news of Richmond area churches...together...changing lives—February 2014

**Transformed!**

Monday, March 17, 2014 • 5:45 p.m. • Second Baptist Church
9614 River Road • Richmond, VA 23229

**Bob Dale**  
Leader Coach, Bob Dale Coaching  
What to Do When You Can't Do It All: Leaders as Strategists

**Dr. Jerome O. Lee**  
VBMB, Courageous Churches Team  
Preaching Camp Coordinator, African-American Fellowship of Virginia  
Leading in the Midst of Change

**Phyllis RP Tessieri**  
Consultant/Educator for local Congregations and Businesses  
As You Go: What's a 'Field of Dreams' Church to do in a Cloud World?

**Rev. Dr. C. Diane Mosby**  
Senior Pastor, Anointed New Life Baptist Church  
When the War Comes Home with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): What You Need to Know

**Steve Law**  
Financial expert for churches at www.financedforchurches.org  
Churches and Money

**Richard Jante**  
Owner, MAE Consulting LLC  
Improving Staff (Talent) Development and Performance

**Dr. Peter James Flaming**  
Pastor Emeritus, First Baptist Church, Richmond

**William Eric Jackson**  
Pastor, Emmanuel Community Church

**David Washburn**  
Treasurer, Virginia Baptist Mission Board  
Cultivating a Culture of Generosity

**Trooper Dominic Sottile**  
Virginia State Trooper  
Church Safety and Security

**Malcolm Holmes**  
Director of University Marketing, University of Mary Washington

Register and pay upon arrival  
Cost: $5

5:45 – 6:30 p.m.: Registration and snacks  
6:30 – 6:45 p.m.: Opening remarks  
6:45 – 7:45 p.m.: Session #1  
7:45 – 8:00 p.m.: Break  
8:00 – 9:00 p.m.: Session #2

Online: www.cvbm.org
Greetings:

As I “put pen to paper” my thoughts are of the return trip to Panama in just a few days with the mission team from Bethlehem Baptist Church on Penick Road. We fly from Richmond International Airport early on Saturday afternoon, January 11th to arrive in Panama late Saturday.

Bethlehem Baptist, pastored by our friend, Mark Holland, has been planning and preparing for months. It is now “down to the wire.” We will be serving several purposes while in Panama. Part of the team will be assisting in Vacation Bible School in three locations from the 13th through the 17th:

Iglesia Bautista El Eden in Tocumen
9:00 AM to noon
La Illueca in Las Mananitas
3:00 – 5:00 PM
San Jan in Pacora
3:30 – 5:00 PM

In each location the youngsters will be ages 5 to 15. Thirty-five to 50 or more children are expected to attend. One of the major responsibilities of the VBS teams will be to provide crafts to reinforce the lessons from the Bible stories being taught.

If our experiences run true to the typical pattern, VBS usually begins with the projected number of youngsters and then multiplies many times over by the end of the week. Pray that many of the youngsters who attend will have hearts open to hearing and receiving the good news of Christ’s gift of Himself to allow us to become part of His eternal family. Pray that there will be adequate opportunities to share with the families of the children that same good news. Ask that hearts be tender toward the wooing Spirit of God and that our words will not get in the way!

Others on the team will engage in handyman projects at Iglesia Bautista El Eden, working alongside members of the church and community to make repairs and improvements. It will be a rich time to build relationships with other believers with whom we are partnering as well as providing a witness to the power of Christ to those from the community who may not yet know Him.

We want to provide good support to the pastor and his wife in their on-going ministries among the Panamanian people. For economic reasons most pastors in Panama are bi-vocational, sometimes working more than one job to pay their family’s living expenses while donating much of their time to the church they serve.

Our tasks will be “hands-on” and “hearts-on,” making new friends and serving fellow Christ-followers with excellent workmanship, prayer and encouragement.

I look forward to reconnecting with Rev. Abel Perez who spoke to the RBA at Bon Air Baptist Church in October at our 2011 Annual Fall Meeting. Abel is our contact person in Panama, helping to coordinate the Panamanian end of the partnership with Virginia Baptists. It will be good to see him and Ulanda again. I hope to work with him to uncover additional opportunities for teams to go to Panama to strengthen Baptist work there and forge partnerships that can engage and encourage us here.

