The RBA Family is Invited to a Retirement Dinner to Celebrate Pete du Plessis’ Five Years as RBA’s Director of Missions, 2005—2010

Friday, June 18, 2010
6:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church
2709 Monument Avenue, Richmond, Virginia

Remarks by Pete’s Pastor:
Dr. Jim Somerville,
Richmond’s First Baptist Church

Dinner Menu:
Mixed Green Salad with oranges, grapes and raspberry vinaigrette,
Pork Tenderloin with Rosemary Red Potatoes and Steamed Empress Vegetables,
Hot Rolls, Assorted Desserts, Coffee and Tea

Cost: $12 per person
Reservations and Advance Payment Required

Deadline for Reservations: Tuesday, June 11
Please send your name, church, and the number attending dinner with a check (made payable to RBA)
To: Farewell Dinner, Richmond Baptist Association, 3111 Moss Side Avenue, Richmond, VA 23222

Questions? Contact: Frances Jones
804-329-1701 or frances.jones@rbaonline.org

PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE RBA DOM SEARCH COMMITTEE
By Rev. Mike Robinson, Chair, Search Committee

Since early February your Director of Missions Search Committee has been meeting almost weekly. Several publications, including “The Religious Herald,” “Transformed!” and “Baptists Today” have carried ads soliciting resumes for this significant leadership role. We have established a comprehensive list of qualifications that would serve our association well, as embodied in the prospective director. We have received more than 30 resumes and recommendations. The resumes of the fine individuals who have submitted them are being reviewed carefully to give them a priority ranking.

At this writing in May, we are in the process of arranging a first round of interviews with initial candidates. Please keep your committee and candidates in prayer as the candidates seek His direction for their ministry and as we seek the person whom God has prepared for the role of Director of Missions for the Richmond Baptist Association. We desire to be fully in step with the leadership of His Spirit in the person we recommend in the days ahead. Pray for discernment as we follow God’s leadership and as we serve the Association.

As much as we would love to do so, our committee has agreed not to rush a decision to meet a June 30 deadline of having someone on board by the time Pete du Plessis ends his term of service. Our committee desires time to meet candidates, conduct thoughtful and careful interviews, check references and do proper background checks. The association needs the opportunity to meet and vote on a candidate. And the new director will need time to appropriately transition out of current ministry roles into our association.

In light of these factors, we are planning to recommend the hiring of an Interim Director of Missions. This will largely be a half-time position to deal primarily with administrative and clerical issues that arise on a week-by-week basis. This arrangement will allow Pete du Plessis to transition out of his current role on the time frame he has envisioned and will provide a seamless welcome to the new leadership. Thankfully, Pete has expressed willingness to act as a consultant to the association on a limited basis during the interim transition.

Again, we thank you for your patience and your prayers.
Greetings,

At the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Louisville, Kentucky on June 23-34, 2009, the President of the SBC was authorized to appoint a “Great Commission Resurgence Task Force” charged to bring a report and any recommendations to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, June 15-16, 2010, concerning how Southern Baptists can work more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission. President Johnny Hunt appointed a Task Force of 22 members, led by Ronnie Floyd of Northwest Arkansas as chairman. The Task Force has met both extensively and intensively since their appointment.

A progress report was presented to the SBC Executive Committee on Feb. 22, 2010. And the response has been overwhelming both for and against the report. There has been a great deal of chatter on the internet and articles in state Baptist newspapers. I hope you have been keeping up with the developments. The final report was released on May 3, 2010. It is basically the same as was previously reported in February. You can read the report and get other information on the website http://Pray4GCR.com. I have been receiving regular reports from the Network of Baptist Associations of which the RBA is a member. The organization has had three conference phone calls with the leaders regarding the report. You can listen to those conference recordings and read many other articles on their website at http://NoBAsbc.org. I encourage you to do so. Also, Baptist Press has a comprehensive collection of Baptist Press news and opinion items on the Great Commission Resurgence movement on their website at www.bpnews.net. You can also Google “Great Commission Resurgence” and find a wealth of information on your computer.

