Report of the 2009 Christmas Stores at the Three Baptist Centers

The Community Missionaries of the three Baptist Centers, Glinda Ford, Jennifer Turner and Margaret Allen express their sincere appreciation to all the WMU members, churches and individuals who contributed to the Christmas Stores this year. The Stores could not have happened and been a success without the donations of money and items; and the many volunteers who helped set-up, registered shoppers, assisted with selecting items and then helped pack up.

The stores blessed over 700 children and their families as you can see from the chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Families</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church Hill</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon Hill</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Richmond</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Street</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>319</strong></td>
<td><strong>750</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The surrounding photos are illustrations of the blessings received by both the shoppers, volunteers and children during this year's Christmas Stores.

If your church was not involved this year, be on the look-out for the details of the 2010 Christmas Stores beginning in September!
Greetings,

At the quarterly meeting of the Central Virginia Baptist Ministries Coordinating Team on December 10, Eugenia Freiburger shared information with the team members on building teams that work. She cited the material as coming from a workbook published by Group entitled “Growing Dynamic Teams.” The CVBM Coordinating Team is made up of twelve members – four from each partner association – Dover, Middle District and Richmond. All three Directors of Missions are standing members of the team. The other nine members serve on a three-year rotational basis, so the CVBM Coordinator, Nita May, asked Eugenia Freiburger to provide the team with some help in becoming a cohesive planning group.

The information Eugenia so effectively shared with us was most pertinent to the CVBM Coordinating Team, but would also relate to any team whether it be in the association or in a local church. We could say the principles are somewhat universal. The information would hold true for small groups as well. As I reflect on the material presented to us, I am convinced that it is most appropriate for the ministers of the RBA who meet together once a month for peer fellowship. The article in the next column gives information about the ministers’ fellowship meeting in January. I hope each of our ministers will make every effort to attend. Encourage your ministerial staff to be there.

Eugenia started her training session with a biblical base. Ministry is better in teams because two are better than one. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work; if one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!” Discover and value the unique differences in your teams. 1 Corinthians 12:18-20: “But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.” First equip and then release your teams into ministry. Luke 9:1-2: “When Jesus had called the twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and heal the sick.”

She defined a team as being “a small group of people (2-12) with complementary and diverse gifts, skills, experience, strengths and weaknesses who are committed to: a common sense of purpose; each other; achieving the church and team’s mission; and holding each other accountable.”

Then she listed eight principles of effective teams. 1. They value relationships. 2. They value and practice five team necessities (eat, drink, play, pray and serve). 3. They live by covenants. 4. They collaborate together and work as one. 5. They are intentional about why they work together. 6. They are committed to each other. 7. They trust each other (this is a major factor in building effective teams). 8. They are intentional about how they work together. I would certainly like to be a member of a team that functions like that. How about you?

God Bless You In 2010!
**IRIS ANNOUNCES 2010 MILEAGE RATE**

The Internal Revenue Service announced the 2010 standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on January 1, 2010, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also van, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- **50 cents per mile** for business miles driven.
- **16.5 cents per mile** driven for medical or moving purposes.
- **14 cents per mile** driven in service of charitable organizations.

The new rates for business, medical and moving purposes are slightly lower than last year’s. The mileage rates for 2010 reflect generally lower transportation costs compared to a year ago.

For a copy of the full announcement, go to: [http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=216048,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=216048,00.html)

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**RBA 2010 RESOURCE DIRECTORY**

Plans are to publish the UPDATED 2010 edition of the RBA Resources Directory in January 2010. The Directory contains contact information and staff listings for our churches as well as contact information for local, state and national Baptist organizations and community service organizations.

One primary source of updated information for our churches is the Annual Church Profile. But for those churches that choose not to complete and return their ACP, we don’t always have the most up-to-date information. **To help us maintain the most accurate staff and contact information for each RBA church, we need to receive any and all updates to staff or contact information by December 31!**

Send your updates to the attention of Frances Jones at frances.jones@rbaonline.org or call her at 329-1701 ext. 201.

