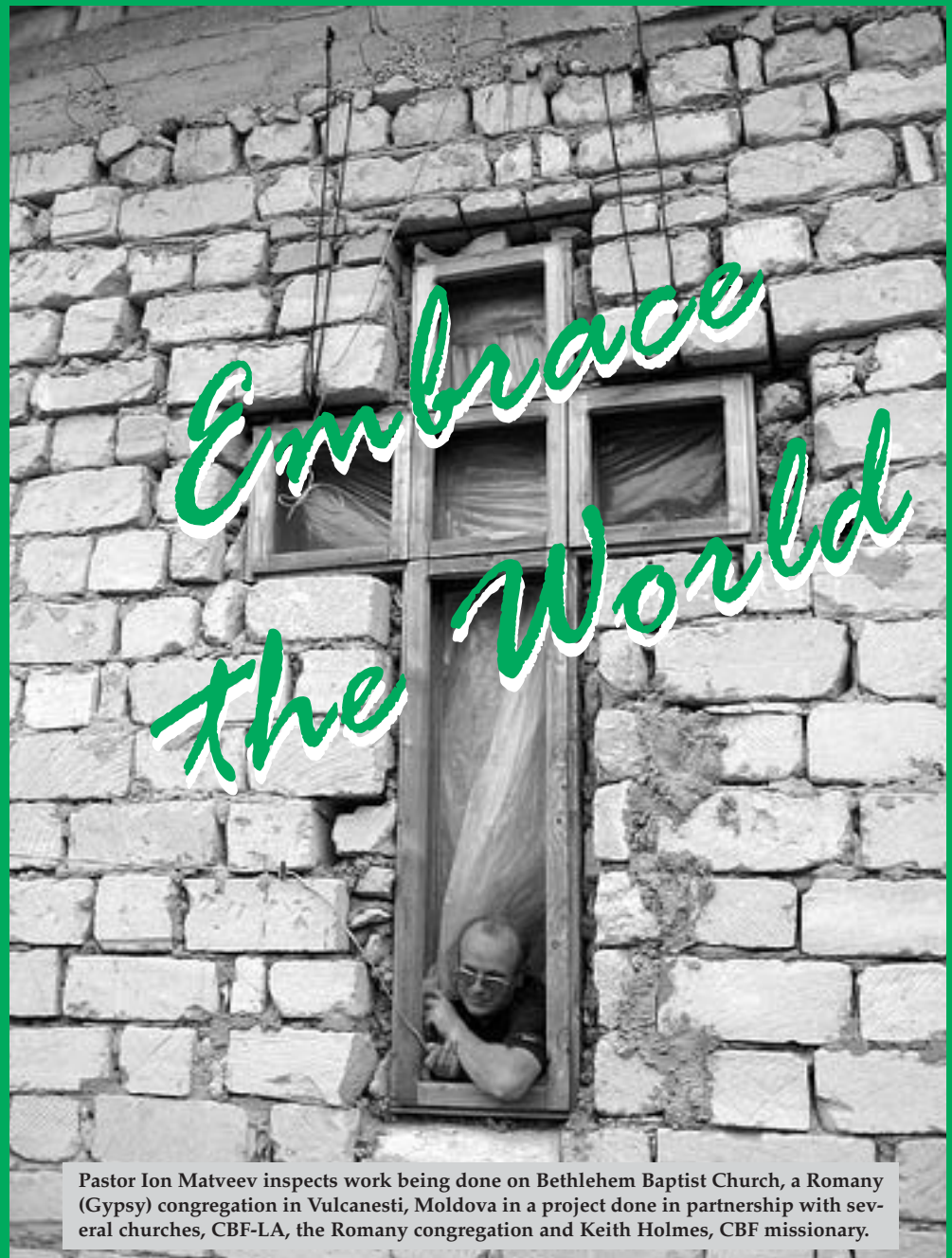


Louisiana
Fellowship
People

Volume 14, No. 5
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Newsletter of the
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
of Louisiana

cbfla.org



Pastor Ion Matveev inspects work being done on Bethlehem Baptist Church, a Romany (Gypsy) congregation in Vulcanesti, Moldova in a project done in partnership with several churches, CBF-LA, the Romany congregation and Keith Holmes, CBF missionary.