We will return on Sunday evening, January 19th, ready to tell our stories! I hope you will allow us to do so!

Excitedly,

Mike
It's Time to
Make your Reservations
For the:

2014
SPECIAL EDUCATION
VALENTINE SOCIAL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

MONUMENT HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
5716 Monument Avenue, Richmond

Featuring:
Square Dancing, Refreshments
and more!

ONCE AGAIN
THERE IS NO CHARGE TO ATTEND!

RSVP by February 10
To Amy Sowder
Richmond Baptist Association
329-1701 ext. 208;
amy.sowder@rbaonline.org

2013
CAMP ALKULANA OFFERING

As of 12/31/13
Offering Goal: $109,200
YTD Receipts: $126,150
YTD Expenses: $101,520

DECEMBER 2013 RBA BUDGET REPORT

Budget Amount: $52,186
Budget Receipts: $68,998
Budget Expenses: $40,360
YTD Budget Amt: $626,231
YTD Receipts: $527,789
YTD Expenses: $568,736

Please Note
The RBA Office will be CLOSED
Monday, February 17, 2014
For the President’s Day Holiday

VISIONING & PRIORITIES TASK FORCE
NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS
AND PARTICIPATION

The Visioning and Priorities Task Force, a sub-group of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee authorized at the last Annual Fall Meeting of the RBA, is hard at work to help the Association clarify its identity, principles, values and priorities. This team is seeking input from leadership and laity alike so that its conclusions are truly reflective of the constituency of our Association and in keeping with sound theological principles.

Please pray daily for this task force as it works as quickly but as thoroughly as necessary in a much tighter time frame than is preferable:

- Dr. Cecil Chambers, Vice-Moderator, Skipwith
- Rev. Melissa Fallen, Huguenot Road
- Mrs. Paige Peak, River Road
- Dr. Herbert Ponder, Mt. Tabor
- Rev. Kimberly Ridley, The Light Community
- Rev. Mike Robinson, Director of Missions
- Rev. Rupert Rose, Monument Heights
- Rev. Heather Tiller, Woodland Heights
- Dr. Bob Thompson, Lakeside
- Mr. Phil Whitaker, Bon Air

If you receive a call, a survey or an invitation to be part of an important, healthy conversation, please respond by participating. The RBA’s effective participation in a legacy of excellent Kingdom work on behalf of Christ in the Richmond area is at stake!
What is Operation Inasmuch?

Operation Inasmuch is a Compassion Revolution that employs proven models to motivate, train, and equip churches to move more church members and friends out of the church building and into the streets to serve the neediest in their communities.

Operation Inasmuch is also a movement of churches across America. Over 1600 churches in 21 states have joined the Revolution. 405 of these churches reported that they collectively sent out more than 22,000 volunteers in 2011 to minister to 116,000 people in their communities, representing $3,000,000 in labor hours and material costs. Lives within and without these churches have been changed forever!

What is Operation Inasmuch - Virginia?

Operation Inasmuch - Virginia is a statewide hands-on missions opportunity sponsored by the Virginia Network of Associational Workers, Directors of Missions and others. The goal is for 80% of Associations to have 80% of their churches committed to involving 80% of their average Sunday School attendance across Virginia. These Inasmuch Day events will serve more than 300,000 people in need.

When is it happening?
Throughout the year of 2014 with special emphasis between September 13 and October 11, 2014

How does my church get involved?
E-mail mike.robinson@rbaonline.org or call at 329-1701 (o) or 356-9663 (c). We can help you maximize your potential community impact as the hands and feet of Jesus.

Is training available?
A training session for churches that want to hold an Inasmuch Day or want to learn more to help with that decision will be held:

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2014
from 9:00 a.m. - Noon.
Location: RBA Office Building
3111 Moss Side Avenue, Richmond, VA 23222
Telephone: 804-329-1701
Dr. David Crocker, Founder, Operation Inasmuch, will be leading!

Where can I learn more?
To learn more about Operation Inasmuch, go to www.operationinasmuch.org.

To learn more about Operation Inasmuch Virginia, go to http://operationinasmuch.org/churches/inasmuch-united-virginia

Watch Dr. Cliff Hudgins’ video about Operation Inasmuch success in Pittsylvania Baptist Association, Danville, VA. Dr. Hudgins is Pittsylvania’s Director of Missions!

