



[www.cbfla.org](http://www.cbfla.org)

**In This Issue:**

- \* CBF-LA Trip-Tik - Mike Massar
- \* A Boisterous Hug - Kyle Kelley
- \* Every Nation Bible Recording - Holmes/van Rheenen
- \* Dawnings and Pews' News

## *CBF-LA Trip-Tik*



*by Mike Massar, CBF-LA Coordinator*

Long before there were Global Positioning Services or cell phones equipped with myriad tracking devices, whenever our family traveled we always consulted the American Automobile Association and ordered a little booklet called a "Trip-Tik." The Trip-Tik would plot out the best route to travel from

our starting point to our destination, and in its sequential pages it provided interesting things to look for along the way. We found that the publication made our trips much easier to plan and much smoother from beginning to end.

Recognizing that this kind of communication is a bit outdated, I thought I would employ the idea in a metaphorical sort of way. As folks associated with CBF we are on a most intriguing journey. As we travel together I thought I might point out a few interesting things that might attract your attention and help you plan your " CBF travels."



2016 CBF General Assembly - The annual gathering of CBF will take place in Greensboro, North Carolina, June 20-24. Worship, business sessions, workshops and auxiliary events are on Thursday and Friday of Assembly, but there are meaningful events all week long, including a Wednesday evening kick-off for CBF's 25th Anniversary. Special speakers for the week include Glenn Hinson, Tom Long, Diana Butler Bass and others. You can make plans to attend this gathering at [cbf.net](http://cbf.net).

Merger Plans with Mississippi - Last year we were pressing toward the possible merger with Mississippi CBF. We had several meetings to that end during the year. However, Mississippi has undergone some changes in their structure and leadership. Therefore, we have agreed to put the merger on hold until they have things settled. However, I have had meetings with Dr. Ray Higgins, State Coordinator for Arkansas, and Dr. Steve Graham, State Coordinator for Oklahoma, about some joint meetings and opportunities for missions/programming. I am enthusiastically encouraged by their visions for what we might do together. I will share more in the months ahead about these possibilities.

Stagg-Tolbert Lectures - This year's Stagg Tolbert Lecture Series features Dr. Joseph Phelps, Pastor of the Highland Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Dr. Phelps will be speaking on "More Light, Less Heat: How a Community of Faith Deals Redemptively with Conflict," a topic with which he is most familiar, as evidenced by his book on the subject. The event will take place on Saturday, October 29th, at the University Baptist Church in

Baton Rouge. Start making plans to join us for a most meaningful experience.



**TOGETHER FOR HOPE**  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Rural Poverty Initiative  
• **Louisiana** •

Together For Hope - Our search is well underway to find a missionary for the work in Lake Providence. The Search Committee, chaired by Kyle Kelley with members Griff Martin, Katie Mussat, Samantha Oakley, and Chris Thacker, is now in the interview stage of the process. Hopefully, a new missionary will be called in the not-so-distant future. Please pray for our committee as they work.

Our journey this year looks like a good one. Please let us know about CBF activities in your area. We want to know and pass them on.

Happy to be traveling with you, *Mike*



## A Boisterous Hug

*By Kyle Kelley, CBF-LA Communications Coordinator*

I have made a couple of recent trips to Lake Providence tying up loose ends, saying goodbye to Jenny and working to set the stage for the next Together for Hope Director which, God willing, we hope will be coming soon.

After painting the New Town playground and planting shrubbery in the park, with my Church for the Highlands youth group from Shreveport, I had the thought of coming full circle. We were reenacting one of our first projects about 10 years ago when we planted shrubs in the then new walking park at the hospital. Jenny commented that was still one of our best projects because it brought people together (then and now) and built upon community strengths and assets.

Just about that time the youth, all boys, posed in front of the New Town mural, a more recent endeavor Jenny helped birth. Perhaps sensing my mood of gratitude or maybe just because they are boys celebrating the end of the day's work before hopping in the lake, there was this spontaneous boisterous hug.

Who couldn't use a boisterous hug? We give one to Jenny for the fine work she has done for us and to the many supporters in CBF churches who have given prayers, money and their strategic thinking in dreaming and planning.

"I'm gonna miss you Ms. Jenny" said Robert, pictured below with Jenny Hodge, and "why do you have to leave," he said repeatedly. No answer was fully satisfactory for him. He has made over a half dozen trips to Lake Providence in the last 3 years and he knows this is important work. He and others have made friends. This work has given real hope to him and shaped his faith development. A boisterous hug to those volunteers who have

received as much as they have given, learned to listen and just plain learned from our Lake Providence neighbors.



You've got a 100 year roof there the building inspector told us describing our slate roof when we bought the mission house. A boisterous hug to the Herzog family who built the house so well and to Mrs. Herzog, a White Baptist woman of Jewish descent who was described as a saint and dearly loved by the White and Black communities during an era of particular racial tension. We still benefit from that Baptist karma residue on our house which is itself a symbol of hope.

So why was there a puddle of water on the kitchen floor the last time I visited with Jenny? Slate is only good as long as it doesn't blow off. So there I am less elegant and agile than a fiddler on the roof, looking at the gaping hole on a slippery slant and remembering my promise to my wife not to break any more bones.

Contemplating my chances, I am relieved by the appearance of Mr. Benny, a handy man who does odd jobs around our mission house, usually for free. (He was hard at work when Mike Massar visited a few months ago.) Though he looks no younger than myself, he claims the necessary agility. There's a



rope in the garage right? We do find a heavy duty extension cord (don't try this at home or expect prior approval from your insurance agent) and tether him with it to the chimney as he re-anchors the slate.

A boisterous hug to Mr. Benny, Sister Bernie, our friends in the New Town Community Association, Teach for America, local government, the schools, our local church partners, and others who care for us and our work and even now are praying for us while keeping a wary eye on the mission house. A boisterous hug to us all and God bless us all.

## All Nation Bible Recorders

***Keith Holmes and Mary van Rheenen***  
***CBF Field Personnel to Romany***



For the past several weeks Keith has been in Latvia recording a contemporary version of the Latvian New Testament. It's been an interesting time for him.

They've had the only Roman Catholic cardinal in the Baltics record. Keith described him as a very venerable, very aged man. He did Simeon, the prophet who had been waiting in the Temple to see the Messiah. The Lutheran Archbishop of Latvia is doing Jesus. A Mexican TV personality did the lines where foreigners, like the Ethiopian official, speak. A Pentecostal pastor recorded Blind Bartimaeus. This apparently inspired him. When Keith visited his church the following Sunday, the sermon was on Blind Bartimaeus. At least one Orthodox priest recorded as well. Various Baptist pastors have done parts ranging from Mark to the devil. The project coordinator is another TV and radio personality. She is so busy that she persuaded her eighteen-year-old daughter to do the day-to-day stuff of finding lunches, assisting Keith in recording, and translating from English to Latvian. This is a good thing, since she is the most computer savvy (ultimate goal is to either design computer games or do computer animation) member of the team.

Keith has been very busy coordinating resources (job title: resource

coordinator) and cooperating (sending agency: Cooperative Baptist Fellowship). I've had a few opportunities to do this, too. Two weeks ago Ellen and I hosted three delegates to the annual meeting of the European Baptist Mission International. First came a delightful woman from Cameroon. She preferred French to English, but we got along. She and I both attended a pre-conference workshop on the Church and Community Mobilisation Process. Then, two days after this first guest, the domestic and the international missions coordinators from the Hungarian Baptist Union arrived.

The Church and Community Mobilisation Process is a resource I would highly recommend. The process begins with Bible studies in the local church, be that in Tanzania, Scotland, or Tupelo, Mississippi. The process continues through the training of local motivators, the church connecting with their local community, and together using what they already have to identify and take action about local needs. Positive points: church-based, scripture-based, locally-based, on-going process rather than one-time project.

I've also been cooperating with the SIL (Wycliffe Bible Translators) Romany Team. Or, rather, they've been cooperating with me. They connected us with a volunteer who has been updating the Davar website ([davar-education.eu](http://davar-education.eu)). And three or four of them are willing to join a team to Moldova. The last two weeks in September we hope to work with believers in a Roma village there. Together, we want to do a children's program, a youth program, and a women's program. If you feel called to come, too, particularly to work with teen-aged boys, let us know!

Roy Ann Carey, an artist from Village Baptist Church, Maryland, has illustrated a couple of Scripture coloring books we've used in this village in the past. She recently finished illustrating a coloring book about Sinti Romany. Keith has made a lot of media materials in the Sinti language (dubbed Jesus video, 4 children's videos, recorded entire New Testament . . .). This new coloring book resource should be available at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's General Assembly this June. Children and their parents will learn more about the life of Sinti children in the Netherlands. Proceeds go towards Romany Education. We hope to eventually translate it into Dutch and make it available to children, Sinti and non-Sinti, over here.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is celebrating their 25th anniversary this year. We will be celebrating our 20th anniversary as serving through CBF as resource coordinators. Thank you all for continuing to cooperate in providing the resources that make this ministry possible!



[Give here to support global missions](#)

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

## Dawnings and Pews' News

Our newest feature brings news from the pews (churches), this issue from Church for the Highlands, which recently learned about Dawnings in a retreat led by Harry Rowland.





Participants learned about the art of spiritual discernment, waiting for vision from God and celebrated our diverse stories and journeys of faith. In the rhythms of grace we looked to go deeper in our spiritual formation and missional engagement in our community.

What about your community of faith? What is God up to? Send me your stories, your pictures of the particular, unique, peculiar path the Spirit is leading your people and we will put it in "Pews' News." (Don't make me go sleuthing around your church website now!)



***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.](#)

Contact Us:

*Our Administrative/Financial Office address is:  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Louisiana  
c/o Sabra Hicks  
520 Olive Street  
Shreveport, LA 71104*

*Transitional Coordinator: Mike Massar  
225-766-9474 [mikem@ubc-br.org](mailto:mikem@ubc-br.org)*

*Communications Coordinator: Kyle Kelley  
318-780-4127 [cbflouisiana@gmail.com](mailto:cbflouisiana@gmail.com)*