RBA HOSTS
JAMAICAN SOCCER TEAM
June 27 – July 4, 2008

The RBA has been blessed with the privilege of hosting 15-20 soccer players from Jamaica during the week of June 27 to July 4. These are all Christian young men who are coming on a mission trip to Virginia to provide soccer clinics in the city of Richmond and to speak in our churches on Sunday, June 29.

These young men will be providing clinics in the morning, Monday, June 30, through Thursday, July 3, in the area of each of our three Baptist mission centers: Church Hill, Oregon Hill, and South Richmond/Hillside Court. The morning clinics will run from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Then our RBA churches will provide a hearty lunch for the soccer team members. There will be an evening clinic, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on those same days at the Pine Camp Recreation Center at 4901 Old Brook Road.

This is a real opportunity for your church to have a cross-cultural relationship with friends from Jamaica. Please contact Pete du Plessis at 329-1701 if you would like to have any of these soccer players to speak to your Sunday School or worship services on Sunday, June 29. If you have high school age and college age youth who would like to help with these clinics each day, we would greatly appreciate their involvement in this missions opportunity. The RBA will need your help in conducting this week-long missions exchange with Christian soccer players from Jamaica coming to help us evangelize our communities. Please contact Pete du Plessis for more information.
Greetings!

In last month’s issue of the TRANSFORMED, it was announced that Gracie Kirkpatrick would retire as the Director of Camp Alkulana on March 1, 2009. We all knew this announcement would come one day, but we just weren’t quite ready for it. Gracie is such a vital part of the Richmond Baptist Association and in particular the leader of our Camp Alkulana ministry for more than 30 years. But the Association must get ready for Gracie’s departure. The Camp Alkulana Support Team has been asked to begin planning a farewell event in which we can all express our appreciation to Gracie for her life’s investment in ministry to our inner-city children. A Camp Director Search Committee is being put together with three members from the Camp Support Team, two members from the Personnel Sub-Group, and two members of the Budget Sub-Group. They will meet with Gracie immediately to evaluate the Director’s job description and then begin the process of seeking a replacement for Gracie. Please pray for this special committee as they seek to follow the Lord’s guidance in regard to new leadership for Camp Alkulana.

I want to express my thanks to Frances Jones, our Administrative Coordinator, for the work she has done in order to get the RBA website updated. I hope you will visit www.rbaonline.org and take advantage of the wealth of information that is there. We will continue to seek ways to make this website more effective and user friendly. Thank you for your patience while the website has been “under construction.” One new addition is that you can now make a financial contribution to the RBA or to Camp Alkulana on the internet. The RBA website has a link to Camp Alkulana but you can also visit that website at www.alkulana.org. You can access the monthly RBA newsletter at our site and download it if you wish to have a hard copy. By the way, we want to also see your church’s newsletter when you publish it. Please add the RBA office to your mailing list. We are anxious to learn about the events and ministries in your fellowship. Thank you for including us on your list of interested readers.

Related to the topic of communication, we are also eager to have your e-mail address. We can communicate much more quickly and efficiently with our folks by the use of e-mail rather than “snail mail.” And with the cost of increased postage, we can save a good sum of money by using e-mail to contact our members. And, of course, we will not share our e-mail list with outside groups. This e-mail information is strictly for the benefit of the RBA ministry.

Recently, we replaced the flat roof on the RBA office building. We previously had some various leaks in the building and some of the roof drains were clogged. The drains are now clear and the roof is water-tight. We wish to thank N. W. Martin & Bros., Inc. for a job well done. We also had a number of dead trees cut down and the stumps ground up. One particular tree was adjacent to and leaning toward the building. We are grateful that huge tree is now gone. We have a large pile of wood chips from the trees that were cut down and ground up. If you should need any fresh cut wood chips, please call me right away. They are yours for the taking. We are working to make the RBA building and grounds as attractive and secure as possible. Additional lighting is being added around the building to improve nighttime safety. Stop by and see what has been happening.

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**Camp Alkulana, says Thank You Patterson Avenue Baptist Church!**

Several weeks ago one of the Camp Alkulana vans was vandalized while parked in Richmond. The damage was so great that our insurance company totaled the van. In response to a plea for a good used van, Patterson Avenue responded with a gift of a Dodge van: old, but with very low mileage and in over all good condition.

Gracie says the Staff will use the van to take campers caving, to drop off and pick up for hikes and canoe trips and for overnight camping trips.