Virginia Baptist Mission Board

2014 TAX & COMPENSATION PLANNING SEMINARS

To help church staff and church lay leaders understand and comply with the tax laws, the Compensation Planning Ministry of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board hosts a series of informative seminars throughout Virginia in February 2014. The seminar in Richmond will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2013, at the Virginia Baptist Resource Center. The seminar will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 noon.

Designed for church staff and lay leaders who handle taxes and compensation at BGAV churches, attendees will get help with compensation planning for church staff, including retirement and insurance, handling minister’s taxes and federal reporting requirements for churches.

The most important federal reporting obligation for most churches is withholding and reporting employee income taxes and Social Security (FICA) taxes, and a number of unique rules apply to churches and “ministers for tax purposes.”

All aspects of compensation will be covered to help minimize your risk and potential for substantial penalties resulting from non-compliance with State and Federal Tax Laws.

The seminars are provided free of charge by the generous Cooperative Missions gifts of Baptist churches affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

For information on the date and location of other seminars, to register for the Richmond seminar or to secure a post-seminar appointment, please contact Angela House, GuideStone Administrative Assistant, by email at angela.house@vbmb.org or by phone to 1-800-255-2428 X5293 or

Central Virginia Baptist Ministries presents

2014
VBS DIRECTOR’S WORKSHOP
Begin planning for the Best VBS EVER!

Monday, March 3, 2014
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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Arrive at 6:00 p.m. for Pizza
(RSVF for Pizza to gaylebradley1@comcast.net)

MOUNT VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH
11220 Nuckols Rd, Glen Allen 23059

For VBS Directors, Children’s Ministers, Sunday School Directors, and VBS Representatives

Discussion Topics:
• The Director’s responsibilities.
• A time-line to help start the planning/prep process.
• A question and answer time for open discussion.

For questions or more details, contact Gayle Bradley at gaylebradley1@comcast.net.
If there is one word that captures the spirit of January and of a new year, it is hope. We hope that the coming year will be better than the last. We hope that we can keep our resolutions. We hope for the light and beauty of spring in the midst of the long dark of winter. The recent season of advent has reminded us of the hope we hold that our Lord is coming soon to reside among us; in our hearts and in our minds, in our churches and in our world. Hope is on our lips and written on the tablets of our hearts.

Camp Alkulana is a place where the virtues of faith, hope, and love are lived and embodied. Yet, of these three, hope is often the most overlooked. In many ways faith and love are the most natural responses of the human soul which has been created in the image of God. But hope—hoping is hard to do. The psalmist is able to speak beautifully of hope and trust in God. Yet often in times of distress, when we echo those beautiful words, they are borrowed and hollow sounding in our own ears and only the grace of God carries us through. We must be taught to hope. It is a spiritual discipline which can only be shaped by practice and a setting in which to practice it. It strikes me that for many of our campers (and some counselors!), Alkulana provides the only setting in which they have the privilege and opportunity to practice hope.

In the places where our campers come from, and the age of life at which they live, they walk daily in their own long, dark, winter. They walk thirsty and weary through their own Sinai desert. But it was in the desert that God dwelt with the Israelites, and it is at Alkulana that campers and counselors alike dwell with God. Here we are privileged to be transformed by our own “desert experience.” As one of our beloved campfire songs proclaims, the Lord leads us “with a cloud by day, and then in the night, the glow of burning flame.”

I don’t think anyone who has ever been involved with the ministry at Camp Alkulana would be surprised at the idea that God met with the Israelites in a tent. Nor would they be surprised that when John speaks of the future Kingdom of God, his Greek can accurately be translated as “Behold, God’s tent is with men, and he will tent with them, and they will be his people and God himself will be with them” (Revelation 21:3). Our God has always been, and shall always be, a God who goes camping.

For two summers I have been privileged with the opportunity to tent with God and with his children, “the least of these.” It has been my privilege to learn to hope alongside these beautiful children and to see that hope shine from their “bright eyes.”

Peace and all good things.
**NEW YEAR FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES**

It’s hard to believe that 2013 has already come and gone. It’s a new year, full of opportunities to serve communities and inspire congregations.

According to the Journal of Clinical Psychology, the top 5 New Year’s Resolutions are:

- losing weight
- increasing exercise
- stopping smoking
- better money management
- reducing debt

Interestingly, two of the top 5 New Year’s Resolutions are centered around finances.

Think of what could be accomplished for the Kingdom of God if His people were financially wise and financially generous. Pastors seldom lack vision but too often lack the funds to accomplish the dreams in their heart.

Entrust Financial Credit Union has partnered with countless churches over the years, providing Biblical financial classes and seminars for free. Entrust exists to come alongside your church leadership to customize materials to fit your church’s needs. Some of the topics Entrust has led include budgeting, teaching kids about money, finance in the marriage, funding a college education, discovering God’s desire for generosity, and more.

Contact Josh Karrer, Director of Communications and Outreach, Entrust Financial CU, to partner with you this year to make 2014 a year of financial freedom. Entrust will provide all of the materials, cover all of the expenses, and work to develop exactly what your church members need. Entrust is here to help! Call Josh at (804) 278-4814.
Anyone **who’s been in church knows the story of Israel in Egypt**. During their captivity, the people of Israel helped build a great civilization. When they were released, it took 40 years of wandering in the desert (and lots of wishful thinking about the way things used to be) before Israel finally crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land.

The Church faces a similar situation today. Throughout history and in spite of persecution, we helped build a great civilization. Time and again, we’ve renewed our roots in the ancient faith. But the culture has changed. In many ways, we’ve been released from the captivity of Christendom.

**This is good news.** In cities and towns, large and small, we’re finding our way back to the land. We’re learning to cooperate with God’s mission again in ways that are attentive to the people and contexts in which we live and work and play.

And the fields are ripe for the harvest.

This year’s national gathering takes us back to the Church’s roots. It’s about who we are, and Whose we are—a people on the move and renew the Church.

Make plans to join Graham Cray, Alan Roxburgh, Cherith Fee Nordling, Don Coleman and others committed to joining God’s work in the world to pioneer the mission, cultivate disciples and renew the Church.

A special **Post-Conference Extra on Fresh Expressions in the Workplace with Michael Moynagh** will also take place in addition to the regular conference schedule. Don’t delay—register today!

**Standard Price : (January 8 until midnight March 14)**

- **$119** Individual Registration for Friday & Saturday, March 28-29, 2014
- **$149** Individual Registration Friday & Saturday plus Conference Extra on Fresh Expressions in the Workplace with Michael Moynagh
- **$89** Saturday Only, plus Conference Extra on Fresh Expressions in the Workplace with Michael Moynagh

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Contact Frances Jones via email or snail mail at the addresses listed above:
- To submit an article—must be received by the 7th of each month.
- To be added or deleted from the mailing list.
- To submit a change of address in a timely manner so the RBA will not incur postage due costs for returned newsletters that cannot be forwarded.

HELP THE RBA SAVE RETURN POSTAGE COSTS
GIVE US YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS!
If you are on our newsletter mailing list and will be moving—please let Frances Jones know your Change of Address in advance! You will be helping us to direct $0.46 “postage due” to more important missions efforts. Thanks!!

MAKING A DELIVERY TO THE RBA OFFICE?
Please call before you plan to arrive to make sure someone will be at the office. There are times, during the day, when everyone may be away, so it will save time and gas if you call ahead. The RBA Office is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday—Friday.

PRAY FOR
RBA CHURCHES SEEKING A PASTOR
First Union Woodland Heights

Executive Council Representatives Plan to Attend the First Executive Council Meeting of 2014 on **the new day of the month**

TUESDAY, February 25, 2014 12:00 noon @ Bon Air Baptist Church 2531 Buford Road

Want to do Something BIG?
Annual Fix-up and Clean-up Days At Camp Alkulana
May 17 and 31, 2014
HELP US GET READY FOR THE SUMMER SEASON!
PLENTY TO DO:
- Yard Work
- Spring Cleaning
- Light Carpentry
- General Repair

GREAT BONDING OPPORTUNITY FOR CHURCH GROUPS*

Leave Richmond early, eat breakfast on the way. Arrive at camp by 10:00 and work until 4:00 with a lunch break. Stop in Staunton on the way home for dinner.

*Okay for youth to come with your adult group; however, youth should understand that “normal” camp activities will not be available, as the goal is to fix up camp.

For more information and to let us know that we can count on you, call or email Beth Wright, Camp Director: 329-1701, ext. 206 or campalkulana@gmail.com.