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**Thanksgiving at Oregon Hill Baptist Center**

Oregon Hill Baptist Center’s Community Missionary, Jennifer Turner, reports that 28 homeless individuals were served a Thanksgiving Meal at the Center provided by members of Pine Street Baptist Church on Wednesday, November 25.

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Jennifer thanks all those who volunteered, their effort made it possible for these two wonderful Thanksgiving ministries to continue reaching out in Jesus’ name to folks in need during the holidays!
Whatever You Do This Year
Work at it with All Your Heart

Oscar Wilde said, “In this world there are only two tragedies. One is not getting what one wants. The other is getting it.” As we begin this gift of a new year, I hope that the things that you have resolved to do in 2010 will include identifying new skills and strengths in your life that you can use as an act of worship or service to God.

Mark Your Calendars for the:
CVBM Pastor/Deacon Conference
Monday night, March 22, 2010
Mount Vernon Baptist Church,
11220 Nuckols Road, Glen Allen
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

This year’s theme is “Serving the Church in a Changing World.” “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” (Colossians 3: 23-24)

For details on the presentations and to register beginning January 18, 2010 go to: www.cvbm.org
(There is no fee for this conference)

Questions? Contact Gayle Taylor at 804.598.6350 or gayle.taylor@cvbm.org

John Leland Center Launches Diploma Program for Latino Leaders at Second Baptist Richmond

Hearing the call of area Latino pastors and leaders for theological training in Spanish, the John Leland Center for Theological Studies announces the start of the Diploma in Theology program in Spanish at Second Baptist Church, Richmond, located at 9614 River Road, Richmond, Virginia 23229. Dr. Craig Sherouse is pastor.

Leland’s Diploma in Theology program consists of 48 academic hours of study, taught at the Bachelor’s level by qualified instructors with earned Masters or Doctoral degrees. Instructors for the Spanish-language courses are fluent in Spanish and bring their own experiences in Latino ministry and mission to the classroom. The electives offered will be in the area of church planting. Hours are transferable with credit to Averett and, hopefully soon, Bluefield.

Courses begin the week of January 25, 2010. On Monday evenings beginning January 25, Dr. Greg Smith will teach the course “Historia de la Iglesia” (Church History). On Thursday evenings beginning January 28, Dr. Habacuc Diaz will teach “Formación para el Ministerio” (Ministry Formation). Classes on both nights will begin at 6:30 and end no later than 9:30 p.m. Each course meets once per week for 15 weeks.

Students registering for classes must be legal US residents, have a high school diploma (or its equivalent), and pay all fees. Each course is a total of 3 credit hours; each credit hour costs $125.00. Additional fees may apply. Partial scholarships are available for qualified students who are active members of churches in cooperation with the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Latino pastors, leaders and others interested in exploring the program in Richmond are urged to contact Dr. Greg Smith at 540-847-3171 or greg.smith@vbmb.org.

THE RESOURCE CENTER
1209 Palmyra Ave., Richmond, VA 23227
804-358-8306 * Toll-free 888-241-5132
resourcem center@cavtel.net
www.resourcingchurches.com

Announces the
2010 VBS Curriculum Fair
Tuesday, January 26, 1 - 8 p.m.
Wednesday, January 27, 1 - 5 p.m.
Thursday, January 28, 1 - 8 p.m.

TURNBULL ROOM IN VIRGINIA HALL
on the campus of
Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond
3406 Brook Road

Come browse at your leisure - light refreshments - consultants onsite
Sample Kits from All Major Publishers
(Denominational, Cooperative & Independent)
Special discount on kits ordered during this event

Sponsored by THE RESOURCE CENTER in partnership with COKESBURY BOOKSTORE
When Considering Your Charitable Giving…

- Human Services
- Art Museum
- Alma Mater
- International Affairs

Consider Making a Gift to the Richmond Baptist Association’s Endowment Fund

For additional information, contact the RBA office
804-329-1701 ♦ office@rbaonline.org
Or check out the E-giving option on our website:
www.rbaonline.org

The Ministries of the Richmond Baptist Association:
Together… Transforming Lives Since 1951.

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2010 CHURCH TAX AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT PLANNING SEMINARS

The most important federal reporting obligation for most churches is withholding and reporting employee income taxes and Social Security (FICA) taxes. A number of unique rules apply to churches and “ministers for tax purposes.” Yet many churches do not comply with them because they do not understand them. This misunderstanding can lead to substantial penalties.

To help church staff and church lay leaders understand and comply with the tax laws a series of seminars sponsored by the Financial Support Planning Ministry of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board will be held across the state in January-February 2010. The seminar in Richmond will be held on February 9, 2010, at the Virginia Baptist Resource Center. The seminar will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 noon.

The seminars are designed for church staff and lay leaders who handle taxes and compensation. Attendees will get help with financial support planning for church staff, including retirement and insurance, handling minister’s taxes and federal reporting requirements for churches. Jeff Cranford, Financial Support Planning Specialist, Empowering Leaders Team, VBMB will lead the seminars.

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 or to register for the Richmond seminar, please contact Melody Fowler, GuideStone Administrative Assistant at 1-800-255-2428 X5293 or by email to melody.fowler@vbmb.org

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2010 SPECIAL EDUCATION VALENTINE SOCIAL

Friday, February 12
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MONUMENT HEIGTS BAPTIST CHURCH
5716 Monument Avenue, Richmond

Featuring:
Clowns, Juggler, and Square Dancing!

Once again there is no charge to attend!

RSVP by February 5
To Amy Sowder
Richmond Baptist Association
329-1701 ext. 208; amy.sowder@rbaonline.org

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BTSR SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY ONLINE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (BTSR) School of Christian Ministry announces upcoming continuing education opportunities for clergy and lay leaders. Four online courses begin January 18, 2010. Each online course is $125.

- Concepts and Components of Gift-Based Ministry SCM 2110
- Preschool and Children’s Ministry in the Church SCM 311
- Faith Development SCM 5110
- Pastoral Care for Those with Addictions SCM 6130

For more information: scm.btsr.edu, 888-339-2877 (toll free), or seminfo@btsr.edu. Register online at scm.btsr.edu/SCM_Registration.
The Camp Alkulana Mentoring Program

A Ministry of Consistency

by an Alkulana Mentor

Because I have served as a counselor at Camp Alkulana for several summers, I have been privileged to witness so many amazing, transformative moments in the lives of children. I love those moments when a child successfully completes their first rappel down the tall side of the tower, or finally learns to swim in the creek. The joy and sense of self-worth that Alkulana’s summer camp program instills in so many campers each summer is priceless.

Yet campers are only at camp for a week or two each summer. We, as counselors, are left wondering what life is like for campers at home the other fifty weeks of the year.

This fall I am involved in Alkulana’s Mentoring program, which is only three years old now, and is still very much in its infancy compared to the ninety-plus years of ministry the summer camp program has! But these last three months in the mentoring program have had a profound impact on me. I am serving as a mentor for John (I’ve changed his name for this article), an outgoing fourteen-year-old that is careening perilously through the foster care system. He is an easily likable kid, but is desperate for love and stability in his life. John’s parents abandoned him when he was an infant, and since I have begun to meet with him in September, he has been placed in three separate foster families. I didn’t know when I was assigned as his mentor that I would become one of the most consistent and reliable people in his life.

When John and I hang out, our conversations often range across the spectrum; we have discussed such things as school, football, God, the Bible, dating, music, grades, hobbies, family, and video games. We have gone bowling together, we have seen a theater production at a local college, we have played basketball together, and we frequently just hang out and eat together.

I met John this summer at camp, and now I see him almost weekly. We talk on the phone at least that often. This ministry, I feel, is a ministry of consistency. John and I have built up a sort of regularity in our mentoring relationship, and he has grown to trust me enough to talk to me about the difficult things in his life. I believe he feels God’s love because of that consistency. When John had a Christmas concert last week, only his social worker and I showed up; not one member of the three foster families was there to cheer him on. How can you believe that God loves you if you don’t know what love is? How can you trust in God if you don’t have anyone you can trust in your day-to-day life?

