

Working together until Metro Richmond is...
TRANSFORMED



2022 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR RCFN MISSIONS

May 8th-15th, 2022

**Please make plans to observe a Week of Prayer
and Missions Offering for the River City Faith Network!**

**Our 2022 Missions Offering has a tiered goal of
\$120,000**

•The first \$70,000 will support Camp Alkulana,
Alkulana RVA, and related ministries.

•The next \$50,000 will fund the Haircutting Ministry at
Oregon Hill Baptist Center, the GED ministry at Church Hill
Christian Wellness Center, and help renovate part of the
South Richmond Baptist Center Satellite to start a furniture
ministry, and more.

Jane, Joe, and Other RCFN Champions

Thank God for “Jane and Joe” and people like them! You may know people like them in your church. I call them RCFN champions. They understand that churches working together can do more than they can alone. Jane and Joe recognize the difference between their church’s role and the role of a family of churches working together.

Champions speak up. RCFN champions tell stories of what our churches accomplish together. When the church decides how to spend its money, RCFN champions ask their church to share some of the church’s money with RCFN and its ministries. Some share a percentage. Others share a specific amount. It is a great witness to the church members and the money shared helps make shared ministries possible through RCFN.

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NOTEWORTHY DATES

RCFN Open House
May 1, 2:30 pm RCFN Offices

**Endowment & Stewardship
Committees Join Meeting**
May 3, 1:30 pm, Room 266

Search Committee Meeting
May 5, 2 pm, Room 266

RCFN Support Team Summit
May 6, 5-9 p.m., RCFN Rm 265

**Week of Prayer for RCFN
Missions**
May 8-15

CAST Meeting
May 10, 6 pm Virtual

OHBC Support Team Meeting
May 17

Camp Alkulana Workday
May 21 at Camp Alkulana

RCFN Board Meeting
May 24, 3:30 pm Room 265

Memorial Day– Office Closed
May 30

MINISTRY OF THE WEEK

5/1 First Union Baptist
5/8 Friendship Memorial
5/15 Church Hill Center
5/22 Gayton Baptist
5/29 Ginter Park Baptist

Jane, Joe, and Other RCFN Champions (*continued*)

Jane and Joe help the centers and camp in person when they can. Joe and others helped get the camp ready for the children's arrival. Jane's WMU group collected items for a center that she delivered, and they bought peanut butter campers will eat at Camp Alkulana. At the Back-to-School Celebration a child received a backpack that Joe and Jane had filled with school supplies. At Christmas their Sunday School class provided gifts for several children as part of the centers' Christmas Store ministry.

Jane and Joe pray for their church's staff. They kept the Week of Prayer Guide in their Bibles to remind them to pray for RCFN missionaries and the people the missionaries help. Some of their regular church offering helps RCFN and its ministries. Like many other people, Jane and Joe gave extra dollars for the RCFN Missions Offering.

This year RCFN has a Mission Offering goal of \$120,000. The extra gifts will help pay for children to spend a week at Camp Alkulana. RCFN plans to use some of this year's Mission Offering to help homeless persons get a haircut at its Oregon Hill community ministry center. The Church Hill center plans to start a ministry to help people get a GED. The South Richmond center wants to renovate part of its building to start a furniture ministry and expand its clothing ministry. If extra gifts from people like Joe and Jane total \$120,000, RCFN ministries will do all those things and more.

Jane and Joe and other donors could do something else with their dollars. Instead, they gave them to RCFN, and all their dollars help fund RCFN's ministries.

What do those dollars do? RCFN uses some of the dollars to pay the missionaries who lead the ministries. Other dollars pay for services and items that help our neighbors in need. The dollars pay for office rent, utility bills, websites, and copier paper. This year 77% of the dollars will pay for the camp and community ministry centers. The other 23% provides services that support them and RCFN and provides services to the churches.

RCFN has always relied on donations of money, goods, and time. Many of these donations come from individuals and churches. A few RCFN churches have closed. When a church closes it must dispose of its assets to another non-profit organization(s). Several churches established charitable funds when they closed. Their funds will help their designated causes until Christ returns. RCFN ministries benefit from some legacy gifts.

Sometimes a church or organization will donate for a specific purpose. RCFN has a gift acceptance policy that helps donors know what will happen to their gifts. (Visit rbaonline.org or contact the RCFN office if your church or missions group would like to know more.)

Beth Wright and others who love Camp Alkulana work hard to raise money for the camp. They hold

fund-raising events, make recurring gifts, and invite others to donate. Beth has developed grant-writing skills too. She researches organizations that invite grant requests. Applying does not guarantee that RCFN receives a grant, but Beth's work has led to several grants for the camp ministry over the last few years.

RCFN has another income stream based on money RCFN leaders set aside over many years. Starting this year, RCFN will begin to take annual income from these reserves. For example, when RCFN sold the Moss Side Avenue property and moved its office last year, the Board invested most of the proceeds. The investment income will help pay the rent for the office space that RCFN now uses.

Like loaves and fishes multiplied do something miraculous, RCFN leaders add up the dollars that come to RCFN and use them to meet the needs of many. RCFN's leaders are grateful for every gift. Staff and volunteer leaders all treat those gifts as a sacred trust.