Embrace the World: 2007-2008 CBF Offering for Global Missions

- * This year's Offering goal is \$6.15 million.
- * The CBF Offering for Global Missions goes to field personnel salaries, benefits and ministry expenses.
- * This Offering is not "over and above" the CBF Global Missions budget.
- * The Offering is the PRIMARY way CBF field personnel are funded.
- * Your gifts to the Offering help spread the Gospel and meet physical needs among the most neglected in the U.S. and around the world.
- * CBF Global Missions field personnel have a two-fold responsibility: serve as an extension of the local church and facilitate the local church's coming alongside them in ministry.

John Daugherty accepts
pastorate in Florida.
See insert.

More Louisiana Connections:

Glen and Clista Adkins join mission
work to Romany. See *inside*.



ROMANY CALL

Glen and Clista Adkins moved to Pecs, Hungary this Fall to become CBF missionaries to Romany (Gypsy) children and their families at the Gandhi School.

Clista grew up in First Baptist Shreveport, where she still keeps contact and has family.

Pictured at top right is Glen performing with his newly organized school choir. In the second picture, far left, is Clista posing with some of her English students.

Romany are one of the most scapegoated minorities in the world plagued by persistent discrimination, poverty and upheaval. Gandhi school gives these children unprecedented opportunities and hope.

This is a great example of the work of CBF missionaries reaching out to the most neglected with a high sense of commitment and calling. Follow their story at cbfla.org and give generously to the Global Mission Offering for this ministry and others around the world.



Tensas Prison Ministry

Thank you for your continued prayers and support! We are enjoying a good response to Kidz@C-mas. We are still receiving new un-

wrapped toys for the children of inmates. Basketballs, dolls, and portable cd players - (\$15) are the most popular gifts. Their care givers have been VERY grateful. I usually deliver the last load on Christmas Eve, so there is still time if you would like to participate. As always we can use Bibles. We still

utilize white ankle socks for the youth detention center in Madison parish. The work continues to go well. In a "thank you" note an inmate I had the privilege of baptizing shared, "I have received healing in my life from past hurt and pains, even though locked behind these walls I'm free of all my old stains." Makes it all worth while doesn't it? I carry that note in my Bible. Thank you for helping us share the Good News of a Saviour, "...and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." We appreciate all our partners in ministry more than you know.

Bill Hoffman



utilize white ankle socks for the youth detention center in Madison parish.

At cbfla.org:

- * More pictures of:
 - Forum
 - Bethlehem
 - Bridgewater
- * Missionary letters from Adkins & Holmes
- * Disaster Response Stories



Stagg-Tolbert Forum For Biblical Studies

Forum 2007 featured Dr. Bill Coates, who was introduced by his mentor, teacher and Forum namesake, Dr. Malcolm Tolbert.

Coates recalled taking a class on Romans with Tolbert, "where I learned it was all about grace." He also remembered a quote from Malcolm, which has stayed with him as an ever important reminder: "If you really want to be orthodox, be loving."

In the morning session, Coates outlined the challenges of being church to a postmodern generation. Postmoderns care little about preserving institutions, denominational loyalty, religious battles and have no place for intolerance. They are drawn to genuineness in relationships, honesty in questioning, openness to multiple voices, hands on mission activities and concerns for justice. Coates finds them not necessarily drawn to a particular worship style, but rather open to any style that is

real and authentic. They seek to feed a spiritual hunger, and deep need for connections with others.

In the afternoon session, Coates pointed to God speaking the word and creation happening, and that in the beginning was the Word. Noting the continuing creative power of words to speak to our condition, he pulled examples of the contemporary poetic word to show powerfully how they can be used to communicate truth to our lives and recreate our understanding of who and where we are in relation to God and others.

