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Lake Providence Workday April 9

A special workday/weekend April 8-9 is set to provide landscaping and painting at the New Town park and minor upkeep on the mission house.

The youth group from Church for the Highlands invite you to come lend a hand. Come feel young again!

Offer encouragement to the New Town Community Association as they work to make their lives better. Help us honor Jenny Hodge for a job well done.

For more information contact Kyle at cbflouisiana@gmail.com.



Stepping Next Door, "Cheers"

Keith Holmes and Mary van Rheenen

CBF Field Personnel to Romany



This past Saturday all across the Netherlands people helped other people in neighborhood projects as well as person-to-person. It's called NL Doet(Netherlands Does). Our church did gardening in a neglected neighborhood of Arnhem. Our neighborhood here in Westervoort also had a project to fix up the neighborhood meeting room. I opted for this project close to home and walked down the block into a truly cross-cultural experience. I know a number of Dutch people very well. They are almost all church-going Dutch people. This is not the norm across the country nor in our own neighborhood. The people I was stacking floor tile with probably did not know the Dutch equivalent for "atonement". But even the not-yet-two-year-old girl knew how to clink glasses (plastic cups of coffee or soft drink in this instance) and say proost! (Dutch equivalent for "cheers!"; rhymes with "toast").

I found it to be a really healthy thing--not that a toddler is so familiar with the consumption of alcohol that she can toast better than she can say "thank you"--but to follow Jesus out among people who don't know God. I don't know these neighbors of ours well enough to share anything about God. Unless showing up and clinking plastic cups with a two-year-old counts.

Keith is getting ready to make it easier to share about God in Latvian. No,

he has not taken a speed course in this Baltic language. On April 2 he will begin working with the Latvian Bible Society to record the New Testament in a contemporary translation of the Latvian Bible. This makes the words of Jesus accessible to people who cannot read, don't read, would rather listen, or who like to communicate through apps, downloads, and other online things. He cannot successfully do such a recording project (minimum 6 weeks) without adequate prayer support. We are looking for 4-6 volunteers who will pray with us daily and specifically for this project. If you feel led to share in this way, let us know. We will you send specific prayer requests and regular prayer/project updates.

I'll be going with him for the first five days. Jesus did recommend that we go out two-by-two for very good reasons. In addition to spiritual and moral support, I'll be bringing part of the recording equipment as my carry on luggage. Recording equipment is not something one wants to entrust to baggage handlers, either human or mechanical. Keith and I are traveling together this week as well. Tomorrow, March 16, we are flying to Malta for our annual CBF Central European Team meeting. Malta lies in the Mediterranean between Italy and North Africa. The Apostle Paul shipwrecked on the island (Acts 28). Prayers for smoother travel there and back as well as a productive meeting while we're there will also be appreciated. Team members will be coming from Ukraine, Macedonia, Slovakia, and Romania as well as CBF staff and volunteers from America.

One of the volunteers serves on CBF's Member Care team. Member Care folks are mental health professionals who volunteer as a resource for people in the field. They've provided educational advice, emergency support, workshops, personal conversation, and on-going encouragement to do what we need to do to stay well. The couple who have been our Member Care folks urge those of us in the field to "take care of yourself because you are a Gift with gifts for the Kingdom."

Other volunteers have also recently blessed us. An artist in America has drawn illustrations for O Drom, a coloring book about Sinti Romany children. An educator from Romania is translating material for a Mother-Child Club which will be used by our partners in a Roma village in Moldova. Someone else will help upgrade the DAVAR website. There are many ways to contribute to the Kingdom Christ came to share. Volunteering, as I discovered myself this past Saturday, is certainly one of them.

Still praying,

Mary van Rheenen & Keith Holmes

Join us in thanking God for:

- a safe and productive trip to Romania last month (photos at cbf-romany-ministries.blogspot);
- volunteer to help with DAVAR (davarliteracy.weebly.com) + volunteer to translate Mother-Child Club from English to Romanian;
- opportunity to record New Testament in Latvia;
- pastor Petru Ciochina, Moldova, who decided not to work abroad for three months;
- Easter.

Join us in praying for:

- opportunities to share Easter with neighbors who do not know God;
- recording project in Latvia, April 2-May 31;
- CBF team meeting, Malta, March 16-20;
- Romany from Moldova who have gone to Germany in droves (more on this in the "Romany On the Move" 7 days of prayer available April 8, the International Romany Day);
- energy and encouragement for our daughter Rebecca, student at Brandeis University, who has been diagnosed with mononucleosis.

Contributions to the Offering for Global Missions (or Keith Holmes Ministry), Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, P.O. Box 102972, Atlanta, GA 30368-2972, make this work possible. Contributions to projects #80827 Romany Education, Moldova and #84822, Romany Outreach, Moldova, can be sent to the same address or made through CBF's gift catalog at <http://www.cbf.net/giftcatalog/>.



[Give here to support global missions](http://www.cbf.net/giftcatalog/)

[See Holmes / van Rheenen video, posts and ways to support their work.](#)



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Forming Together

Forming Together is more than our new tag line. It's a new way to share the CBF story. It's a deliberate decision to live in to the six attributes that we have discovered about ourselves.

[See video of our branding story.](#)

[See Fellowship article here for more of our visioning story.](#)

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