MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR RBA’S
2012 Camp Alkulana Offering and
Week of Prayer for Associational Missions (May 20-27, 2012)

The promotional materials the 2012 Camp Alkulana Offering and Week of Prayer for Associational Missions are now available at the RBA Office. Shown below are samples of the Offering Envelope, the Flier (8½ x 11) for the Camp Offering, and the Prayer Guide for the Week of Prayer. Other promotional items available for the Camp Offering are: bulletin inserts (5½ x 8½) or posters (11x17), and the Camp Alkulana brochure. These promotional items are not dated so that your church can use them any time during the year when you emphasize Associational Missions. To view samples of these items and download the order form, visit the Camp Offering section of the RBA website at www.rbaonline.org. To place an order contact Frances Jones 804-329-1701 ext. 201 or frances.jones@rbaonline.org. Hurry! Place your order while supplies last!

To read an informative and inspiring article about Camp Alkulana by long-time counselor Shane Long see page 3.

THE PRAYER GUIDE highlights a different associational mission for each day of the week with a photo of the RBA staff member and specific prayer requests relating to that ministry. The use of the prayer guides for a week is an excellent way for a congregation, Sunday School class or missions group to get to know the staff and ministries of the RBA. The Guide is formatted so that it can be used for any seven-day period during the year, not just during the official Week of Prayer for Associational Missions which is May 20-27, 2012.
Greetings:

For most of us, by the time you read this article it will seem that Easter was months ago! For the first time in 16 years, I was not the one leading the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday Morning at my church, but it was a joy gathering with others at another RBA church at 6:30 AM to remember that the grave is still empty! I was reminded that the One Who gave His life in love and obedience and the One Who raised Him from the dead are no less mighty and powerful now than they were then!! For the Christ-follower disease is still healed even if in death; death does not have the final say; eternity is a sure thing; heaven is a real hope, a genuine haven and an assured home; and an abundant life of peace, reconciliation and meaningful purpose is not just “pie-in-the-sky.”

In late March and early April I had the opportunity to go with Craig Waddell to Panama where we met with Sue Smith, Abel Perez, Moises Lopez and a number of Panamanian pastors to explore specifically what it means to partner together for the benefit of God’s Kingdom on earth. I wish I had gone to Panama a year earlier! The trip afforded a wonderful opportunity to connect with both Spanish and Kuna congregations; to begin developing friendships with dear Christian sisters and brothers of a different culture; and to clearly see the practical elements of our coming alongside our Panamanian partners in the work that God is doing there today. I have a much clearer vision of the opportunities and challenges unique to this partnership that will make the work that we do together rewarding. Several of our larger churches have already been to Panama, but there will be many opportunity to minister regardless of church size. Some teams will be only three to five in number, while others may be considerably larger. One of my objectives is to help individuals who will not have team partners going from their own church to connect with partners from other RBA churches so that they can still go and fulfill the missionary calling that God has placed on their heart. If you have questions, please contact me at mike.robinson@rbaonline.org, 329-1701, or 356-9663.

In a few days the official Week of Prayer for Associational Missions will be here! The offering goal of $114,000.00 goes entirely toward funding the Operating Expenses of the 2012 Camp Season. The season begins with two cleanup Saturdays on May 19 and June 2. I hope you will join me and others at Alkulana to prepare the camp for the arrival of campers and staff beginning with Staff Training June 6 through 17. The camper sessions span the summer until Friday, August 10th. Plan to GO, prepared to GIVE and pray for GROWTH in the hearts and lives of everyone who will be touched by the hand of God this summer at your Camp Alkulana!

The powerful God of Easter will do great things through our GOING, our GIFTS, and the GROWTH His Spirit brings!

Joyfully,
Mike
Becky's father, Gene Gearren, on Good Friday, April 6, 2012. Gene was living with Becky and William and was a member of Webber Memorial. He was preceded in death by his wife, Doris Lillian Holder-Gearren, in September 1999. A Home Going Celebration was held at Webber on April 10. A second Home Going Celebration was held at the First Baptist Church, Clemmons, NC, on April 12 with a brief graveside memorial in the church cemetery. Our thoughts and prayers are with Becky and William.

The family and friends of Rev. Zane Grey Ross, 91, who passed peacefully from this world on Thursday, April 12, 2012. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and, above all, minister of faith to countless souls. His ministerial career spanned 70 years. He served as pastor of Cool Spring Baptist Church, Mechanicsville, for 20 years and most recently as minister of pastoral visitation at Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church in Lakeside, retiring from formal service at 88 years of age. A memorial service and private burial at Forest Lawn Cemetery was held on April 14, 2012. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife of 68 years Eva, and sons Blake and David and their families.

