**ANNOUNCING**

57th ANNUAL FALL MEETING
Of the
RICHMOND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 19, 2008

3:00 P.M. MEETING SESSION

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr. Wayne Faison
Team Leader, Courageous Churches Team
Virginia Baptist Mission Board

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS
Adoption of 2009 Budget
Sojourner Testimony
Recognition of New Ministers
Cultural Diversity Report

Reports:
RBA Director of Missions and Staff

HOST CHURCH
WESTOVER BAPTIST CHURCH
1000 Westover Hills Blvd & 49th Street
Richmond, VA 23225

THEME
"YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES!"
ACTS 1:8 (NIV)

5:30 P.M.—DINNER

BY RESERVATION ONLY
COST: $5.00

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

To make reservations contact your church office and they will make reservations for all who want to attend. Individual reservations will not be taken.

Also note that reservations and payment will not be accepted at the door.

Any questions, contact:
Frances Jones at 804-329-1701 ext. 201 or Frances.jones@rbaonline.org
Greetings!

Occasionally, I run into someone who has a misconceptions about the local association of churches and its role in denominational structure. I would like to try to clear up some of those issues.

First, we begin with the local church which is an independent, autonomous congregation that makes its own decisions related to its existence. Each church is responsible to the members of that congregation for the welfare of that particular church. Each member of that church has a right and responsibility to attend the business meetings of that church. They have the privilege of asking questions, making motions, discussing issues, and voting on the motions presented to the body. Each member gets one vote just like the Pastor. No one person "runs" the church. As Baptists, we believe in and practice a congregational form of government. No other denominational organization can tell that local church what to do unless the church is practicing heresy. If the church asks another denominational group for assistance, it is the church's decision to do so. Outside involvement is not forced on the church. Each church operates its own programs/ministries as it best sees fit without the approval or disapproval of any other denominational organization. As Baptists, we believe in and practice the priesthood of the believer meaning that every believer is responsible for reading, understanding/interpreting, and practicing the Word of God. The believer stands accountable to God.

Secondly, we have the local association which is composed of churches and missions which have all voluntarily united with the association to carry out the Great Commission and the Great Commandment in that local geographical area. The Richmond Baptist Association is composed of 73 independent, autonomous congregations. Those churches have committed to work together on a cooperative basis to reach that community and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please note that the RBA has no authority over any of those 73 churches in any manner whatsoever. As the Director of Missions for the RBA, I seek to work in a cooperative manner with all of our member churches; however, I do not tell any pastor how to lead their congregation. That is their responsibility before God. Even though a church may do something that I do not like or approve of, I am not the pastor of that congregation and can do nothing about it. I do not interfere in the workings of the local church unless the pastor should invite me to do so. And only then will I become involved in the ministry of that particular congregation.

Thirdly, we have the state association which is composed of churches and missions from all over the Commonwealth of Virginia. Again, this is a voluntary, cooperative relationship among all those churches. A church can decide to be a part of the local association and not be a part of the state association. And likewise, a church can decide to be a part of the state association and not the local association. The local association works with the state association on a voluntary, cooperative basis. Neither group has any authority over the other. Each group is responsible to its own constituency. Each group neither gives or receives orders from any other denominational group. But they seek to work together because they are doing Kingdom work.

And finally, there is the national convention which is composed of autonomous, independent churches and missions from all over the United States of America. And once again, this is a voluntary, cooperative relationship among all those churches. A church can choose to be a part of the national convention without being a member of a local association or a state association. The church decides for itself with whom it wishes to partner: the local association, the state association, the national convention or all three denominational organizations. When a church unites with the local association, that action does not automatically make the church a member of the state or national group. The church must make a separate decision in each case. All four levels of denominational structure work together in order to do the most good for advancing the Kingdom of God. The national convention does not give orders to the state association or the local association and vice versa. All groups work together to help one another be more effective in ministry. It is not a matter of power and control, it is a matter of wanting to expand our Christian out-reach to a lost and dying world.

Therefore, we can do so much more together than any one of us can do alone! But the bottom line is that each denominational organization, the local church, the local association, the state association, and the national convention, is responsible only for decisions affecting their constituency. They can all determine to work together in a cooperative manner but they have no authority over any other denominational group. Each group makes its decisions during the business sessions of that particular group.