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**BUSH HOG NEEDED**

As a part of ongoing plans to improve the appearance of the RBA building and grounds, we are in need to someone to bush hog a section of land behind the building. The underbrush is too thick to be handled by a weed eater. A weed eater can do some but not all of the work that needs to be done. If you have a bush hog and can do some work around the RBA building, please contact Pete du Plessis at 329-1701. Thanks in advance for your help.

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**APRIL 2008 BUDGET REPORT**

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Marie Edwards reports that the ladies of the Amelia Pendleton Group of Fairmount Memorial Baptist Church, pictured below, have been sewing since 1951.

They began by making smocks and doing repairs for Children’s Hospital. Over the years the ladies have made over one hundred outfits, shorts and tops, to send to Liberia. Over the years they have made over one hundred outfits, shorts and tops, to send to Liberia. On a regular basis they make walker bags, adult bibs, lap robes, pillows, and clowns by the hundreds to be distributed to nursing homes, friends, and shut-ins, in the area as well as other states and countries. Over one hundred clowns have been sent to Brazil to be used to tell the story of Jesus by the missionaries. Two new projects have been to make small drawstring bags with personal items for the migrant workers on the Eastern Shore and creating larger drawstring bags containing blankets for the homeless in Richmond.

Mrs. Margaret Dearheart, 94, (pictured right) continues to do “her share” at the sewing machine at each meeting.

Vicki Webb, wife of Pastor Ken, writes that the congregation of Oakwood Memorial was very impressed with what Second Baptist did last year with their yard sale for South African missions. While Ken and I were on vacation last September, the idea was brought up at a WMU meeting to have a community bazaar to help send South African children to school. We began collecting items in January for our “Bazaar for ACTS” (African Children’s Tuition for School) that was scheduled for April 26. We were amazed at the variety and quality of items donated to be sold, especially from non-members of the church who learned of our cause. At the beginning of April we became concerned about the weather as weekend after weekend it rained. The Bazaar was to be held rain or shine, but, we very much wanted to hold it outside so the community could see what we were trying to accomplish. The Lord smiled on us and April 26 was a glorious day! Many church members worked long and hard to organize and staff the Bazaar. On the day of the event members assisted with the preparation of breakfast and lunch that was for sale, provided items for the Bake Sale, or collected money from the sale of items that filled fifty tables. The Spirit was great and shoppers were extremely generous when they learned that the proceeds of the Bazaar were going to provide education for children in South Africa. In our hearts, the congregation had hoped to help send 10 children to school, but we were amazed to discover that our small church had made $3,303.21 – enough to help provide an education for 22 children! On Sunday, when Ken announced the total, the congregation began to clap and cheer in celebration. Everyone was so overjoyed that God chose to bless the sincere efforts of a small congregation in such a big way!

We continue to be astounded by how the Lord used the example of the overwhelming success of an event from one of the larger churches in our association to capture the imagination of our congregation to believe we, a small congregation, could step out in faith and achieve something as wonderful to help the orphans in South Africa.

Ken and I will treasure the memory of this wonderful day as one of the highlights in our 34 years of ministry at Oakwood! We pray that this event will be a witness to God's glory as we continue to look forward in service to the Lord.

—Ken and Vicki Webb
MISSION SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

JERUSALEM MISSION TRIP
(Richmond)

Looking for a mission trip project that is really close by? Look no further than the Richmond Baptist Association at 3111 Moss Side Avenue. The RBA has an 18 by 36 foot storage garage that needs to be painted (pictured below). The exterior walls are stucco and can be painted with rollers. The metal roof will need to be painted with brushes. The RBA has the rollers, the brushes, and the paint. All that is needed is the manpower to get the job done. How about it? Does your missions team want to do a Saturday project this summer? Here is your chance. Call Pete du Plessis right away at 329-1701 before someone else beats you to it!

SAMARIA MISSION TRIP
(Virginia)

Southwest Virginia Baptist Associations are attempting the rebuilding of two homes for families who lost their homes due to the March tornado in Big Stone Gap, Virginia. Volunteers of varied skill levels are needed to assist in this ministry opportunity. Construction teams are being scheduled for weeks beginning June 8-14 through August 10-16, 2008. Each team needs at least one person who has construction experience and someone to prepare meals. For more information, please contact Patrick Johnson at patrickj@mounet.com.

