



cbf Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Forming Together
Louisiana
 December 2015 cbfla.org

Rachel Held Evans addresses audience at the Mabel Palmer Lectures / CBF Stagg-Tolbert Forum at St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans.



Jenny Hodge Submits Resignation

Citing pressing family concerns, CBF-LA Together for Hope Missionary Jenny Hodge announced her need to leave her post by the end of December.

In her statement, she says, "Thank you so much for the opportunity to work in this position for the past three years. I've greatly enjoyed and appreciated the opportunities I've had to build strong relationships with the wonderful people of Lake Providence/East Carroll Parish and to engage with congregations from multiple states in the ministry of community development. I've learned how to be an effective advocate and community developer with rural communities,

[cont'd on back](#)



Jenny Hodge, on the right, at the Forum at St. Charles with Lane Riley her counterpart in the Together for Hope work in Mississippi. Part of Jenny's legacy will be her leadership in developing regional ties and cooperation in the ministry.



Nationally recognized author Rachel Held Evans spoke to an enthusiastic crowd at the Stagg-Tolbert Forum last month. Speaking of reaching millennials, Evans focused on the great Mysteries of faith and the church. The last thing the younger generation wants from the church is to be entertained or sold something. It is not more information they need either. Such is readily available at their fingertips in this information age. They are looking for real community, a real encounter with God and safe place to share faith and doubt, joy and grief. Participants left with a renewed excitement for our shared calling to be church.

In the business session a report on the work of CBF Global was given by Griff Martin and new officers were elected. Serving as new Moderator is Chris Thacker; Moderator-Elect will be Elizabeth Lott; Secretary will be John Henson; Treasurer will be Mike Anderson; Representative to CBF Global will be Bobby Rayburn. Thanks to all for your gifts of service.



Straight from Holland:

KEITH
the Human Map



Ever resourceful, Mary van Rheenen explains the scope of the mission work with Romany (Gypsies) in Europe with the best map at hand, her husband and Field Personnel partner, Keith Holmes whose home church is University in Baton Rouge.

This geographical trick (miracle?) was demonstrated at a recent Sunday evening service at Haynes Avenue Baptist Church in Shreveport. Kudos to all the CBF churches in Louisiana who booked them to speak in their fellowships and packed their schedule for a fruitful off field assignment this Fall.

When they started 19 years ago, many thought it impossible to penetrate the tight social structures of the Romany with a Gospel witness. Thanks to the pioneering work of Keith, Mary and others, your sustained financial/prayer support and the work of the Holy Spirit, the Romany church is now one of the fastest growing Christian people groups in the world.

This ministry is a beautiful holistic work of witness, support of indigenous leaders, scripture/media development and micro economic opportunities in one of the poorest and most discriminated communities on the planet.

Mary and Keith return to the Netherlands on January 5 to resume their work. Follow their ministry in their prayer letters posted at our website cbfla.org where you will also see video and blog links about the Romany Mission. Remember them in prayer and give your financial support through your church's CBF Offering for Global Missions. You can also give at cbf.net and designate to specific needs at the CBF Global Missions gift catalog at cbf.net.

Resignation cont'd

and I will take this with me throughout my career."

Jenny took the Together for Hope work to the next level for our state and the gratitude we have for her is immense. Coordinator Mike Massar pledged continued support for this work which he called CBF-LA's "cornerstone ministry" and he along with the Coordinating Council will be working with national and regional leaders in planning for transition.

To express your appreciation for the exemplary work Jenny has done you may reach her at hodgejv@gmail.com or 318-418-5133.



Giving for Missions at Advent
 Support Keith and Mary and other missionaries through your church's CBF Global Mission Offering or designate to a specific mission need at the missions gift catalog at cbf.net



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