The Richmond Baptist Association has a spring meeting in April and a fall meeting in October. All member churches are invited and encouraged to attend those meetings and participate in the operations of the Association. In between those two meetings the Executive Council meets quarterly (February, May, August, and November) to conduct the business of the Association. The Pastor and one elected representative from each member church are on the Executive Council in addition to the Associational officers and organizational leaders. Each church is responsible to see that they are represented at these quarterly business meetings. Each member of the Council has the right to ask questions, make motions, discuss the issues and vote on the motions on the floor. Each Council member gets one vote just like the Director of Missions. No one person "runs" the RBA. The church representatives meeting together in regular business session make those decisions that affect the operation of the RBA. I hope you understand that the RBA as the local association is the denominational organization closest to the churches in a certain geographical area and exists to serve those churches in the best manner possible.

I recognize that this has been a lengthy explanation, but I feel it is necessary to help clarify how the local association operates in relationship to its member churches and in relationship to the state association and the national convention. If you have questions or do not understand something I have said, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will endeavor to further clarify the issues as I see them in our denominational world today.

Thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy article. I hope you will share it with any others who may have a mistaken conception about how the RBA operates. The RBA is here for you as together...we are transforming lives in Richmond...
NEW MINISTRY FOR WIVES & WIDOWS
OF RETIRED MINISTERS

If you are the wife or widow of a retired minister, the RBA Office would like to add your contact information (name, address, phone/email) to a new ministry support group. Plans for a kick-off luncheon are in the works and will be announced in the near future.

If you are interested in finding out more and attending a wonderful lunch, please contact Frances Jones at the RBA at 329-1701, ext. 20 or via email to frances.jones@rbaonline.org.

First Day 2008
Tuesday, September 2
Pray for your children and grandchildren on the First Day of school!
Whether your children are preschool age to college/career, please join women who will gather for prayer at four area locations:

Beulah United Methodist Church
(Intersection of Hopkins Rd. and Beulah Rd.)
6930 Hopkins Rd, Richmond, VA

Grove Avenue Baptist Church
(Parham and Ridge Rd.)
8701 Ridge Road, Richmond, VA 23229

KingsWay Community Church
(across from Midlothian High School)
14111 Sovereign Grace Dr, Midlothian, VA

Southside Nazarene
(near 288 and Courthouse Rd)
6851 Courthouse Rd, Chesterfield, VA

2008 CAMPALKULALAN
Offering

Please join women who will gather for prayer at four area locations:

September 7 Gayton
September 14 Ginter Park
September 21 Grace
September 28 Gravel Hill
October 5 Grove Avenue

YTD Amount: $401,625.00
YTD Receipts: $402,922.05
YTD Expenses: $409,616.71

NEW LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN STORE

LifeWay has opened a new LifeWay Christian Store located on Commonwealth Centre Parkway in the Commonwealth Plaza Shopping Center just off of Hull Street Road and 288 in Midlothian. This second location in Richmond will be convenient for our churches south of the James River. The hours are Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The phone number is 804-763-1121. The first location is still north of the James River in the Circuit City Plaza Shopping Center at the corner of Broad Street and Gaskins Road. Share this information with your family and friends in the Midlothian area.

ACP (ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE) HELP SESSION
VIRGINIA BAPTIST RESOURCE CENTER
OCTOBER 3, 2008 ♦ 10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Does your church need help filling out the ACP? The VBMB is holding a free help session for all associational and local church ACP contact persons to help familiarize them with the 2008 ACP survey and how to complete it.

The Session will be held at the Virginia Baptist Resource Center, 2828 Emerywood Parkway, on October 3 from 10:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided at no charge to attendees.

September 15 is the deadline for registration. For more information and to register, contact Janet Bess, Demographics and Research Specialist, at janet.bess@vbmb.org or 800-255-2428 ext. 6278.

RBA ACP’s will be mailed to Churches in early September! Our deadline is October 17, 2008.

PRAY FOR DR. CECIL SHERMAN
PASTOR, WESTOVER BAPTIST CHURCH

The congregation of Westover asked the RBA family to join them in praying for their Pastor, Dr. Cecil Sherman, who was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia on July 25. He is at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX, receiving treatment as part of a trial program for senior adults. He has to remain in a sterile environment during his treatments, but cherishes cards, letters and especially pictures. His daughter, Eugenia (Genie) Sherman Brown reports that he has been discharged from the hospital to an apartment close by that they are renting through a ministry of Houston’s South Main Baptist Church while he receives his second round of chemo.

Not long after he started his treatments, his wife, Dot (Dorothy Hair Sherman) died following a lengthy battle with Alzheimer’s disease, she was 90. A memorial service will be held at River Road Church, Baptist in Richmond when Dr. Sherman returns.