Each fall the messengers who attend the RCFN Annual Meeting approve a budget for the coming year. It combines an income plan with a spending plan. Once approved, the Board of Directors oversees the budget. The RCFN executive director, aided by the treasurer, has day-to-day responsibility for monitoring income and expenses. Within the overall RCFN budget, the camp and community ministry centers each have a budget their directors administer. The remainder of the income and spending plan provides the services of the office, support services, and field ministry led by the executive director. The volunteer leaders, staff, and bookkeeper work together to use RCFN resources effectively and account for their use.

RCFN has a Ministry Placement Committee whose members nominate the volunteer leaders RCFN elects. The treasurer, an officer of RCFN, works with the Stewardship Committee and the staff to document the use of financial gifts. (RCFN needs a treasurer, and our Ministry Placement Committee would love to have a volunteer or the name of someone it could contact.)

RCFN and its churches face known and not-yet-known challenges. Generous donors and faithful leaders have given RCFN a firm foundation for RCFN's unique ministries. Could they have imagined what RCFN ministries look like now? The continuing support of faithful church leaders and mission groups make RCFN's ministries possible today and reveal how God can use what we give to do more than we ask or can imagine.

However every "Jane and Joe" give, all who care for RCFN ministries thank God for them and every gift they give. God has multiplied their gifts so RCFN has no debt and has some reserves. Added together, gifts to RCFN will make our ministries possible this year and for years to come.

—Steve Allsbrook

**Visit www.richmondbaptist.org or call 804-329-1701
for information and resources about the 2022 Week of Prayer and Offering**

God Is Doing a New Thing

I have had many blessings in my life. One of them was buying my first home. I looked forward to furnishing that home and remember how I felt walking through furniture showrooms. The displays of beds and bedding, dressers, couches, recliners, and tables with lamps gave me ideas how I might furnish and arrange my home. I felt joy and excitement not everyone gets to experience.

In Isaiah 42:9, God says, "... New things I declare..." I believe God is doing a new thing at the South Richmond Baptist Center. God did a new thing when God and a civic club blessed us with the gift of a building. We fashioned that building into a welcoming center for Bible Study, youth activities, and various community meetings.

The Manchester Building, now the SRBC Satellite, was an answer to prayer. We faced challenges to our ministries at our Saint Paul's Baptist Church-Belt Campus site that our additional site helps us address.

The SRBC Satellite has potential for another ministry. When the civic club gave RCFN the Satellite building, the gift included a second building. The 60' x 25' annex was designed for open-air activities. It has a roof and sides, but it is not weatherized. Presently we use this annex building to serve the Satellite ministry's storage needs.

I felt from the beginning that God has other plans for the space. As the Holy Spirit leads, and with the prayers and gifts of RCFN donors, we can build up the walls, insulate, and create a more usable space for ministry.

If we improve the annex, I foresee a potential use for it to help those in need find home furnishings. When disposing of home furnishings, many thoughtful church members have called to ask if I might know someone who needed an appliance or furniture. The SRBC had nowhere to store such large items, and I would have to decline such offers. The annex would have enough space to house our clothing ministry and could also hold things like chairs, beds, tables, appliances, and even tools and outdoor equipment. If we can create the usable space, this ministry could also serve the needs of persons our other community ministry centers serve. Imagine

adding a ministry that helps persons who need these items, persons served by RCFN's ministries and churches.

Where does a young person moving out on their own find home furnishings? A family displaced by a fire needs a place to live and items to furnish it. Many families receive clothing. What if they could also find a bed and linens?

Some households face another challenge—eviction. Others must leave the place they live to seek safety. I

have seen household possessions placed on the street and then destroyed by the weather. I have seen other items tossed in dumpsters. A family that must leave their residence



often lacks the funds to rent a truck to transport their items. Whatever the reasons, they leave clothing, furniture, household goods, children's toys, bicycles, and more because they cannot take the items with them.

God has called us to serve our neighbors in need, and RCFN called me and others to help you do that. Let us be another generation of helping people in need, including their furniture and clothing needs. The Bible shows God's providence when we most need it and often reveals God's provision through those who serve God.

God is doing a new thing. I want to help. Please join me and others who support RCFN's ministries to make this new thing a new way to help the people to whom God sends us now.

—Wesley Garrett



OREGON HILL CLOTHES CLOSET

OHBC NEEDS MEN'S SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHES & SHOES.
JEANS, ATHLETIC SHORTS, ATHLETIC SHOES, NEW BOXER
UNDERWEAR, UMBRELLAS, LIGHT WEIGHT RAIN PONCHOS, AND
SMALL CONTAINERS OF FOOT POWDER.

ESPECIALLY SIZES 30-34. NO DRESS CLOTHES OR
WOMEN'S OR CHILDREN'S CLOTHES NEEDED AT THIS TIME.
CONTACT JENNIFER TURNER AT 804-648-1353

HELP NEEDED!!

The **SRBC** is searching for a passenger van for the ministry and its needs. Please contact the office at 804-732-1701 ext 101 if you have any information.

River City Faith Network
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www.richmondbaptist.org

Electronic Service Requested

*Working together until
Metro Richmond is...*

TRANSFORMED
May 2022



THE **River**
City FAITH
NETWORK
Richmond Baptist Association

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

RICHMOND, VA.

Permit No. 3022

Camp Alkulana Corner.....

Registration is now open for camp
this summer!! Visit Alkulana.org
for more information.



CAMP ALKULANA
WORK DAYS
MAY 21 & JUNE 4 



CAMP ALKULANA
2022 Summer Camp Dates

Older Boys Session: June 27-July 5

Younger Boys Session: July 9-16

Older Girls Session: July 23-July 31

Younger Girls Session: August 4-11