Marking its 4th year, the Forum's goal is to make excellence in Biblical scholarship accessible to the lay person. Walter Shurden will speak at the 5th Forum in Fall 2008.





Volunteers Make a Difference as Humanitarian Crisis Languishes

Dear Friend,

As the two year anniversary of Katrina has passed and New Orleans was again in the news, we want to update you on CBF Disaster Response. Here are some troubling trends to consider prayerfully:

A massive humanitarian crisis still languishes right under our noses. Thousands of American citizens have been living in FEMA campers for two years. As of August 1, 2007 there were 33,494 of these temporary units still occupied by Katrina survivors. With an average of 2.5 persons per camper, that means around 84,000 people without safe and permanent housing. Thousands more want to return, but have been forced to remain in temporary living arrangements elsewhere.

People living in FEMA camper parks are 79 times more likely to attempt suicide than the national average. That is not a typo, 79 times more likely. Hope is wearing thin.

The rate of major depression in FEMA camper parks is 7 times the national average. A majority of these people were barely getting by before the storm, and now struggle even harder to get back on their feet.

Driven by a housing shortage, rental fees have escalated beyond the reach of many who simply need a decent place to live. Currently, their only option is to remain where they are, while fending off mounting pressure from FEMA to give up their camper.

Reportedly, the formaldehyde toxicity-level in many of these campers is alarmingly beyond established safe limits and is suspected of contributing to a widespread increase of respiratory distress, especially among children, along 90,000 square miles of the Gulf Coast. With colder weather on the way, more time will be spent in close quarters.

Without volunteers, progress stops. **It is not government who is rebuilding broken lives here. It is volunteer responders lending a hand, little-by-little restoring lives and bringing hope out of chaos.** Will you offer your willing hands and open heart to become the presence of Christ to people who, in quiet desperation, are feeling forgotten?

We will come to your church and explain how disaster response work offers hurting people hope in place of despair. Call us or email today.

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

DECEMBER

- 1 Tori Wentz, healthcare, Fredericksburg, VA
- 3 Shane McNary, Romany, Slovakia
- 3 Gennady Podgaisky, Ukraine
- 4 _____, unevang. people grp, Mid East
- 8 Stephanie Glenn, internationals, Los Angeles, CA
- 9 _____, internationals, North Africa
- 13 Tom Cleary, Emeritus, Dec. 2002
- 16 Ina Winstead, Emeritus, January 2002
- 17 Christy Craddock, urban work, Miami, FL
- 17 Kathy Smith, Albanian/Balkan peoples, Macedonia
- 19 Anna-Grace Acker, 2005, daughter, Jade and Shelah, West Africa
- 21 _____, unevang. pple grp, N Africa
- 24 Bogdan Podgaisky, 1997, son, Gennady & Mina, Ukraine
- 25 Taylor McNary, 1993, son, Dianne & Shane McNary, Slovakia
- 27 Steve Clark, video production, Internationals
- 28 Brandon Green, 1988, son, Butch & Nell Green, South Carolina
- 30 Revonda Deal, Emeritus, retired February 2001
- 31 Nathaniel Newell, 1998, son, Ben & Leonora Newell, Arkansas

JANUARY

- 1 Sam Bandela, unevangelized people groups of India, Atlanta, GA
- 1 Dave Harding, 1991, son, David & Merrie Harding, Florida
- 2 Gabriella Newell, 2002, daughter, Ben & Leonora Newell, Arkansas
- 2 Tammy Stocks, work with Romany people, Hungary
- 3 Karen Barnes, English teacher, China
- 8 Ellen Burnette, work with Palaung people, Thailand
- 9 Bill Cayard, coord. and teacher, China
- 9 Jonathan Myrick, 1994, son, Lori & Tim Myrick, Jordan
- 10 Melody Harrell, transformational development work, East Africa
- 13 Dianne McNary, Romany, Slovakia
- 15 Christen Green, 1986, daughter, Butch & Nell, South Carolina
- 15 Abigail, 2003, daughter, Craig & Susan, Asia
- 16 Fran Graham, work with Slavic community, Asheville, NC
- 16 Eliza, 1996, daug., Melin & Ron, Asia
- 16 Merrie Grace Harding, 1995, daughter, David & Merrie, Florida
- 17 Latha Bandela, unevangelized people groups of India, Atlanta, GA
- 17 _____, daug., unevang. groups, Asia
- 20 Marcia Binkley, refugee ministry, Uniontown, OH
- 21 Laura, English teacher, China
- 25 Scott Houser, transformational development, Southern Africa
- 25 _____, unevangelized people group, Middle East
- 25 _____, Persian World Outreach, New Jersey
- 25 Samantha, 2006, daughter, Craig & Susan, Asia