We need to remember Dr. Sherman and his daughter, Genie at this challenging time. You can read updates about Dr. Sherman by his daughter Genie at www.cecilsherman.com. If you want to send him a card, his address is: Cecil Sherman, Brompton Court Apartment #673, 7510 Brompton, Houston, TX 77025.

We also need to remember the Westover family and Associate Pastor Justin Joplin during this time of Dr. Sherman’s absence.

JULY 2008 BUDGET REPORT

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Senior Adult Fall Luncheon
Come to an Ol’ Fashioned Gospel Meet

Jahnke Road Baptist Church
6023 Jahnke Road
October 3, 2008
10:30 A.M.—Program

Gospel Hymns led by Allen Brown
Gospel Message by Dr. John Tadlock
Gospel Talk by Rev. Pete duPlessis

12:00 noon Luncheon @ $6.50 per person
Gospel Food by Ladies of Jahnke Road Baptist

Sponsored by: RBA Senior Adult Ministries Team
June Burton, Anne Carnefix, Pete du Plessis, Dot Dunston, Ann Jones, and Richard Perkins

Talk this up at your church and get a good group of your Senior Adults to attend. You’ll be glad you did!! REMEMBER—The more we get together, the happier we are!! That is the Gospel Truth.

Free 1956 Baptist Hymnal to all in attendance

Freezer reservations – Contact Frances Jones at the RBA Office
804-329-1701 ♦ FAX 804-321-7121 ♦ email frances.jones@rbaonline.org.
Send check (payable to RBA) and names of persons from your church to:
Senior Adult Luncheon, RBA, 3111 Moss Side Avenue, Richmond, VA 23222

DEADLINE: September 19, 2008

RBA Minister’s Conference
Monthly Meeting
For Pastors & Staff Ministers

The Minister’s Conference is a ministry of the Richmond Baptist Association.
ALL Staff Ministers and Pastors (active or retired) are invited to attend.

Fellowship Luncheons are held on the First Wednesday of each Month.
You are invited to come out for the first Fellowship Luncheon of the new church year,

On:

Wednesday, September 3, 2008
12:00 noon
Dutch Treat
Piccadilly Cafeteria
8004 West Broad Street

Reservations are not required
For more information, contact: Richmond Baptist Association
3111 Moss Side Avenue, Richmond, VA 23222
804-329-1701 or frances.jones@rbaonline.org
Hello Everyone from Mexico:

We finally have been able to move into an apartment in Toluca City; 50 minutes from Mexico City by car through heavy, slow traffic and several tolls. An interesting fact about Toluca City is that it is the highest city in Mexico—about 8,600 feet above sea level. I have also gotten a mobile phone.

I am sharing our new address and cell phone number. We would like to hear from our friends in Richmond.

Rev. Louis Orsatti
Felipe Villanueva 2011-2
Col. Ocho Cedros
Toluca, Ed. de Mex.
C.P. 50170, Mexico
Cell: (722) 343-3232
E-mail: lorsatti@yahoo.com

Please keep me and my family in your prayers as we wait for the processing of our Visas.

Blessings,
Louis Orsatti, Latino Church Planter
CHURCH NEWS

BETHANY PLACE has GriefShare Support Group classes starting Sept. 10 and continuing on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. for 13 weeks. Also, DivorceCare Support Group classes will start on Sept. 14 on Sunday nights from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for 13 weeks. For more info and to register for either support groups, contact Helen or Bill Skipwith at 272-1947. CAMBRIDGE is making preparations to offer English as a Second Language classes beginning in the fall. FIRST will have a “Recognition Service for Firemen, Policemen and Rescue Workers” on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the church Sanctuary. For more information, phone 355-8637 or www.fbcrichmond.org. HATCHER MEMORIAL invites the public to join them on Saturday, September 13 from 12:00 noon until Dusk for Recovery Fest 2008 sponsored by the McShin Foundation. There will be lots of family fun in addition to booths for organizations offering church ministries for those in need. The public is also invited to join the members on September 14 for the Hatcher Harvest Sunday for a joint service celebrating the one-year anniversary of our LIVE OUTLOUD service. For more information on these two events call the church office at 266-9696 or go to www.HatcherChurch.org. HUGUENOT ROAD will begin registration for Upward Basketball soon and will have “The Clinic” on Sept. 13th to help meet some of the needs of people in the community and those associated with the Oregon Hill Center. NORTHMINSTER’S Children’s Ministry is building a wall made out of donated bags of beans and rice to help restock their food pantry. OAK FOREST will host “WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?” A Financial Planning Seminar for Seniors or Things we all need to think about!! On Tuesday, Sept. 23 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. If you own real estate, have children or a spouse, have a small fortune, or don’t have any of these, you need to attend the seminar. The public is invited. For more information and to register, contact Kim Gillikin at 382-4448 or kim@westhundredtitle.com. RIVER ROAD is planning a mission trip to Brazil scheduled for Sept. 26 through Oct. 8. SANDSTON has scheduled a “GA/RA Camp-In” for Friday, Sept. 5 through Saturday, Sept. 6 with mission work, snacks, games and more. SECOND’s young adult choir, “JUBILATE”, held its summer concert and homemade dessert social this summer and raised $7,200 in support of sending their Mission Team to South Africa Aug. 21 through Sept. 1. On Sept. 21, Second will host a classical music concert by Russell Wilson. STOCKTON MEMORIAL will have “Revival Time!” Friday, Sept. 12, Saturday, Sept. 13 and Sunday, Sept. 14. STUKELEY HALL is sending Spanish Sunday School literature and other materials to help a new church that is just getting started, Iglesia Baptista Acapulco. WESTHAMPTON will host the Virginia Baptist Women’s Chorale in concert at their church at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 20. Call the church at 282-4243 for more information.

