



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Louisiana

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God's Grace and Peace to you this Christmas

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Babies at Christmas

by Mary van Rheenen

(Christmas is a time we remember our CBF field personnel such as Keith Holmes and Mary van Rheenen who minister to the Romany people in Europe. Keith's home church is University-Baton Rouge. Remember them with your prayers and offerings.)

A family living a couple streets over recently welcomed a baby girl named Inouk into their lives. I don't know them at all, but I know this about them because it's a Dutch custom to announce a birth or an adoption to the entire neighborhood. They put a big wooden cut-out of a stork in the front yard or a string up a mini-clothesline with baby clothes (pink or blue) or hang a big sign of some sort in the front window. Good news! Let's share it!

A family in the Roma village Vulcanesti, Moldova, welcomed a baby boy named Ruslan into their lives about 8 months ago. I know this because the pastor there e-mailed me with a prayer request for Ruslan and his parents, Mircea and Ana. Unlike Inouk, who was probably born at home (professional midwife) and has happily stayed there ever

since, Ruslan was born by C-section and has been in one or another hospital ever since. At first doctors didn't know why he continually ran a high fever. Now they have diagnosed Ruslan with Krabbe disease, an incurable genetic disorder which usually results in death by the age of two. In the meantime, both his parents have come to faith. They have also racked up over \$40,000 in hospital, doctor, and related bills. The church in Vulcanesti has been praying for this situation. The Moldovan Baptist Union has requested prayer (<http://baptist.org.md/ro/?p=7894>; includes photos of Ruslan--a real cutie!). Our church in Arnhem has been praying. And now I'm asking you to pray, too, for a Christmas miracle--for healing for the baby; for spiritual, financial, emotional relief for the young parents; for hope and joy in the face of fear.

Mircea and Ana are not the only new parents who've needed divine reassurance. Both Jesus' father (Matthew 1:20, 21) and mother (Luke 1:30, 31) had heavenly messengers tell them, "Do not be afraid." Unlike Rulan and Inouk's parents, they were also told what to name the baby: Jesus, a form of Joshua, meaning "the Lord saves." This is indeed good news. Shall we share it?

Grace Beall Remembered



Grace Beall pictured at left with Dr. Sarah Frances Anders at the 2007 Stagg-Tolbert Forum, died November 12. A founding member of CBF-LA along with her husband Vernon, Grace was for years our chief recruiter of leadership in her chairing of the nominating committee.

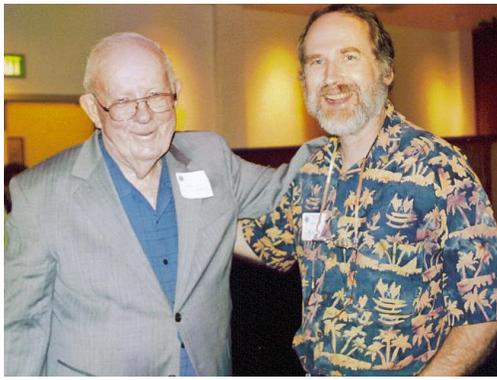
She had an energetic and cheerful disposition on which we could always depend. An educator with a 44 year teaching career, she will be remembered for her many years of service at Louisiana College where her innovation led to the development of a new business education curriculum and where she also started the first computer lab.

Grace was a deacon at Emmanuel-Alexandria, where her funeral was conducted by her beloved pastors Chris Thacker and Lee Weems. A link to her obituary is [here](#).

Malcolm Tolbert Memorial Service Held December 13

Dr. Malcolm Tolbert was remembered in a memorial service December 13 at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Baton Rouge. At the service, an article by Malcolm entitled [The Confessions of a Would-be Change Agent](#) was distributed courtesy of Fisher Humphreys. A copy of it is posted [here](#).

More information on Malcolm Tolbert's life and writings can be found [here](#).



Dr. Malcolm Tolbert, above left with CBF-LA Interim Coordinator Kyle Kelley, at a past Stagg-Tolbert Forum.

Dawnings

Welcoming a New Day
In Your Church's Missional Journey

DAWNINGS is a free retreat for your missions team being held at Broadmoor Baton Rouge **January 15-17**. Complimentary lodging is available. Draw close to God and your missional calling.

Learn more at: cbfdawnings.org

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