Tenny and Larry Farnen upon the death of Tenny’s mother, Josefa Li, 86, on April 16, 2012, in Elmhurst, New York. Tenny is the RBA Financial Coordinator. Josefa was born in the Naga City, Philippines, in 1925 and migrated to the United States in 1985 with her husband “Tony” Li settling in Elmhurst, New York. “Sefa” had a great love for the Lord and her family. She was active in church, worked as a teacher and then as treasurer and bookkeeper to help support her husband and ten children. In her old age, even as Alzheimer’s began to affect her, she never stopped loving the Lord, sharing the gospel and caring for others. Her legacy of love and zeal for the Lord lives on in her ten children (Peter, Josefinia, Lily, Andrew, John, Tenny, James, Philip, Nathanael, and Sisy), fifteen grandchildren and their spouses. Our thoughts and prayers will be with the family in the coming days.

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**Camp Alkulana Offering Notes**

Camp Alkulana staff met for a weekend retreat in April to begin planning for this summer and to enjoy fellowship together. One long-time staff member reflected about what it means to be camp staff in this article about being part of the "Alkulana Family."

**We’re All in the Family**

*By Shane Long, Counselor, Camp Alkulana*

Dear God, thank you for this extended family you’ve provided at Camp Alkulana, and thank you for blessing us while we strive to serve and to glorify you...

Everyone is born into a family. We don’t choose our parents. We don’t choose siblings, only-child status, grandparents, or cousins. Family plays a formative role in every life. I grew up along with three brothers, and we were fortunate enough to spend a large portion of every summer camping in the forest. During these trips I learned the joy of sleeping in a tent, catching reptiles, hiking to the tops of mountains, and having massive mud fights. I met the Creator, while enjoying his creation. I feel truly blessed to have such great childhood memories.

The ministry of Camp Alkulana provides some of the same memories for many children who may otherwise never have such experiences. I labor along with other staff members to enrich the campers’ lives by showing them “the reality of God’s love,” while living in the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains. The brave camp staff leads campers who are bold, energetic, unique, and hungry for genuine relationship. Through our work, which can be equal parts exhausting and exhilarating, we form bonds. We are a family.

Like most relatives, the family at Camp Alkulana shares joy, sorrow, victory, and a touch of occasional conflict. Through the years we’ve had weddings that gathered camp staff to celebrate lives starting together. When a member of the family experiences tragic loss, the brothers and sisters travel to offer support, share tears, and be present. In recent years through the changing of the leadership, the family has been strong in acknowledging the close of one director’s victorious career at camp and rallying to help launch the beginning of a new director’s vision. And, I would be remiss to omit the mention of staff conflicts; they happen. Because of the family’s strength, resolution is never far behind even during the most difficult sessions, and camp keeps getting better.

This past weekend at the spring camp staff retreat, I was reminded how truly blessed I am to have a second family. Reconnecting with brothers and sisters after winter has ended starts the longing for sunny days in Millboro Springs with the soundtrack of laughter and rippling water. Returning each summer to Camp Alkulana is “a sort of homecoming.”
Virginia Baptist Historical Society
Announces
Annual Meeting To Feature Baptist Identity
Tuesday, May 22, 2012
Second Baptist Church
9614 River Road
(corner of River and Gaskins Roads)

Craig Sherouse, pastor of the host church, will share what Baptists around the world have in common besides a name. He is the chair of the Baptist Heritage and Identity Commission of the Baptist World Alliance.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
WILLIAM POWELL TUCK
Author of a new book entitled
Modern Shapers of Baptist Thought in America
which will be released at the meeting.

Tuck was commissioned by the Center for Baptist Heritage & Studies to write the book and he selected 24 individuals as the primary shapers of Baptist thought in the last century. He researched each life and wrote an analysis of their contributions and legacy. In his address Tuck will give an overview of how these individuals impacted Baptist identity. Tuck has been a professor and has taught at several colleges and at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. A native Virginian, he served several pastores in Virginia, Kentucky, Louisiana and North Carolina. Modern Shapers is his 21st book.

The Annual Meeting is Free and Open to the public.

Copies of Modern Shapers of Baptist Thought in America will be available at the meeting for the following:
Paperback: $24 + 2.30 sales tax + 4.80 s&h = $30
Hardback: $45 + 2.25 sales tax + 5.75 s&h = $53

After May 22, books can be purchased through the Heritage Center (804) 289-8434. Order information will soon be posted on the website www.baptistheritage.org.