ENDS OF THE EARTH MISSION TRIP
(SOUTH AFRICA)

The RBA has received word from the Virginia Baptist Mission Board that the Free State Baptist Association of South Africa still needs preachers for the evangelism project in September. Thus far, there are seven team members leaving Virginia on September 3rd under the leadership of our own Valerie Carter from Bon Air. It is hoped that this mission team will have at least ten members for this particular evangelism project. The cost for the trip is $2,800 and includes transportation, lodging and meals. If you have interest in being a part of this exciting evangelism thrust in the heart of South Africa, please contact Craig Waddell (Virginia Baptist Mission Board Partnership Missions) at craig.waddell@vbmb.org.

NEED A PLACE OF SERVICE?

The Leadership Development Team (aka Nominating Committee) will be working this summer to enlist volunteers to serve on various RBA teams and groups for the 2008-2009 Associational year beginning on October 19, 2008. There are a variety of places to serve the Lord through the work of the Richmond Baptist Association. Please send your name and/or the names of individuals whom you would like to recommend to our Director of Missions, Pete du Plessis, at Pete.duplessis@rbaonline.org or call him at 329-1701.

Pastors, it would be most helpful if you could refer some of your folks to the RBA ministries. The service opportunity would be a real blessing to the Association, to the volunteer as well, and ultimately to the church. Don’t be bashful, just pick up the phone and call. You’ll be glad you did!

MISSION SERVICE OPPORTUNITY
AT OREGON HILL CENTER

OHMOMS (Oregon Hill Mothers Offering Mothers Support): A new support group for mothers of young children (birth to 3 years) has begun meeting the last Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Mothers share in refreshments, devotion time, and topic discussion. Merit Carrington, member of Pine Street is group founder and leader.

We are in need of individuals or groups to volunteer to assist with child care!! Children will range from infants through elementary age children. Volunteer for several Saturdays or just one!! Great Project for Sunday School Class, WMU group, Acteens, etc. Groups could also provide the refreshments or suggest possible topic discussion leaders.

Contact Jennifer Turner, Director of OHBC, at 648-1353 for more information or to volunteer.

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: Glinda Ford—780-0053
2011 Fairmount Avenue (in Mount Tabor)

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

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

“Latin American Mission Project”

Louis Orsatti has served as the Latino Church Planter and pastor of La Primera Iglesia Bautista de Richmond for five years. He will mark his anniversary on June 1. We thank God for Louis, wife Rebeca, and their five children. We thank God for their ministry.

Bill and Libby Stennett have teamed with Louis to begin a Spanish-language Bible study in the West End.

One ESL ministry which Louis and others led at a restaurant has concluded. The ESL ministry helps those who have a different native language learn to speak, read and write English. Pray for the Bible study and the ESL ministry.

At Easter, La Primera Iglesia held a joint baptismal service with its host congregation. Louis focuses on new residents and new believers, and more than 100 now attend La Primera on an average Sunday.

The youth of La Primera traveled to Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church for a joint Latino youth retreat. The gifts of sponsors helped pay part of the cost, and volunteers helped get them there. A summer camp for children is also planned and Louis needs sponsors for that event.

Pray for Louis and his family. The immigration process that Louis must soon complete continues to drag on. The family’s current Visa will expire on June 2, 2008. So, while they await the processing of their I-360 Visas (filed May 2007), the Orsatti family must return to Mexico by June 2 in order to be in complete compliance with immigration laws. Louis, Rebeca, and their oldest son have all been enrolled in classes through the John Leland Center. Daughters Stephanie and Francine, both enrolled at Virginia Commonwealth University, need financial sponsors. (Their immigration status prohibits them from working and requires that they pay out-of-state tuition.) Stephanie and Francine will remain here as college students because of their student Visa status. Louis’ youngest two children Ariadna and Giancarlo are high school students. In addition to all the immigration stress, the owner of the house in which they have been renting since their arrival needs the house for a family member, so the family must move out! Consequently, Stephanie and Francine will have to find new housing arrangements while their family returns to Mexico!

Please pray that God will provide for these needs. Also pray that God will help each family member with the emotional and physical needs of these times.

Greetings from Nita:

Did you hear about the movie scene where the producer is attempting to prove how effectively McDonald’s impacts upcoming generations of kids? To prove the point, groups of school children are shown pictures of famous people. Most of the children recognize a depiction of George Washington. ALL of the children recognize a depiction of Ronald McDonald. But none of the children recognize a depiction of Jesus Christ. None! Not one!

According to Barna Research reports, teens between the ages of 14 through 18 have only a 4% likelihood of accepting Christ compared to kids ages 5 through 13 who have a 32% probability. (Source: PWB 11/25/99, The Gazette 11/20/99). Vacation Bible School is an excellent fun way for us to reach our young children with the Gospel!