INSERT

Editor's Note: John Daugherty's announcement of his call to Florida came just as the newsletter was going to press, thus this insert.



**Cooperative Baptist
FELLOWSHIP**

To the Fellowship of CBF Louisiana,

July 2005 you, through the Coordinating Council and committees, extended a faithful invitation to Phyllis and me to come alongside you on part of the journey of faith of being the presence of Christ in Louisiana. We accepted that invitation, but could not arrive "on the field" until October. Between the invitation and our arrival this state experienced the devastation of two major hurricanes. While opening doors for ministry and service and providing "God-sized" experiences for our Fellowship, those storms also have strained the resources of churches across our state.

As a result, giving has never returned to the 2005 level. Even though the giving was growing, it was an act of faith and hope on the part of the Louisiana Fellowship to move to full-time leadership and to undertake some challenging ministries, particularly in Together for Hope and starting a new and vibrant church in Madisonville.

While continuing good ministry efforts we have consistently drained reserves and have not found new sources of financial support sufficient to cover the deficits between receipts and expenses. The Council and others have been working for a year to address these concerns and explore ways we can have vibrant ministry but with a different model for leadership.

We have not found the definitive answers to the perplexing questions and challenges, but continue to explore, think, dream, and pray. One inevitable conclusion is that we cannot continue to deplete reserves and we cannot, with the current sources of support, underwrite the cost of full-time leadership.

Throughout this process, Phyllis and I have been diligent with our work here, but have also been open to the moving of the Spirit in terms of another place of ministry and support. We have been extended an invitation to serve as the next pastor for the First Baptist Church of Fort Myers, Florida and have accepted that invitation, anticipating being on the field of service there the first full week of February, 2008.

There are important transitional duties to attend to in the next several weeks. We are committed to making the transition a time of renewal and looking ahead to what opportunities the Lord may have for CBF of Louisiana as the Fellowship continues to be a ministering presence for Christ in this state. Be assured of our love for you, this wonderful Fellowship, and our prayerful support for the future.

In turn we treasure the love and the friendships we have gained while serving here among some of the finest in the Kingdom. We ask for your prayers as we too go through a transitional time of completing work here and moving to a challenging and exciting opportunity of ministry and service.

Our God is good and He is faithful. He has blessed the Daugherty's beyond our expectations over the last two and a half years. We pray his continued blessing on you, on the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Louisiana, and the future efforts of being the presence of Christ in this state.

With love and gratitude,

John and Phyllis Daugherty

John and Phyllis Daugherty

**CBF-LA
 'BRIEFS'**



New Baptist Covenant gathering is set for Atlanta, January 31-February 1, 2008. Over 30 Baptist groups across North America have planned this historic event of unity. Luke 4:18-19, Jesus' Kingdom agenda, will be the theme. Details at: newbaptistcelebration.org.

World Aids Day is December 1, a time to pray and pledge anew to actions to bring hope to the millions of sufferers, a majority of whom are poor women and children.

Christian sympathy to **Mary van Rheenen**, CBF missionary to the Romany, in the loss of her father, **Ralph van Rheenen**.

Charlene Kelley succeeds Greg Hunt as CBF-LA's **National CBF Representative**.

Kenny Crump, treasurer for CBF-LA and math professor at Louisiana Tech, has received the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education Fellowship to work with the EPA on environmental assessment activities. States the Monroe News Star, "Crump is considered one of the founders of the modern approaches to quantitative risk assessment."

