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"Saying Yes"

by Kyle Kelley



Welcome: Marc Boswell

I have always liked that "Providence" is right there in the name of our community of service in Together for Hope. Lake Providence is a place where God has called us together in partnership for mission. Now,

Providence has brought a new servant, Marc Boswell, to lead the work.

Dr. Marc Boswell's experiences and passion suggest something about God's timing. Born and raised in very rural North Carolina, (not far from the Mt. Olive Pickle Factory) his extended family has known and still know rural poverty. Coming from an under resourced public school system, Marc has learned to value education as evidenced by his excelling at the local Mt. Olive Baptist college, advancing to Union Seminary at Richmond, followed by Garrett Evangelical Seminary in Chicago where he earned his PhD with an emphasis on the church and racial reconciliation.

At age 16, Marc was befriended by an African American Pastor who helped him discern his call to ministry and then provided ample opportunities to preach in revivals. He also gave generous helpings of mentoring as they traveled together. "Pastor Doug taught me how to listen," recalls Mark. His African American congregation welcomed him with open arms and nurtured his faith in a cultural setting which would shape his ministry and prepare him for a setting like Lake Providence.

His world expanded beyond his rural background and came to embrace the larger community of faith in the Methodist and Presbyterian traditions, but he has chosen to keep his roots in the Baptist family. He currently serves in a Presbyterian church in Richmond as a Pastoral Administrator where he has honed ministerial and organizational skills. He has also maintained ties at Baptist Seminary of Richmond, Campbellsville College and CBF-Virginia where he has preached at their Mission Madness event.

"Is he an educator?" Mrs. JoAnn Jones, Principal at Northside Elementary in Lake Providence, wanted to know of me upon learning of Mark's coming. "He is a minister who loves education," I told her. In fact, he is currently Visiting Professor at Union Seminary in Richmond and has taught at Mt. Olive, Virginia Commonwealth and in church youth and adult settings and in prison settings. At this, he too excels based on those toughest critics of all - online student evaluations.

As his work and study has taken him to urban settings, he has sought to live incarnationally choosing both in Chicago and Richmond to live in transitional neighborhoods. Yet his heart has always been in the rural areas from which he comes. He is well aware of the challenges ahead, but also the beauty of Lake Providence as he stopped in our conversations with Sister Bernie and Ken and Shirley Crump to take a picture of the lake to send to his parents. "It feels like coming home," he said.

Brother Buechner is on to something when he says vocation is that place God calls you "where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." We are thankful God calls, that Marc said "Yes," and that now we too say "Yes" to our work together in praying, supporting and walking alongside in the ministry of Together for Hope.

Thanks to the search committee who worked with me in this process which included Griff Martin, Katie Mussat, Samantha Oakley, and Chris Thacker. Marc is slated to start September 1, but will be traveling to Lake Providence during transition.

Bags of Hope Carnival

Saturday August 6

You are invited to participate in a back to school carnival at Southside Elementary in Lake Providence 10AM to 12 NOON. We need help with a jump house, games, popcorn, snow cones and distributing backpacks with school supplies.

Partnering with Principal Ms. JoAnn Jones and school staff, we will be focusing on grades 1-5 seeking to get a backpack into every child's hands. Haynes Avenue Baptist Church has committed to providing the packs and supplies for all the 1st graders, and Church for the Highlands is taking 2nd graders. We are now looking for churches who will sponsor grades 3, 4 and 5. Contact Kyle at [cbflouisiana@gmail](mailto:cbflouisiana@gmail.com) or 318-780-4127 to get a list for the grade or for further details

Otherwise supplies in general which are needed are pencils and notebook paper (these 2 in particular), pens, single subject notebooks, and 3 ring folders.

Your church may wish to collect supplies and packs in your community or send money. As we are in transition between missionaries, collecting them at your home church may be easier for everyone. Any extra supplies we gather will go to the middle and high school Principals for use in those two schools as well.

Stagg-Tolbert Forum for Biblical Studies

October 29, University - Baton Rouge



Joe Phelps

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.

PEWS NEWS



Saying Goodby to Griff

Our own Griff Martin, Co-Pastor of University Baptist in Baton Rouge has accepted the call to be Senior Pastor at First Baptist Austin, Texas.

Suzii Paynter, Executive Coordinator of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and former member of FBC Austin, stated, "My heartfelt prayer for more than a year has been that First Austin will be led by an energetic, spiritually mature and socially engaging Christ follower who is both a servant leader and a pastor seeking incarnational mission. I have prayed that this person would be poised to give themselves wholeheartedly to the mission, ministry and future of this congregation. God has answered my prayers through the work of the search committee to call Griff Martin."

University will host a celebration and farewell breakfast on July 10 for the Martin family. CBF-LA joins the UBC community in thanking God for the gifts Griff has brought to our state and pray for Godspeed on the journey to a new calling.

