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Get National Recognition

Lake Providence

The Mission Continues . . .

Together for Hope Search and Transition: Our Work is Not Done! *by Kyle Kelley*

I joked with Jenny Hodge, Together for Hope Missionary, that as her former supervisor, she had only barely got me trained before she decided to leave. Well the good news is she ain't left yet. More good news: we have a great team in place to work with her in transition and in conducting the search for the next person to lead the mission in Lake Providence on to the next chapter.

Chris Thacker, CBF-LA Moderator and Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Alexandria will chair the Search Committee and has brought together the following good folks: Griff Martin, Ministries Council Member and Co-Pastor of University Baptist, Baton Rouge; Samantha Oakley, MDiv and MSW grad from Baylor and member at Broadmoor, Baton Rouge; Katie Mussat, Minister of Youth at FBC Shreveport and also an MDiv grad from Truett; and Kyle Kelley, CBF-LA Communications Coordinator.

Jenny Hodge has moved to part time, one week a month, in Lake Providence through May and will be a resource to the Search Committee and a presence in the community for transition and continuity. This latest development with Jenny was widely applauded by our new Coordinating Council as a move for stability which gives us time to plan carefully.

CBF-LA Coordinator Mike Massar stated, "Together for Hope is one of the most significant ministries that we share as CBF Christians here in Louisiana. It is a mission post that is close to our hearts and close in proximity. What an opportunity we have to assist in changing the world in our own backyard. I trust you will join me as we pray for the new leadership that God is preparing to send our way."

CBF Global for Dummies *by Griff Martin*

There are many exciting things occurring at CBF Global these days and I hope that you are paying attention to all the news coming out of the office (from the Fellowship magazine to the CBF Facebook page and web page) as these are exciting days for the fellowship. This year the Fellowship will begin our celebration of 25 years together. This will occur at both this year's assembly and next year's assembly.

There is a 25th Anniversary Capital Campaign that is being used for three specific areas in our fellowship: 1) To support local CBF churches and regions 2) To make certain that our missionaries are in sustainable situations 3) To nurture young Baptists. You will hear much more about this campaign in the coming months. It's goal is to give CBF a foundation for the next 25 years.

On the church side of CBF there are some exciting things happening with the ministry council. Much of this revolves around the recently received Lilly Grant dealing with financial issues. We will begin awarding scholarships to help pastors with debt relief in the coming months. The Ministry Council has completed and will soon publish a complete list of vetted resources dealing with the church, clergy and all aspects of finances. In addition we have made efforts to make our CBF Seminary scholarships more accessible and have funds to help churches bring members to assembly. We are also working towards the creation of an Advocacy Committee which will help our fellowship to tackle further issues like Pay Day lending.

The Missions Council has been busy visioning what missions looks like today and finding ways to make sure that CBF has a sustainable missions ministry that is truly doing Kingdom work. Reports from this council are really exciting.

I do hope you make it a priority to attend General Assembly this summer in Greensboro June 2024. There are going to be some really exciting things at assembly including the start of our 25th Anniversary Celebration, a Leadership Institute featuring Dr. Tom Long and worship which will include both Dr. Tom Long and Dr. Diana Butler Bass. It's going to be a great assembly that you won't want to miss. If you have any questions about the goings on of CBF Global, please feel free to reach out to any of us who serve on leadership including Mike Massar (Nominating Committee), Griff Martin (Ministries Council), and Bobby Rayborn (Ministries Council).

Not Lost in Translation

Keith Holmes and Mary van Rheenen
CBF Field Personnel to Romany



"How's the translation going?" People often ask Keith this--in Dutch as well as English. On the surface, it's a reasonable question. He is part of the Wycliffe Bible Translators/SIL* Romany Team. He does Scripture things in Romany languages. But he doesn't do the translation of the Scripture. That decades-long task is facilitated by other folks--like the SIL Romany Team. If the translation of Scripture were the end goal, then Keith would have no role. The intent, though, is for people to know God better and grow in their faith. They need to have the translation in a useable form.

That's where Keith comes in. When Wycliffe workers in Germany finished the entire New Testament, Keith helped record it. The 3,000 copies of the dramatized audio version have already been distributed. The sponsoring ministry in Germany has ordered a second 3,000. Now that most of the Old Testament has also been translated, they have asked Keith to help record a condensed, children's version of the Old as well as the New Testament.

The SIL Romany team in Romania have been finding ways to make their translations accessible, too. For instance, they recorded the Easter story (John 18-20). The recording needs a lot of editing. They have recorded the Abraham and Joseph stories in another Romany dialect. They would like to know how to use available illustrations to turn this into a video (<https://www.youtube.com/user/LutonRomaChurch/playlistgives> an idea of what this looks like). They have a couple of similar projects they'd like help with. So recently, we took a cheap flight to Romania. Keith spent Tuesday through Friday doing training and giving advice. Ellen and I did our best to be useful and enjoyed the relatively balmy weather there. After the snow here, it was over 60 F (16 C) there!

In addition to getting the translations in an accessible form, we do sometimes facilitate translation projects. Members from this same SIL Romany Team have helped me with children's programs, youth programs, and women's programs in a Romany village in Moldova. They've become interested in a trial project in the Ursari Romani language spoken there. One of them has asked me to go with her to Moldova sometime this spring. She wants to talk with the pastor and other church members about this. This is an answer to a long-term prayer. I am very excited about this!

Are any of you interested in going to Moldova? You could help with a different sort of translation project--translating the love of Jesus into personal interaction with Romany brothers and sisters there. We need help with a week-long children's Bible club and a day camp for youth. Long-term, we need help in creating work and hope.

St. Charles Ave Baptist and Church for the Highlands Recognized

Two of our churches were recently featured in national publications!

Healthy Church Healthy Community is a story in the current national CBF **Fellowship** Magazine about St. Charles Ave. Baptist Church in New Orleans and it's ministries with community partners.

How to Practice Safe Banking is an article published in February **Sojourners**, an Evangelical Social Justice magazine. It praises Church for the Highlands and it's work with partner churches and a credit union to combat predatory lending with safe and just alternatives for folks trapped in the cycle.

Kudos to both congregations for your creativity and faithfulness.

Meet Your CBF-LA 2016 Coordinating Council

A new year means a new CBF-LA Coordinating Council listed below. Give them your support, prayers and ideas as we are all forming together to be part of God's movement in the breaking out of little outposts of the Kingdom.



Chris Thacker, Moderator and Pastor Emmanuel Baptist, Alexandria



Elizabeth Lott, Moderator Elect and Pastor St. Charles Ave. Baptist, New Orleans



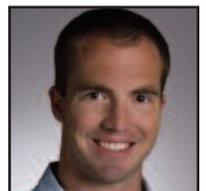
Ron Perritt, Past Moderator and Deacon University Baptist, Baton Rouge



Mike Anderson, Treasurer and Pastor Haynes Ave Baptist, Shreveport



John Henson, Secretary and Pastor Church for the Highlands, Shreveport



Griff Martin, Ministries Council and Co-Pastor University Baptist, Baton Rouge



Bobby Rayburn, Ministries Council and Minister of Formation, Broadmoor Baton Rouge



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