

## Doing Good in a Bad Way

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Have you ever thought you were really doing a good deed . . . only to discover that the intended beneficiaries did not appreciate your efforts at all? (I can visualize parents are all shaking their heads “yes”.) Here’s a classic example that happened to us last week.

Vasilita and Catea started a children’s Bible club in the Romany village of Vulcanesti, Moldova. Two Romanian friends of mine offered to help, long-distance, with suggestions. Vasilita and Catea accepted the offer, gratefully. They are going through the Bible and had gotten to Abraham & Sarah.

One of the Romanians had seen a video of Abraham and Isaac which really touched her. It was made in English, but someone had posted it on YouTube with Romanian subtitles. She found someone to read and record the subtitles. Keith put the recording with the video. Last week the Moldovan pastor showed the video to the children’s club. He sent photos. Wonderful! We were rejoicing!

The next day Catea and Vasilita talked with the other Romanian friend on the phone. They were not rejoicing. They were not even grateful. Next time, they said, could we dub videos into Russian rather than Romanian? Most of the kids don’t understand Romanian well because their families so often go to Russia to work. Not the reaction we had anticipated!

We thought we’d found something fantastic for this children’s club. But we hadn’t asked the leaders what they thought of the video. We hadn’t asked them whether they would want it dubbed into Romanian or if they wanted the pastor to show it to the children’s club. We thought it was a great idea and just did it.

Contrast this with another video project Keith was involved with. Some Sinti-speaking believers wanted to dub a video of Paul Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress. Keith and I looked at the 70’s-era video and, well, it didn’t speak to us. But they persisted, so Keith recorded. More than ten years later Sinti-believers are still asking for this video. It really speaks to them in a way they can use.

Unlike God, we do not know what is best for the people we meet. Like Jesus did with blind Bartimaeus, we can stop and ask and listen.

Praying and learning,  
Mary VanRheenen & Keith Holmes

P.S. You can see photos of Keith recording on [our blog](#). We will be sending an invitation to subscribe to the blog from "[noreply+subscribe@blogger.com](mailto:noreply+subscribe@blogger.com)" shortly. If you choose to subscribe, you will get an email notification each time we post. This is the work of Student.Go intern Sofia Hines. She is doing good and doing it well!

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### Thankful for:

- God at work, even through our mistakes;

- Student.Go program and intern Sofia Hines;
- Leaders of children's Bible club in Romany village of Vulcanesti, Moldova.

**Request prayer for:**

- Sofia's work, including posting updates on [Davar: Bridging to Literacy website](#);
- Development and distribution of video materials for oral learners, particularly like those in the children's Bible club;
- Zoltan, a partner who leads a children's club in a Romany village in Romania.

Contributions to the Offering for Global Missions (OGM) provide for the presence of all field personnel, including Keith and Mary (online giving: [www.cbf.net/offering-for-global-missions](http://www.cbf.net/offering-for-global-missions)).

Contributions to Keith and Mary's programming fund their specific ministry (online: [Keith Holmes and Mary VanRheenen programming](#)).

Or mail to: Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, P.O. Box 102972, Atlanta, GA 30368-2972, checks clearly marked for either OGM or Holmes/VanRheenen Programming.