

Present for 25 Years!

Dear friends,

Twenty five years ago this month we took a trip that changed our lives. We got on a plane with 10 pieces of luggage, two small children, and a lot of prayers to fly to our new home in the Netherlands. I say “new home” in a figurative sense. Team members who lived in France drove up to meet us at the airport, went to the local Baptist church with us that weekend, then left us with their blessings, a car, and a contact in the Dutch Baptist Union who was supposed to help us get our residents’ visas.

They also left us to find our own place to live, furnish it, set up a local bank account, find language tutors, choose a school for our children, and arrange said residents’ visas and work permits. CBF doesn’t do things like that anymore.

What CBF did do then and has continued to do through all these 25 years is to guarantee our presence on the field in this no-longer new home. Unlike colleagues from other missions organizations, Keith and I have always know that our salaries and housing (whatever it turned out to be) would be covered by the Offering for Global Missions.

Thank you for going with us on this journey. And thank you, too, to each church and individual who has given to the Offering for Global Missions. This coming week, October 17-23, is a [week of prayer](#) for that offering. Please join us in praying. And, if you are able, also join us in giving. This year’s goal is \$4 million. If you are like me, you do not have that amount in your back pocket. But God does. He can use us, together, to reach this goal.

Still praying,
Mary VanRheenen & Keith Holmes

Praising God for 25 years of ministry, including:

- Recording Jesus film in two Romani languages; arranging for distribution of over 5,000 DVDs with all 5 available Romani languages. The Romani version Keith helped translate has been uploaded to YouTube and viewed over 100,000 times. It still receives over 1000 hits a month;
- Recording the New Testament in 8 languages; assisting in 4 additional recordings;
- Creation of Davar: Bridging to Literacy; supervising three field trials; facilitating online oral cultures discussion group;
- Twenty years of partnership with Romany Outreach in the Republic of Moldova; this past August the local Romany church baptized 11 new believers!
(Photos on [CBF Romany Ministries blog spot.](#))

Also thankful for:

- Safe travel for Keith, September 20-October 1; good training in Orlando, FL, Sept. 27-30;
 - Work with Davar: Bridging to Literacy: good communication and unity within the multi-cultural team;
 - Wisdom in planning a Faith Comes By Hearing recording project in Serbia, possibly early spring 2022;
 - Upcoming Jesus film recording in Belgium, possibly in November;
 - When Helping Hurts, online course Mary is facilitating;
 - Wisdom for continuing to help—without hurting--a Romany sister in Moldova who has asked for help in repairing her house.
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