Giving Good Gifts. You give twice when Christmas shopping with fair trade vendors. Low income artisans in developing countries share fairly in profits. Christians have taken an important role in this movement. 3 great options are the WMU's WorldCraftsVillage.com, the Mennonite's tentousandvillages.com, and SERV International's agreatergift.org.

Bridgewater Community Church in Madisonville, CBF-LA's new church start, at 63 members strong, continues its missional ways with a recent (2nd) shipment of care boxes to 23 soldiers from Louisiana, serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The boxes were filled with personal Christmas greetings, cookies made by church members, and specific items requested by the soldiers, including soft, easy-to-carry Beanie Babies, especially loved by Iraqi and Afghani children. Another shipment is planned for Valentine's Day.

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	Oct-Nov	Fiscal Year 3/01/07-2/28/08
Undesignated	\$16,806.04	\$56,411.27
Together for Hope	\$3,858.34	\$11,388.23
Disaster Relief	-	\$3,551.42
Stagg-Tolbert Forum	\$1,074.57	\$1,813.90
New Church Start	\$100.00	\$597.62
Extra-budgetDesgFunds	\$200.00	\$4,665.00
Credits	-	\$941.00
TOTAL	\$22,038.95	\$79,368.44

Louisiana Fellowship People
 Sent to you free for the asking.

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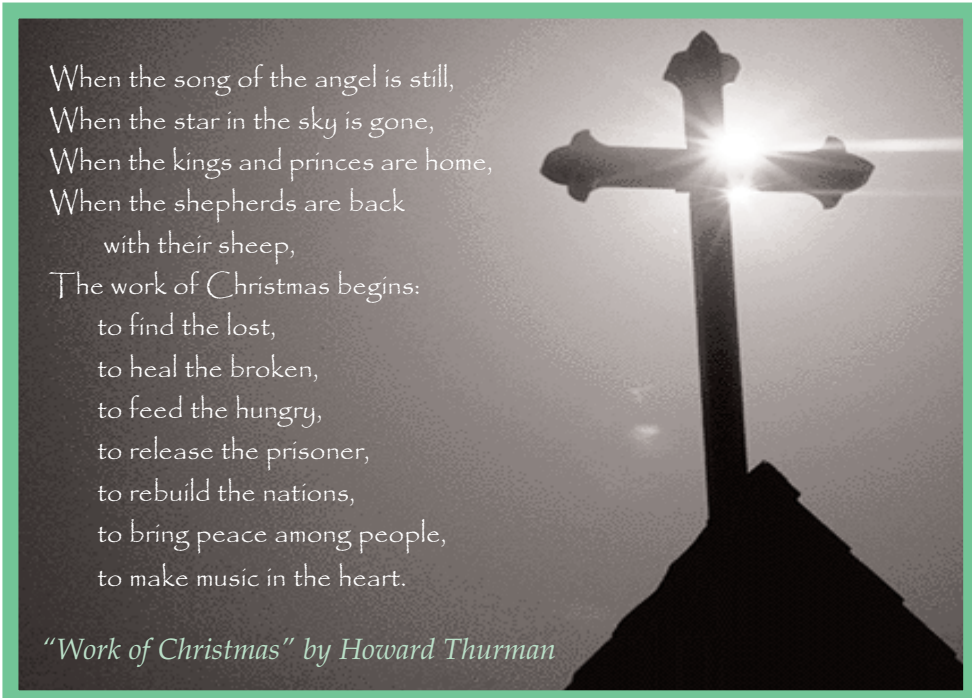
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**Save a Tree.
 Save CBF-LA Some Dough.**

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



When the song of the angel is still,
 When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and princes are home,
 When the shepherds are back
 with their sheep,
 The work of Christmas begins:
 to find the lost,
 to heal the broken,
 to feed the hungry,
 to release the prisoner,
 to rebuild the nations,
 to bring peace among people,
 to make music in the heart.

"Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman

Your prayers for and financial gifts to CBF-LA are appreciated.