MAKE VBS A PRIORITY FOR YOUR CHILDREN THIS SUMMER!

On April 21, CVBM sponsored the 2008 Vacation Bible School Conference based on the LifeWay’s Outrigger Island VBS kit. Gayle Bradley, the director of the conference reported that this year’s conference was a great success as you can see by some of the photos! VBS leaders from Richmond, Dover and Middle District Baptist Associations received training, saw ways to decorate classrooms, and got motivated to make this year’s Vacation Bible School a wonderful place to help children learn about God’s love. To see additional photos of the conference visit the “Photos” tab on the CVBM website (and also view photos of the Habitat for Humanity project.)
CHURCH NEWS

BETHLEHEM (PENICK) is sending a group on a mission trip to the Frederiksted Baptist Church in St. Croix in the US Virgin Islands July 3-12. BON AIR will host “Hope for Israel” Concert in celebration of the 60th anniversary of Israel led by Paul Wilbur, Messianic Worship Leader, songwriter and musician on Sunday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m. They will also be launching their new children’s Bible study curriculum “Live B.I.G.” on June 1. BROADUS MEMORIAL is offering “Just Walk Across the Room, Simple Steps Pointing People to Faith” by Bill Hybels on Wednesday nights May 21 – June 11. CAMBRIDGE is beginning a new College Student and Young Adult Study of other faiths and how young Christians can be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ on June 4. FAIRMOUNT MEMORIAL is offering a Sports Camp June 23-27 for children ages 6-12. FIRST began a new Sunday morning parking shuttle route which picks up members from the parking lots at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Virginia Historical Society. First’s Deaf Mission celebrated their 20th Anniversary. GINTER PARK is hosting the “Great American Backyard Camout on June28329. GRACE has scheduled their annual Variety Show for Wednesday, June 11. HUGUENOT ROAD’s music and drama ministry presents the Musical Dinner Theater “The Music Man” with six performances July 24-27, evening and matinee performances are $17 for dinner and the show. For more information and on-line tickets go to www.hrberichmond.org or call 804-272-2072 x10. MONUMENT HEIGHTS raised over $2,500 for their July 4-14 Romanian Mission Trip from their Community Yard Sale. MOUNT CARMEL hosted the May 15 RBA Executive Council meeting with a delicious salad lunch and tours of their historic church. NEW COVENANT’S “Crusaders For Christ” Sunday School Class spearheaded a collection effort that provided 219 pounds of grocery items for the Central Virginia Foodbank. NORTHMINSTER is having an Ice Cream Party to celebrate a successful school year June 6 and members will be helping Habitat for Humanity build homes July 24-26. OAK FOREST is proud to announce their new church website: www.vaoofbc.org. OAKWOOD MEMORIAL sponsored a BAZAAR which raised over $3,300 to send to the Baptist Union of South Africa to help children go to school. RIVER ROAD is sending a mission team to Habitat for Humanity Apostles’ Build June 12-14 and a team to Port Sulphur July 12-19. They hosted an evening with Bob Deans, author of “The River Where America Began: A Journey Along the James” and currently the White House Correspondent for the Washington bureau of Cox Newspapers. River Road Church Preschool Development Center was recognized as the 2008 NACC National Child Care Center of the Year. SECOND’s Youth will sponsor a Church-wide Yard Sale on Saturday, June 7 with proceeds to benefit the international mission trip to Belize and Passport Mission Camp, will have a Silent Auction and JUBILATE Concert to benefit their partnership with South Africa on Sunday July 27 and will host CARITAS July 19-26. STOCKTON MEMORIAL’S 2008 Senior Banquet will be a Luau on June 19. WEBBER MEMORIAL will have a Community Carnival on July 28, 10 am to 1 pm.

STAFF NEWS

BON AIR welcomes Rebecca Madison as their new Director of Recreation. FIRST honored Rev. Buddy Burgess for his ten years of service as pastor of their Deaf Mission. JAHNKE ROAD announced the graduation of their Associate Pastor, Rev. Wayne Marker from BTSR. PATTERSON AVENUE welcomes Kim Jones as Children’s Director and Lesley Lindblad as Youth Director. RIVER ROAD announced the ordination of their Minister of Youth, Rachel Hoffman.