STAFF NEWS

BON AIR celebrated the five year anniversary of Valerie Carter as their Minister of Glocal Missions. They also welcomed back Steve Burgess as their ROC Monitor. FIRST will “offically” install Dr. Jim Somerville as their 16th Pastor on September 21 at 4:00 pm. They celebrated the 10 year anniversary of Steve Blanchard as Minister of Missions.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PASTORS

Pete du Plessis, RBA Director of Missions, will be facilitating a special study group for pastors beginning in September. This is a program of study that pastors can then lead their congregations through. The purpose of the Life Management Study (LMS) is to equip people to discern and appropriate more and more of God’s plan and to experience the increasing freedom from anxiety and the peace that passes understanding; to conquer over commitment, procrastination and chronic tardiness.

The study consists of 13 two-hour sessions and will meet in location(s) and at time(s) suitable to the participants. Regular weekly attendance and completion of daily homework is required. There will also be two planned social events.

Materials include a student manual, workbook, leader’s guide and a copy of Ken Smith’s book, It’s About Time. These materials are available only to LMS participants. The major portion of the cost of the program will be cared for by the RBA. Pastors are asked to pay $25.00 for their participation in this study. The first group will consist of eight pastors. If you would like to be a part of the Life Management Study or would like more information plan to attend an informational luncheon at the RBA office on Tuesday, September 9 at 12:00 noon. A free box lunch will be provided. Please contact Pete du Plessis at 329-1701 ext. 202 or pete.duplessis@rbaonline.org by September 5 to let him know you plan to attend the luncheon.

ARE you Ready? God is!

“IT’s about time?”

♦ Discover God’s plan for you.
♦ Overcome procrastination
♦ Have time for yourself and family
♦ Find the key to fulfillment
♦ Free yourself from over commitment
♦ Know what’s really important in life!
♦ Take the first step

“It’s About Time! Is an excellent tool for those who would like to better organize their lives and an essential tool for those who know they need to.”

— Larry Burkett, Crown Financial Ministries

LIFE MANAGEMENT STUDY

LMS helps mature Christians with a heart on fire for God to better discern His perfect plan for their lives. LMS helps adults:

♦ Develop skills and habits for understanding how best to use their time to be the most fruitful.
♦ Experience increasing freedom from anxiety, and
♦ Gain His loving “peace that passes understanding.”

SMALL GROUP STUDY

The small group is formed to encourage discussion and accountability. The group meets weekly with a trained leader and co-leader for two hours to cover material learned during the week. The material consists of reading assignments, scripture study, practical applications, scripture memorization, action steps, and daily prayer. Participants should allow at least a half-hour daily for preparation.
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.

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 NewCovenantBC@aol.com or you can mail a resume to: New Covenant Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 7250 Patterson Ave, Richmond VA 23229

HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN needed by Cumberland Hospital for Children and Adolescents, New Kent, VA. Cumberland Hospital is a progressive 134-bed facility that is dedicated to excellence and sets itself apart through its unique combination of medical, behavioral, rehabilitative, and educational services. Presently they have a Hospital Chaplain opportunity available. Responsibilities include, providing nondenominational religious services once a week, pastoral counseling on an as needed basis and if available to offer special religious programs at the request of the hospital/or patients and families. The position reports directly to the Director of Nursing. Must be an ordained minister with previous experience with a children’s or youth ministry preferred. Cumberland Hospital offers a competitive fee for service. To apply, send resume to Cumberland Hospital, 9407 Cumberland Road, New Kent, VA 23124 or Cumberland-HR@psychsolutions.com. Contact Lauren Bonner, HR Director.