Thus, it seems the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando this June could be one of the most important meetings in recent Southern Baptist History. The report of the Task Force with the recommendations included has certainly generated a great deal of discussion all across the convention at all levels of denominational involvement and has also caused much concern by those who oppose the recommendations. Obviously, your position on denominational politics/theology will determine your opinion of the work of this hand-picked committee. Those for the report say it will be one of the greatest steps the convention has taken to implement the Great Commission, while some who oppose the report are afraid it could be the beginning of the downfall of the SBC. Needless to say, there will certainly be ramifications for the Richmond Baptist Association if this report is adopted and put into place at the Orlando Convention meeting.

On another note, I came across some information while reading the recent issue of “The Baptist Banner.” Our churches need to be aware of this recent news. Governor Bob McDonnell has signed into Virginia law Senate Bill #646 mandating a safety-towing device in addition to safety chains for all ball-hitch trailers pulled by a towing vehicle. After July 1, 2010 you will be in violation if you do not have such a device. Before you go on a mission trip, check the law and be safe. You can find more information at www.safetysentryinc.com or by calling 817-579-7616. Ignorance of the law is no excuse. You have a month to get it done.

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**TEN REASONS WHY PLANTING NEW CHURCHES IS A HIGH PRIORITY**

By Tom Biles, Tampa Bay Baptist Association, Tampa, Florida

With gratefulness to God for all our churches I would like to list ten reasons why church planting remains a high priority.

1. Any person without Christ is spiritually lost and doomed to an eternal hell.
2. It is estimated that 70% of the population in America is either lost or unchurched. That represents millions of people.
3. There are unreach culture and ethnic groups.
4. There are new subdivisions with few, if any, evangelical churches.
5. There are unreach apartments, condos, and housing units.
6. No one church can reach everyone in any area.
7. Some churches will decline and cease to exist. We positively do not need or want fewer churches.
8. New churches give more Christians the opportunity to be active participants in leadership.
9. New churches often grow faster than existing churches.
10. It seems to me that almost everything God has made is expected to reproduce. If God expects man, animals, plants, trees, fish, and grass to reproduce, surely He expects as much from Christians and churches.

**HAS YOUR CHURCH CONSIDERED PLANTING A NEW CHURCH?**

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**APRIL 2010 BUDGET REPORT**

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**2010 Camp Alkulana Offering**

Formerly known as the RBA Week of Prayer for Associational Missions

As of 4/30/10

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PRAY FOR THE RBA
CHURCH OF THE WEEK

JUNE 6  MOUNT SINAI
JUNE 13  MOUNT TABOR
JUNE 20  NEW BRIDGE
JUNE 27  NEW CANAAN
JULY 4  NEW CANAAN INTERNATIONAL

RBA RESOURCE LIBRARY

The Richmond Baptist Association is blessed to have 69 churches that comprise a diverse Christian community. All of our churches are different with unique ministries and unique needs. The RBA has developed a wonderful collection of resources to be made available to our churches to meet those different needs. You will find on the shelves in the entry way to the RBA office building a vast assortment of resource kits, video series, workbook manuals, books and more. The RBA also has audio-visual equipment available for your use. These wonderful resources can be checked out by our member churches. You should plan to stop by the association office soon and browse through this rich treasury of materials to help you and your church develop as a disciple of Christ. These excellent resources are provided for you by your local Baptist association – the RBA.

DIXON MINISTRIES
TORONTO PARTNERSHIP

“SEWING SUPPLIES NEEDED”

FABRIC (no polyester, please), ZIPPERS, NEEDLES (ALL SIZES), SCISSORS, BUTTONS, AND OTHER SEWING NOTIONS.

Stu and Eleanor Dodsons will be traveling to Toronto in their RV again this year to help with the ministry at the Matthew House in late July and are willing to take all of the above.