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 May Sprint Cup Race Weekend! The homemade cookies are always a hit, 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 5-6.
PART-TIME DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES needed by Monument Heights Baptist Church, 5716 Monument Avenue, to lead and develop youth programs and related activities for grades 7-12. The candidate must have an enthusiastic passion for spiritual development of youth. Two years of direct youth experience and one year of seminary classes or Christian-related education is preferred. MHBC is affiliated with SBC, CBF and BGAV. Submit résumé to: Search Committee, Monument Heights Baptist Church, 5716 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23226 or email mhbc_pc@verizon.net. Website: www.monument-heights.org.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES needed by Northminster Baptist Church, a Purpose Drive Church with a diverse congregation located in Richmond’s northside. We are seeking a full-time leader to help us expand our ministry with children, birth through fifth grade, and their families as we equip them to grow in faith together. Experience in a similar position required, seminary degree strongly preferred. Resumes may be sent to Northminster Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel, 3121 Moss Side Ave., Richmond, VA 23222. Questions, please call our church office at 321-2511.

Northminster is also seeking a YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR (part-time: 20 hours per week). Candidate will work closely with the youth team to plan and implement discipleship, fellowship, outreach, and mission opportunities for youth in grades 6-12. College degree and experience working with youth required. Resumes may be sent to Northminster Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel, 3121 Moss Side Ave., Richmond, VA 23222. Questions, please call our church office at 321-2511.

“The CHAMBERLAYNE BAPTIST CHURCH Preschool is seeking a PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR to direct a half day NAEYC accredited preschool program. A degree in early childhood education or graduate work in early childhood education is required with supervisory experience. To apply, submit resumes to: Chamberlayne Baptist Church, ATTN: CBC Preschool Committee, 215 Wilkinson Road, Richmond, VA 23227.”

New Covenant Baptist Church is seeking a QUARTER-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR. The candidate will direct an adult choir and lead in music worship. Applicants should be proficient in piano and/or organ, and music direction. For consideration please call the church for more info at 804-282-9308, fax resume to 804-282-9356 or email NewCovenBC@aol.com or you can mail a resume to: New Covenant Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 7250 Patterson Ave, Richmond VA 23229

FREE BAPTIST HYMNALS

One of our RBA churches has given us a large number of Baptist Hymnals (1956 edition) to be used as needed. If your church or any of its ministries (i.e. nursing homes, prison ministry, etc.) can use any of these hymnals, please call the RBA office at 329-1701. These hymnals are in very good condition.

JUNE CALENDAR

June 3 @ 8:30 AM
Raceway CORE TEAM, RBA

June 4 @ 12 noon
Ministers’ Lunch @ Piccadilly on Broad

June 5-16
Camp Alkulana-Summer Camp Staff Training

June 7 @ 8:30 AM
Virginia Baptist Children’s Bible Drill @ Monument Heights

June 8-9
National WMU Annual Celebration
Indiana, IN

June 10-11
Southern Baptist Convention, Indianapolis, IN

June 15
Father’s Day

June 20 @ 12 noon
Deadline for Transformed Newsletter Material

June 22-28
Virginia Baptist Heritage Week

June 27-28
Raceway Ministry—USAC & Indy Races, RIR

HOST CHURCH NEEDED FOR AUGUST 21, 2008

RBA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

(includes quickly served lunch & meeting 12:00 noon—1:30 p.m.)

If your church is interested in hosting this meeting, contact Frances Jones or Pete du Plessis at the RBA at 804-329-1701 as soon as possible.

COLLECTING USED BIBLES

The WMU of Bon Air Baptist Church is collecting used Bibles for Bon Air’s Prison Ministry. If you have “used” Bibles taking up space on a bookshelf at home and didn’t want to throw them out — you can drop them off at either Bon Air Baptist Church, 2531 Buford Road, or at the RBA office, 3111 Moss Side Avenue. It doesn’t matter the translation or if they have margin notes. In fact, having some notes might help point someone to the important passages!
Big Turnout and Great Weather for May 17th Workday at Camp Alkulana!

The turn out for the May 17th workday at Alkulana was big! Ninety-four workers showed up with rakes, weed eaters, hammers and muscle! Many thanks to workers from Cambridge, Derbyshire, First, Grove, New Covenant, Oak Forest, Oakwood, River Road and Sandston! Much was accomplished because of so many helping hands!

Participating on May 31st workday will be Bethlehem (Penick), First (again!), Northminster, Second, Staples Mill and Westhampton Chamberlayne, Huguenot, Stockton, and men from Swift Creek (as a part of the Noble Warriors group) have come to Alkulana at other times in 2008 to do work projects. Bon Air men will come on June 6.

This makes a total of eighteen RBA churches involved this year in hands-on ministry to spruce up the facility.

Thank you, RBA churches, for your contributions to building THE Kingdom!

Gracie Kirkpatrick, Community Missionary