Located in Virginia Hall on BTSR campus
1209 Palmyra Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227

Invites you to visit and personally browse the collection:
Monday-Thursday from 1 to 5pm or by appointment
or to
View the collection on our revised website:
www.resourcingchurches.com

Contact our staff:
804-358-8306; 1-888-241-5132; resourcecenter@cavtel.net
Visit us on Facebook and Twitter

Make a Nominatiion:
2012 Celebrating Excellence in Ministry Banquet
Greater Richmond Convention Center's Ballroom C
Friday, November 16, 2012

To Become a Member of The Virginia Baptist Historical Society
Visit the Website: www.baptistheritage.org
Call: 804-389-8434
Mail: VBHS, P.O. Box 34,
University of Richmond, VA 23173

Annual Membership Fees are:
Individual $25
Family $35
Church/Institutions $50
Student $15

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University of Richmond, VA 23173

Annual Membership Fees are:
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Family $35
Church/Institutions $50
Student $15

UPCOMING RBA MEETINGS

BUDGET SUB-GROUP
Thursday, May 10, 2012
7:00 p.m.

RBA Office

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, May 17, 2012
12:00 noon

Huguenot Road Baptist Church
10525 W. Huguenot Road

BUDGET REQUESTS FOR 2013
All requests for budget funds for 2013 must be turned in to the RBA office by Thursday, May 10 at 12 noon to be considered for inclusion in next year’s budget.

The Budget Sub-group must prepare a 2013 budget proposal to be presented to the Administrative Council meeting on July 19, 2012. If you should need assistance in preparing your budget request, please contact the RBA Financial Coordinator, Mrs. Tenny Farnen (329-1701 ext. 205) right away. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.
The Flying Squirrels believe that kids shouldn’t be the only ones who are able to enjoy all of the fun and benefits of being a part of a club at The Diamond. With that in mind, we have created the Silver Squirrels Club for senior fans of the Flying Squirrels. All fans 60 years or older are eligible to join.

Benefits
- 9 Tuesday games and 1 Friday game
- Silver Squirrels T-Shirt
- Membership card with 10% discount to Squirrels Nest presented by Nike Team
- Coupon for special concession offer each game
- Special offers from Silver Squirrels sponsors
- Opportunity to throw out a first pitch for one member each night

For more information or to join the Silver Squirrels club, please contact the Flying Squirrels Ticket Department at 804-359-FUNN (3866).
CHURCH NEWS

BON AIR’s Young Adults are hosting a yard sale to support Bon Air’s Student Missions on Saturday, June 2, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm at their Buford Road parking lot. They are accepting clothes, toys, and other items as well as furniture and large items.  The church was a wonderful host for the RBA Spring Celebration on April 26!  CAMBRIDGE’s Kids will cook dinner for their teachers, leaders and parents on Saturday, May 5, to show appreciation for everything they do for them. The Cambridge Men’s Ministry will take a group to Camp Alkulana for the May 19 Work Day.

CARLISLE AVENUE’s Youth are sponsoring a Prom for the Senior Adults on Saturday, May 5, from 5-7 pm with a Kentucky Derby Theme (women in dresses, hats, gloves and men in coats, ties).  DERBYSHIRE’s Mission Team is sponsoring a Mission Trip to Southwest Virginia, June 17-23, to work in the Food Bank, nursing homes and to do light construction.  FIRST will offer another session of their “Physician Within: Nerves & the Nervous System” on Saturday, May 5, at 3 p.m.  There will be a host of guest churches, as well as our very own, Mustard Seed, Sisters of Praise, and Seasoned Praise Ministries. Please come and be blessed.

GRACE had a church-wide Sunday School class with adults and children on April 29 to prepare a HUGE pot of soup that was served at Freedom House.

GROVE AVENUE will host the “CHANGE who WAITS” Rally on May 5, 10:00 am-12:00 pm for Christians to come together to be inspired and informed about the great need and opportunity for foster care/adoption in the Commonwealth. Check out the church’s new Web Site: www.groveave.net.

HUGUENOT ROAD sent a group to Camp Alkulana April 7-8 to help prepare the buildings and grounds for another summer of camp. The pastor will lead a team to help the folks at Hyats, South Carolina prepare and host their Share Day on May 3-5 and a mission group will go to Owlsley County May 14-20 for building projects as well as projects for reaching out into the community. The church Festival Orchestra will present “A Classic Evening” on Sunday evening, May 20 at 6:00 pm for an evening of instrumental classics, patriotic tunes and toe tapping fun.

MONUMENT HEIGHTS had a very successful “Love in Action Day” of missions with 178 participants (children – adults), 542 hours and 13 different missions (some at the church and some off site). The church has launched their new and improved web site: www.monumentheights.org.

NEW BRIDGE’s ladies are invited to join us for the ”Espresso Yourself” Retreat on May 11-13th at New Bridge. Tickets are available for just $5. Guest speaker Joette Hudberg will be returning this year! Friday night is “BYOJF,” or “Bring Your Own Junk Food” night, from 6:45-8:30 pm. Brunch will be served on Saturday morning during the retreat from 9:00 am to noon. Joette will also lead a Sunday morning Bible Study at 9:45 am.

NORTHMINSTER hosted a “Growing with God” Spring Break Camp for the neighborhood kids April 10-12 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The church also participated in the “National Rebuilding Day,” an annual one-day blitz when volunteers make major and minor repairs to qualified homes. OAK FOREST will have their annual Singspiration/ Variety Show with “A Blast From the Past” theme on Saturday, May 19, following a picnic on the church grounds.

OAKWOOD MEMORIAL will begin having the Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) support group meeting on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm beginning on May 7.  PINE STREET had a Potato Bar & Auction Fundraiser after worship on Sunday, April 22, to support their youth summer mission trip to Eagle Eyece this summer. The church will have a Yard Sale on Saturday, May 19, to help raise money for their many mission projects (CARITAS, Humphrey Home, and more). RIVER ROAD will send a team of volunteers to the Camp Alkulana Work Day on Saturday, May 16. The church will host two opportunities for Volunteer Orientations for people interested in helping the Virginia Supportive Housing non-profit organization on Tuesday, May 15, at 5:30 pm and Wednesday, June 13, at 5:30 pm. SANDSTON is excited to announce their newest mission, the Busy Bees Learning Center, to provide a Christ-centered outreach learning program. They will prepare 4 and 5 year old children for kindergarten with a school-based curriculum and will witness to families and their children beginning with classes this fall. Registration has begun and the Web Site is www.busybeeslearningcenter.net.

SECOND has planned a Church-Wide camping trip for men and boys of all generations at Camp Piankatank for May 4-5. The church will have their first annual Church-Wide Family Talent Show on Sunday, May 20, at 6:00 pm. SKIPWITH’s Youth will have a Yard Sale on Saturday, May 5, from 7:00 am – 12:00 pm to raise money for their summer Youth Mission Trip.

STAPLES MILL ROAD hosted a 3 day ESL workshop in April for members to receive ESL certification from the North American Mission Board. The church will have a Spring Concert presented by the King’s Kids Choir on Sunday, May 20, at 6:30 pm. STOCKTON MEMORIAL will show “Courageous;” the powerful, heroic, entertaining and life-changing movie from the creators of “Fireproof,” on Sunday, May 6, at 5:45 pm.

SWIFT CREEK will have their 7th annual “FRIENDS” Special Needs Dinner and Talent Show on Friday night, May 4, with dinner beginning at 6:00 pm, followed by the Talent Show at 6:30 pm. It will be a time of inspiration, praise, fun, fellowship and food (barbequed pork or beef on a bun, baked beans, cole slaw, cookies and beverages) for only $2.00 per person.

TABERNACLE had their first Ministry Fair Sunday, April 29. The church will send a team of volunteers to Camp Alkulana Work Day on Saturday, May 19, and will celebrate Tabernacle’s 125 Year Anniversary on Sunday, May 20. WEBBER MEMORIAL will host the “Priscilla Shirer Going Beyond” simulcast on Friday, May 4, and Saturday, May 5.

WESTHAMPTON will send teams to both Camp Alkulana Annual Fix-Up and Clean-Up Days, May 19 and June 2.

WESTOVER is hosting monthly meetings for an Autism Support Group for those families who have a child diagnosed with Autism, Asperger’s Syndrome or related disability. For more information and the date of their next meeting, please contact Robin Davis at RobinDavis@RichmondAutism.org or call 840-7573.

WOODLAND HEIGHTS is hosting a Spring Tea on Sunday, May 6, at 3:00 pm. Tickets are $5.00.

STAFF NEWS

BON AIR welcomes Rev. Joshua Pittman as their new Director of Jail & Prison Ministry.

GINTER PARK has called to serve Rev. Robert J. Smith, Jr. as their part-time Interim Pastor.

TABERNACLE celebrates the calling and acceptance of Dan Schumacher as Pastoral Resident and Julie Gaines as summer Pastoral Intern.
Grace Baptist Church, 4200 Dover Road, Richmond, VA 23221. www.gbconline.org. Seeking PART-TIME ORGANIST/PIANIST for one 11 am Sunday Service and several special services during the church year to accompany one weekly adult choir rehearsal. 3 manual Allen organ. Yamaha Grand piano. Salary $9,500 with paid vacation commensurate with experience, sick, parenting, and vacation leave; continuing education and professional development leave and sabbatical of 4 weeks after 5 years of service. Contact Rev. Wanda Sauley Fennell at 540-891-0259 or Rev. Dr. Betty Pugh Mills at 804 869-6314.

HopeTree Family Services has Full-Time “DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL” positions available in a 24-hour residential group home located in Richmond, VA, caring for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The schedule consists of 4-days on, including sleep overnights, and 4-days off. Daily responsibilities include providing care to residents in regards to intellectual and developmental disabilities. The schedule consists of 4-days on, including sleep overnights, and 4-days off. Daily responsibilities include providing care to residents in regards to social skills, transportation, health/personal hygiene, food preparation and housekeeping. Must be at least 21 years of age and have a high school diploma/GED; college degree in related field preferred. Must have valid driver’s license and satisfactory driving record. Drug testing and background checks are required. We offer an excellent benefits package. Salary range is $26,800 - $31,031 based upon experience and education. Please visit our website at www.hopetrees.org to apply for the position. Applicants must complete an online application and attach a resume in order to be considered for the position.

USED CAR NEEDED: The RBA Partnership Missions Team is looking for a used car for the African Christianity Community Church. If you have a car, in good working condition, you would like to donate, please contact Ruth Guill at 804-745-1655.

October Baby—A surprise economic stimulus

One of the most nonsensical positions ever taken by a politician was that of a former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives who argued for inclusion of $200 million dollars in taxpayer subsidies for Planned Parenthood in the ill-fated 2009 stimulus package. This politician thought it would be good for the economy. Yes, this elected leader actually argued that more abortions, which lead to fewer American citizens, are a form of economic stimulus.

Simple logic contradicts this premise. People are good for an economy. Without them, there is no economy, much less economic growth.

Read more about this at www.crown.org/blog.

Randy Rowekamp
Area Director, Eastern & Central Virginia
804-683-1595; RRowekamp@crown.org

“Entrust has been a blessing to me! They saved me about $1700 over the life of the loan by cutting my interest rate in more than half. The process was easy and quick - just an hour of my time to save such a big amount of money.” – Christy, Richmond, VA

Entrust Financial Credit Union can help you too! Visit entrustfcu.org/knockdown or call 353-8012 for details.
Save the Date:
OCTOBER 5, 2012
to help Richmond's kids
go to camp!
2012 Alkulana Golf Tournament
Sycamore Creek Golf Course,
991 Manakin Road, Manakin-Sabot, VA.
Lunch 12 noon. Shot Gun start 1 pm.
All proceeds go to fund Camp Alkulana.
Details about registration and sponsorships will be available in coming months.
Check online at www.alkulana.org or call the RBA at 804-329-1701.

Camp Alkulana 2012 Summer Schedule
May 19 & June 2 Volunteer Work Days at Alkulana
June 4 Director Beth Wright moves to Camp for the summer
June 6-17 Staff Training
June 21-July 2 OLDER Boys Session (12-14)
July 6-13 YOUNGER Boys Session (9-11 & CITs)
July 17-18 Staff In-Service Training
July 19-26 YOUNGER Girls (9-11 & CITs)
July 30-Aug 10 OLDER Girls (12-14)
August 10-11 Staff Summer Wrap-Up

RBA on Facebook!
The Richmond Baptist Association invites you to check out our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/RichmondBaptistAssociation. Our page is open to the public so anyone can view it, you don’t have to join Facebook to see it. Be sure to click on the “Like” button while you are there.

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.

Help the RBA Save 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! The RBA has to pay $0.45 “postage due” for each returned newsletter because they are mailed bulk rate and the post office will not forward them to your new address! Postage due costs can add up if we have several newsletters returned each month! We appreciate your assistance with this matter.

Transformed! is published monthly by the Richmond Baptist Association, 3111 Moss Side Avenue, Richmond, VA 23222, 804-329-1701.

Contact Frances Jones via email or snail mail at the addresses listed below:
• To submit an article—must be received by the 15th 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.

Richmond Baptist Association
3111 Moss Side Avenue
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