Donations are being collected at the RBA office, 8:30-4:30 Monday - Friday. Deadline for donations of items to go to Toronto is July 15.

If you have questions, please contact Ruth Guill, Partnership Missions Coordinator, at 804-745-1655.

ARE YOU A VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NUT?
YOU MIGHT BE, IF:

♦ One half of your wardrobe has “VBS” imprinted on it, and the other half has paint stains on it.
♦ You’ve won “Most Valuable Shopper“ at the local dollar store for 10 years straight.
♦ Your garage looks like a mini-warehouse for Oriental Trading inventory.
♦ Regardless of rain, snow, or sleet, you won’t rest until you discover the VBS themes...for the next three years.
♦ You’re number one on the church janitor’s “Most Wanted” list.
♦ You’ll give your life to see children come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord!

Be a VBS Nut this summer and be sure your church provides VBS for the children in your church and around your community. It could change their life forever!

RBA Senior Adults
SAVE THIS DATE!

Friday, October 8, 2010
For the
RBA Senior Adult Luncheon

WESTOVER BAPTIST CHURCH
1000 Westover Hills Blvd.

10:30 A.M.—PROGRAM
Speaker: Fred Anderson
Leading Singing: Rev. H.D. Harmon

12:00 NOON—LUNCHEON
$6.00/person

More details forthcoming!
2010 VBS Conference
“Helping All Children to Have a Good Experience in Vacation Bible School”
By Gayle Taylor, CVBM

At the Vacation Bible School Conference sponsored by CVBM on April 19 at Gayton Baptist Church, VBS directors and leaders received the message of how important every child is no matter which VBS curriculum is used. The guest speaker, Mary Buckner, shared the necessity of making sure every child feels that there is a place for him or her at Bible School. She recounted personal stories about how rewarding it was to see her church reach out to children and adults with special needs and how important it is that every church strives to reach every child.

The conference offered two sessions: Session 1 showcased the following VBS instructional materials: LifeWay, Standard, Group, Gospel Light, and Cokesbury; Session 2 offered “traditional” classes for directors, missions, arts and crafts, recreation, snacks and teaching children of various ages. Additional sessions included “Reaching the Hispanic Community” and “Leading a Child to Christ.”

Throughout the evening, the bookstore offered VBS instructional materials for purchase from all of the publishers represented in the sessions. With over 100 people attending from 4 different associations, this made it convenient for the participants to select VBS items at any time during the night.

Evaluations indicated that the conference had been an enjoyable experience. However, the most rewarding comment of all summed up the goal of the conference: “Great preparation and information. This really will help our VBS.” When statistics reveal that VBS accounts “for 88,097 professions of faith during the week immediately following VBS,” this illustrates how important it is to prepare the leaders of VBS.

A tremendous thank you goes out to Gayton Baptist Church for hosting this conference, the leaders for presenting interesting ways to use the VBS materials, LifeWay for providing the bookstore, and to the participants who demonstrate year after year how much they value the importance of VBS.

ESL Ministries
Much More Than a Lesson Plan

September 18, 2010 1:00 - 5:00 PM
Second Baptist Church
9614 River Road, Richmond, VA 23229

GENERAL SESSION, 1:00 – 2:30 PM
Dr. Grant Lovejoy, IMB, will demonstrate chronological Bible storying and Steve Blanchard of First Baptist, Richmond will speak on refugee ministry

BREAKOUT GROUPS, 2:45 – 4:30 (CHOOSE TWO)
• Sharing the Love of Jesus with Muslims
• Sharing the Love of Jesus with a People Group
• Sharing the Love of Jesus with International Collegiate Students
• Sharing the Love of Jesus thorough ESL Ministries

CONCLUDING CHALLENGE, 4:40 – 5:00 PM
Cost: $5 before July 1 or $10 from July 1 until September 18

Please mail check payable to Dover Baptist Association, marked “ESL, SEP 18” and send with your contact information to Dover Baptist Association, Attn: ESL, SEP 18, 11006 Lakeridge Parkway, Ashland, VA 23005.