Alkulana’s summer camp program is amazing—it truly is a place where the reality of God’s love comes to life for many campers. But this ministry continues year-round in an indispensable way through the Alkulana Mentoring Program. A camper like John will hear that God loves him during camp, but I think the profound reality and depth of that statement really begins to sink in through the year-long mentoring relationships that we cultivate after camp ends for the summer.
**Help/Situations Wanted**

**Minister of Music:** Part-time position. Send résumé’ and salary requirements to the attention of the Personnel Committee, Stockton Memorial Baptist Church, 5100 Claypoint Rd. Chesterfield, Va. 3832. Phone 804-744-8761. Fax 804-744-8277. Email stocktonchurcharl@gmail.com. Will consider director and accompanist position as separate positions if qualified. Organist abilities a plus.

Grande Baptist Church, in Windsor Farms, Richmond, VA is looking for a **Part-Time Organist** to play one service a week, one rehearsal. For more information on the position, please check the American Guild of Organists (AGO) website (www.richmondagogo.org) or call the church office at 804 353-0134. Please send a letter of interest and resume to Wanda Sauley Fennell, Grace Baptist Church, 4200 Dover Road, Richmond, VA 23221.

**Organist/Pianist/Choir Director** needed immediately by Oakwood Memorial Baptist Church to lead the choir and accompany on organ for choir practice on Thursday evenings and during Sunday morning worship service. Salary negotiable. Oakwood Memorial is located in East Henrico County near Airport. For more information contact Norma Carlton 804-301-4509.

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**Communion Set Needs New Home!**

We have an aluminum communion set that we are no longer using. We would be glad to donate it to any church that is interested. Contact the pastor of Carlisle Avenue Baptist, Howard Germany at howard.germany@cabcva.org.

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**Host Churches Needed for 2010 RBA Meetings**

**Executive Council Meeting**

(includes quickly served lunch and Thursday meeting 12 noon—1:30 p.m.)

**November 18**

“Spring Celebration”

April 22 @ 7:00 p.m.

(no meal involved with this meeting.)

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**Mark Your Calendar**

**RBA Executive Council Meeting**

February 18, 2010

12 Noon

Westhampton Baptist Church

6112 Three Chopt Road

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**January Calendar**

**December 24 thru January 1, 2010**

RBA Office Closed

For the Christmas Holiday

And New Year’s Day

**January 3**

Collegiate Ministries Emphasis Sunday

**January 5 @ 6:30 p.m.**

Camp Alkulana Cast, RBA

**January 6 @ 12 noon**

Ministers’ Lunch, First Baptist Richmond

**January 15**

RBA Financial Books Close for 2009

**January 15–16**

Studentz YEC, SBCV, Virginia Beach

**January 17**

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

**January 18**

RBA Office Closed

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

**January 19 @ 10:30 a.m.**

RBA WMU Winter Celebration & Lunch, Jahnke Road

**January 20 @ 12 noon**

Deadline for Submission of Material To RBA for February Transformed!

**January 21 @ 12 Noon**

RBA Nominating Team, RBA

**January 21 @ 7:00 p.m.**

RBA Administrative Council, RBA

**January 25 @ 12:00 noon**

Baptist Centers Support Group, RBA

**January 26**

6:15 p.m: NE Women on Mission, Carlisle Avenue

6:30 pm: SW Women on Mission, New Covenant

**January 29-30**

21-C Conference, Gayton

Information: www.21-c.org
The Richmond Area Diploma Course Offerings

JOHN LELAND CENTER
FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

2010 Spring Semester

TUESDAY, 3:00 p.m.: Christian Ethics
TUESDAY, 6:00 p.m.: Christian Theology II
THURSDAY, 6:00 p.m.: Church Administration

Classes begin on January 25, 2010
All classes held at Derbyshire Baptist Church,
8800 Derbyshire Road, Richmond, VA 23229

QUESTIONS & REGISTRATION INFORMATION:
Contact: Dr. Keith Smith @ Derbyshire
nksmith@dbcrichmond.org or 804-740-7238 x22

Annual Fix-up and Clean-up Days
At Camp Alkulana
May 22 and June 5, 2010
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 camp-
palkulana@gmail.com.

Want to do Something BIG?

Making a Delivery to the RBA Office?
Please call before you plan to arrive to make sure someone will be at
the office. During the holiday season 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 Money
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 $0.44 “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.