Golfers take your best swing at making a child’s summer wonderful! Participate in:

**4TH ANNUAL ALKULANA GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Friday, October 10, 2008 at the Hollows Golf Club. Lunch at 12:00 Noon, with a Shotgun start at 1:00 PM. $75 per person or $280 per foursome. Fee includes box lunch & green fees.

**SIGN UP NOW WHILE SPACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE.**

To sign up, go to www.alkulana.org or call the RBA office at 329-1701 ext. 207. Send fees to: Camp Alkulana Golf Tournament, Richmond Baptist Association, 3111 Moss Side Avenue, Richmond, VA 23222. Please make checks payable to “Camp Alkulana.”

**Hole Sponsors are Needed!**

Minimal fee for Hole Sponsorship is $100. Note: If you sign up a foursome AND sponsor a hole, the fee is only $360!!

**OTHER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES are available!** Call the RBA office for more information on how to be a sponsor!

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

**SEPTEMBER 1**

**LABOR DAY HOLIDAY—RBA OFFICE CLOSED**

**SEPTEMBER 2 @ 9:30 AM**

**FIRST DAY PRAYER GATHERING, GROVE AVENUE**

**SEPTEMBER 2-4**

**COOKIE DELIVERY TO RBA FOR RACEWAY MINISTRY**

**RBA OFFICE OPEN 8:30 AM—4:30 PM**

**SEPTEMBER 3 @ 12:00 NOON**

**MINISTER’S LUNCH @ PICCADILLY ON BROAD**

**SEPTEMBER 5 & 6**

**RACEWAY MINISTRY—NASCAR RACE WEEKEND, RIR**

**SEPTEMBER 7-14**

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS**

“ALMA HUNT” OFFERING

**SEPTEMBER 9 @ 12:00 NOON**

**LMS INFORMATIONAL LUNCH MEETING, RBA**

**SEPTEMBER 15 @ 12:00 NOON**

**CENTERS SUPPORT GROUP, RBA**

**SEPTEMBER 16 @ 10:30 A.M.**

**RBA WMU FALL CELEBRATION & LUNCH, NORTHMINISTER, 3121 MOSS SIDE AVE.**

**SEPTEMBER 19 @ 12:00 NOON**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR RBA TRANSFORMED!**

**SEPTEMBER 22 @ 6:15 P.M.**

**CVBM LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE #1**

**BRANCH’S BAPTIST CHURCH, 3400 BROAD ROCK BLVD**

**SEPTEMBER 25—OCTOBER 5**

**CVBM MINISTRIES @ THE STATE FAIR OF VIRGINIA RACERWAY COMPLEX, RICHMOND**

**SEPTEMBER 26-27 @ 6:30 P.M.**

**VIRGINIA BAPTIST MEN’S GATHERING**

“THE MAN GOD USES”, HENRY & TOM BLACKABY

**RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, NEAR PARHAM & PATTISON**

**FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER:**

www.pbmb.org/glocalmissions/mensgathering.htm

**SEPTEMBER 29 @ 6:15 P.M.**

**CVBM LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE #2**

**MOUNT VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH**

11220 NICHOLS ROAD, GLEN ALLEN
**USED BIBLES FOR PRISON MINISTRY**

The Bon Air Baptist Church has an extensive ministry in the various prisons located in Virginia. One of the things they are always in need of is good used Bibles either in English or Spanish. Don’t worry about your personal markings in your Bible, those extra study notes are helpful to the prisoners who receive your Bible. Please bring any used Bibles (or new Bibles if you like) to the RBA office and we will deliver them to the folks at Bon Air. We want to help get the Word of God into the hands of those persons who so desperately need to read it. This is another good mission project in our “Jerusalem.”

**FREE WOOD MULCH**

Recently the RBA had a number of large trees cut down and shredded into wood chips. It was cost effective to dump the wood chips here on our property rather than having them hauled to the landfill. We have lots of wood chips (seven truck loads) that we would love to give away. There is no cost for the mulch; however, you must load and haul it yourself. Call Pete du Plessis for more information or to make arrangements to pick up your free load(s) of wood chip mulch. By the way, most of the wood was oak.

**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 summer 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 $0.42 “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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