For more information, please email jennifer.dover.esl@verizon.net.

Fond Memories of Mrs. Marian Bailey

Mrs. Toni Myers, Women on Missions Coordinator, First Baptist Richmond upon reading last months article on the legacy Marian Bailey left for Camp Alkulana, sent the following: “One thing that was not mentioned in the article and that to me seems significant is that Marian was a faithful WMU member at First Baptist Church for many years until her health no longer permitted her to attend. She served effectively as one of our WMU Group (or circle) Leaders for at least four years and was a part of our Women on Mission Council. If you are part of WMU in Richmond, you can’t miss knowing and loving Camp Alkulana.”
SUPPORT CAMP ALKULANA
THIS SUMMER
WITH YOUR PRAYERS

We cannot all be volunteers helping out at Camp Alkulana this summer, but we can pray for Director Beth, the camp staff, counselors and campers as they make preparations for the summer and during the four summer sessions:

June 9-11 - Camp Staff Training
June 32-July 4 - Older Boys (ages 12-14)
July 8-15 - Little Boys (ages 10-11 and CITs)
July 19-20 - Staff In-Service Training
July 21-28 - Little Girls (ages 10-11 and CITs)
August 2-13 - Older Girls (ages 12-14)
August 14-15 - Summer Staff Wrap-Up

The Camp Alkulana Ministry wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the churches helping us spiff-up the facility to get it ready for our summer season! We’re hosting two work days this spring, one was on May 22, and the second will be June 5. Between these two days of hard manual labor, including yardwork, repairs, deep cleaning, and light carpentry, fifteen churches will send volunteers to Alkulana. The following churches are involved in these workdays: Bon Air, Carlisle Avenue, Chinese, Derbyshire, First, Grove Avenue, Lakeside, Monument Heights, New Covenant, Oak Forest, River Road, Sandston, Second, Staples Mill Road, and Tabernacle.

Thanks to all of those involved--you make Alkulana possible!

Beth Reddish Wright
Director, Camp Alkulana

Golfers Reserve October 1, 2010
On your calendars for the
Sixth Annual Alkulana
Golf Tournament
Sycamore Creek Golf Course, Manakin-Sabot, VA

Golf Registration details to come!
Check out: www.alkulana.org
SEEKING SPONSORS, SEE BELOW

Become a Sponsor of
Camp Alkulana’s
Sixth Annual Golf Tournament
October 1, 2010

The Alkulana Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, October 1 at the Sycamore Creek Golf Course just west of Richmond. Proceeds from the tournament will go towards the funding of the Camp Site Manager position. Camp Alkulana is a ministry of the Richmond Baptist Association.

Being a sponsor is a great way for non-golfers to participate in this Tournament and support Camp Alkulana. Check out the sponsorship options below to see how you, your family, Sunday School class or mission’s group can...

TAKE YOUR BEST SWING AT
MAKING A CHILD’S SUMMER WONDERFUL!

Types of Sponsorship Available

BRIGHT EYES SPONSOR: $500
Benefits include:
• Your logo will appear on publication information (when sponsorship is pledged by August 1).
• Your logo will appear on a banner at tournament registration.
• Your company or organization will receive two complimentary hole sponsorships.

HOLE SPONSOR: $100 per hole
Benefits include:
• Your company or organization will receive your logo or other artwork placed at a hole on the golf course. You can sponsor more than one Hole!
• Hole sponsors will be listed in the program on the day of the Golf Tournament when sponsorships are received by September 15.
• Hole sponsors are eligible for a $20 discounted fee when also registering a golf foursome at $380.

To become a sponsor contact Beth Reddish Wright at email campalkulana@gmail.com or call 804-329-1701.

**15 RBA Churches**
To Participate in
Camp Alkulana Work Days
May 22 and June 5

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Thanks to all of those involved--you make Alkulana possible!