Church for the Highlands was honored in the new book "CBF at 25" in a story by **John Henson**, and also in a [story](#) by Baptist News Global in which **Charlene Kelley** states it is [not the usual things](#) that have



strengthened her faith.

Also on Baptist News Global, this story, [After All These Years Why Still Baptist](#), by **Elizabeth Lott**, Pastor at **St. Charles Ave. Baptist**.

A Twenty Year Pilgrimage and Still Going

Keith Holmes and Mary van Rheenen

CBF Field Personnel to Romany



Dear friends,

*When April with his showers sweet with fruit
the drought of March has pierced unto the root . . .
Then do folk long to go on pilgrimage . . .
To distant shrines well known in sundry lands.*

What, you may be asking yourself, does the prologue to Chaucer's Canterbury Tales have to do with Romany or mission work? Or, if you successfully avoided reading Canterbury Tales in any literature class, you may be asking yourself--who was Chaucer? He was a 14th-century Englishman who wrote in the language people used every day, rather than Latin or the higher-class languages of Italian or French. We are all for communicating in ways people actually understand. That's why Keith just spent 7 weeks in Latvia recording a contemporary translation of the Latvian New Testament. But that's not the only reason these lines always run through my mind this is the time of year. This is the season when many of you do go on pilgrimage. Unlike Chaucer's travelers, you are not journeying to a holy site to receive a blessing. Rather, you are trekking to sundry lands to give and receive blessing. We currently call these pilgrimages "short-term missions."

I usually go on a short-term missions trip myself this time of year. A few regular volunteers go along to work with local Romany believers in Moldova. Together we lead a children's camp, organize a day camp for youth, and

hold a women's program.* This year, however, we won't be going until the last two weeks in September. If you feel called to go with us--particularly if you feel called to work with youth--and especially if you truly enjoy working with teenaged boys--you would be more than welcomed to join us. Let me know, and I'd be happy to send more information.

But perhaps you long to go even later in the season, say November 17-20. We are looking for a 4-8 person team to do child care for a multi-team meeting in Madrid. Yes, Madrid, Spain. We no longer have children ourselves, but a child care team is essential for everyone at such a meeting. Again, let us know if you feel called.

Keith just returned from a trip of his own. He recorded an audio version of the New Testament in Latvian. He is deeply grateful for all of you who worked with him in prayer. Volunteers who pray regularly are a vital part of each recording project. Thank you, fellow pilgrims!

In a few weeks, we are going to do some volunteering of our own. Keith's brother and sister-in-law, Ted & Bev Holmes, are organizing an English language family camp in Poland. They needed extra English-speakers, and we volunteered. It will be interesting to be on the other side of a pilgrimage, so to speak.

Our own pilgrimage as field personnel with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship began 20 years ago this month. We were commissioned at a the General Assembly Richmond, Virginia. This year's General Assembly was held in Greensboro, NC, June 20-24. That marks the beginning of a year-long celebration of CBF's 25th anniversary. This June also marks another 25th anniversary--Keith and I began our pilgrimage as husband and wife 25 years go. We hope to celebrate with a short trek of our own through a bit of Europe I have not yet seen. Who knows what fellow pilgrims we will meet along the way!

Praising God for the ways He works with and through each one of us,
whether at home or in sundry lands,

Keith Holmes and Mary van Rheenen

Join us in thanking God for:

- completing the recording of the New Testament in Latvian;
- volunteers who helped create O Drom, a children's coloring book about Sinti Romany;
- publication of a children's Bible in Sinti Romany + faithful translators in this Romany language;
- 20 years of service with CBF and 25 years of marriage to each other;
- volunteer team through partner organization, CERI, who recently help children's program in Romany village of Vucanesti, Moldova.

Join us in praying for:

- final distribution and use of this audio version of the New Testament in

Latvian (see Bible.Is for languages currently available);

--stable income for the many Romany who have returned to Moldova from Germany & Russia;

--summer travel, including our own time at a family camp in Poland, July 9-16, and those traveling to CBF General Assembly, June 20-24;

--team to Moldova in September, including someone to work with young men;

--child-care team to Madrid, November 17-20.

*cbf-romany-ministries.blogspot.nl/2015/07/cooperative-fellowship-in-moldova.html, for photos from last year's trip.

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/>.

Original Chaucer written in Middle English (London dialect); much easier for Keith and I to understand now that we've learned Dutch!:

Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote,
And bathed every veyne in swich licour
Of which vertu engendred is the flour,
Whan Zephirus eek with his sweete breeth
Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
The tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
Hath in the Ram his halve cours yronne,
And smale foweles maken melodye,
That slepen al the nyght with open ye
(so priketh hem Nature in hir corages),
Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages,
And palmeres for to seken straunge strondes,
To ferne halwes, kowthe in sondry londes



[Give here to support global missions](#)

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



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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