



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Louisiana

www.cbfla.org

The Expectant Mother: Passive Waiting?

Like Mary, we celebrate the coming of the Christ child, what God has already done. And we wait in expectation of the full coming of God's reign on earth and for the return of Christ, what God will yet do. But this waiting is not a passive waiting. It is an active waiting. As any expectant mother knows, this waiting also involves preparation, exercise, nutrition, care, prayer, work; and birth involves pain, blood, tears, joy, release, community. It is called labor for a reason. Likewise, we are in a world pregnant with hope, and we live in the expectation of the coming of God's kingdom on earth. As we wait, we also work, cry, pray, ache; we are the midwives of another world. -- *Common Prayer for Ordinary Radicals*

Mark the date for CBF-LA Spring Conference:

March 30-31 at First Baptist Bunkie.

Rick Bennet from CBF national will prompt us to go further on the missional journey. Community faith stories will be featured this year along with the preaching of our past Moderator Shannon Rutherford.

Our CBF-LA Together for Hope Missionary, the (very Rev.) Stephanie Vance has been sprucing up the [Together for Hope website](#).



TOGETHER FOR HOPE You should check it out [here](#). She will also be singing in the community, multi-denominational, multi-cultural Christmas concert in Lake Providence, Friday December 9 at 7pm and Sunday December 11 at 4pm. If you would like to attend contact Stephanie at sthepny@gmail.com or 318-418-4075.

Prayers for Keith Holmes. Mary van Rheenen reports that Keith, our [missionary to the Romany in Europe](#) entered the hospital on December 2 with pancreatitis and considerable pain. Please be in prayer for Keith and the family.



Pilgrimage to Bethlehem is a unique re-creation of the first century site of the birth of our Lord with drama and music presented by Emmanuel Baptist Church in Alexandria. The presentation will run from December 8-11. Learn more [here](#).



World Aids Day

As the world enters the 30th year of the Aids epidemic, 34 million people are living with HIV. We must all do our part in being the presence of Christ to those affected. One way is to support the work of CBF field personnel Lonnie and Fran Turner who are active in this fight. Read their story [here](#).

Fair Trade at Christmas

An excellent way to remember the "least of these" at Christmas is to purchase gifts from third world artists and crafts people who are paid a fair wage for their talents and thereby support their families. Christians have supported this work for years now. Two excellent sources are: [SERRV](#) and [Ten Thousand Villages](#).

God's Shalom to you at this most expectant season, Kyle

Have you seen our latest newsletter? The Nov-Dec issue is [here](#).

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