Beth Reddish Wright
Director, Camp Alkulana
CHURCH NEWS

BETHANY PLACE’s youth had a Dinner Theatre night with Lasagna, Music, Drama and Comedy to raise money for this summer’s camp and missions projects. BON AIR’s Laura Bradshaw was commissioned to serve as a Sojourner at the RBA Missions Centers at this year’s RBA Spring Celebration. The church will have a Library Open House from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm and Dedication at 12:15 pm on Sunday June 6 to celebrate their newly renovated library. CAMBRIDGE is encouraging members to visit their updated Website to see wide variety of church information available. They are sending a Camp Alkulana Clean Up team on June 5. CARLISLE AVENUE is having a “READ-A-THON” this summer for all ages (children & adult) with prizes. They had “Carlisle at the River” with Sunday School, Worship and Picnic at Osborne Landing Park. CHAMBERLAYNE is joining with Anointed New Life Baptist in sponsoring a Music Festival on Saturday, June 5 for a fun day of music, games and family activities.

CHINESE BAPTIST had a work team at the May 22 Camp Alkulana Work Day. DERBYSHIRE sent a team to the Camp Alkulana Work Day on May 22. Mr. “Buddy” Childress, Jr., the founder and President of Needle’s Eye Ministries, and also founder or the Christian Counseling & Training Center and the Cross-Over Ministry, was a special speaker on Sunday, May 30. FIRST joined Winfree Memorial in presenting “It’s Cool in the Furnace”, the classic children’s musical that recounts the captivating tale of a godly guy named Daniel, his three sidekicks, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. GAYTON has changed the location for this year’s “Baptism and Picnic” to Red Bird Farm with a potluck meal, tennis, basketball, activities for children and families on Sunday, June 27. GINTER PARK donated a much needed stove to Camp Alkulana. GRACE will have lunch after worship on June 13 (hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers) followed by their Annual Cake Auction to raise money for the youth.

GROVE AVENUE sent an eager team of workers to the May 22 Camp Alkulana Work Day. HUGUENOT ROAD’s Wil Johns was commissioned to serve as a Sojourner at the RBA Missions Centers at this year’s RBA Spring Celebration. The church sent a team of 22 members for a Camp Alkulana Clean-Up Project on April 9&10. MONUMENT HEIGHTS will participate in the June 5 Work Day at Camp Alkulana. Rev. Calvin Birch, Pastor of African Christian Community Church, gave a presentation about his ministry as part of the RBA Week of Prayer for Association Missions. MORNING STAR has a new website; www.morningstarbaptistva.org. NEW COVENANT is also sending a team of workers to the Annual Fix-up and Clean-up Day at Camp Alkulana on June 5. NORTHMINSTER is having “Wet-N-Wild for Haiti” on June 12 from 2-5 pm for a fun-filled afternoon of water games, a slip-n-slide, good food with games and prizes (age 15 and under only) and all proceeds going to support Haiti Disaster Relief. PATTERSON AVENUE gratefully hosted the RBA’s Executive Council Meeting on May 20. They had a Community Wide Playground Cleanup Day on May 16 with free food, fun and games to make it a safer and more inviting place for parents to bring their children. PINE STREET served as an intake site for CARITAS and celebrated their church’s 155 year Anniversary. RIVER ROAD sent a team of workers to the Camp Alkulana Clean Up Day on May22 and will send workers to participate in the Apostle’s Build Program with Habitat for Humanity’s largest project, The Pillars of Oakmont, on June 9-12. SAINT PAUL’S has been given Elm Street Baptist Church in Petersburg and the church hopes to help reach hundreds of Petersburg children. SANDSTON took a team to the Annual Work Day at Camp Alkulana on May 22. SECOND also sent a group to Camp Alkulana’s Work Day on May 22. STOCKTON MEMORIAL has a new e-mail address: stocktonchurch@comcast.net. They had a good old fashioned gospel sing by “The Trinity Praise Team” and old fashioned strawberry shortcake for a “Strawberry Fellowship” on May 16. WEBBER MEMORIAL will have “An Old Fashioned Homecoming” with guest speaker “William Webber” on June 6 with a covered dish buffet, games and music and will have a church Yard Sale on Saturday, June 19, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. WESTHAMPTON is continuing to celebrate its centennial year by inviting the public to the hilarious womanless wedding called “The Giggling Bride” on June 6 at 4:00 pm. WOODLAND HEIGHTS donated their church bus to Eagle Eyrie.

STAFF NEWS

HUGUENOT ROAD recognized Dr. Bert Browning for his 15 years as their Pastor. OAKWOOD MEMORIAL would like to invite everyone to the retirement celebration in honor of Rev. Kenneth Webb’s 36 years as Pastor on Saturday, June 12 at Oakwood Memorial. There will be an Open House from 1:00-5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, with a special Program from 3:00-4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. SAINT PAUL’S Dr. Lance Watson will serve as one of the Celebrity Maestros for the Richmond Symphony in support of the Symphony’s music education programs in area schools.

RBA PRAYER GUIDES, printed for the “Week of Prayer forAssociational Missions,” are still available, if your church or group would like to use them. (We had a second printing.) The Guide is formatted so it can be used to pray for the RBA staff and ministries during any seven-day period throughout the year. Contact Frances Jones at the RBA office (804-329-1701) if you would like copies.

RBA TRANSFORMED! is available in (8 1/2" x 11) letter-sized format that can be sent to you via email each month. This version is also available at our website at www.rbaonline.org. Let Frances Jones know if you would like to stop receiving a paper copy of the newsletter and go electronic!
It’s GOOD to GIVE.
Time to clean out your closets ...

Entrust Federal Credit Union is teaming up with Goodwill to support our community! Bring your gently used items to Entrust on Wednesday, June 9 from 8am until 2pm to donate to the local Goodwill. When you give, so will we – everyone who participates will receive a gift, a chance to win more on our Wheel of Prizes, and shirt-shaped cookies.

Visit www.efcu.coop/itsgoodtogive for more information and donating guidelines, or contact Alison Fallecker at 804-200-5028 or afallecker@entrustfcu.com.

Entrust is located at 1801 Dabney Road, Richmond, VA 23230.
Central Virginia Raceway Ministries
THANK YOU, Volunteers!

The Central Virginia Raceway Ministry Team would like to thank the churches, groups, and individuals who supported our ministry efforts at the Richmond International Raceway during the April-May Sprint Cup Race Weekend! The homemade cookies are always a hit (we ran out of cookies this year!), and the volunteers who came out and shared their time, faith, and friendship made the weekend a great success. Thank you for helping to show the presence of Christ in this unique setting. Plan to join us again September 10-11.

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 20th 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 newsletter that cannot be forwarded.

RBA Baptist Centers Always Need Volunteers!

The Richmond Baptist Association supports three Baptist Centers that always have a need for volunteers (men & women) to help with their ministry programs as well as with everyday jobs such as carrying groceries up flights of stairs or organizing a clothing closet. If you have a few hours during the week to spare, you might want to check with one of the Center Directors to see how you could help:

Church Hill Wellness Center:
2011 Fairmount Avenue (in Mount Tabor)
Rev. Glinda Ford—780-0053

Oregon Hill Center:
400 South Pine Street (in Pine Street)
Rev. Jennifer Turner—648-1353

South Richmond Center:
700 East Belt Blvd (in Saint Paul’s South)
Mrs. Margaret Allen—232-0174

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.

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RICHMOND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
3111 MOSS SIDE AVENUE
RICHMOND, VA 23222
Phone: 804-329-1701
Fax: 804-321-7121
E-mail: office@rbaonline.org
Website: www.rbaonline.org

DATED MATERIAL — DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED