John 15:17
This is my command:
Love each other.

1 John 4:19
We love because He first loved us

John 4:10
This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 Cor. 16:14
Do everything in love.

1 John 4:8
Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
I’m not sure that Greg Laurie is the next Dr. Billy Graham, but he is the senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside and Irvine California. In 1990, Greg Laurie began holding large-scale evangelistic events called Harvest Crusades. Since then more than 5,000,000 people have attended Harvest Crusades held around the United States, Australia and New Zealand. More importantly, nearly 440,000 people have registered professions of faith through these outreach crusades.

Greg Laurie is also the author of Tell Someone: You Can Share the Good News. It is not a large tome but a small, very readable work written to encourage and inspire you and me to share our faith and engage others with the gospel message. The book was not written to make the reader feel badly or to condemn anyone if they have not engaged others with the gospel. It is a book of stories — stories from Greg Laurie’s life of both failures and successes in his attempts to share his faith. It is also a book embedded with Biblical principles that you and I can apply to daily life, strengthening our ability to share our faith and to guide others toward the most important decision they will ever make in their life.

Greg muses, “In some ways I was not meant to be. You see, I was conceived out of wedlock. I was not planned by my beautiful, hard-partying mother, as she met up with some man in Long Beach, California. They had an alcohol-fueled night of passion together and never really had a relationship beyond that. When my mother found out that she was pregnant, she quickly married another man she was involved with at the time, and his name was listed on my birth certificate as my biological father.”

But here’s the good news, for me at least: though not planned by my mother, my life was indeed planned by God. This was just one in a long string of one-night stands and failed marriages that littered my mother’s life...and mine. Most of the guys my mom was attracted to were similar: barfly types. Usually he had one too many shirt buttons undone, fast talking and loose living. When it was all said and done, she married and divorced seven times, with a lot of guys in between.”

In his book’s introduction, Laurie explains how he came to know the man whose last name became his and how in his quest for truth and purpose he concluded that the world of alcohol to which his mother had exposed him and the world of drugs with which he had begun to experiment were not the answers. Out of sheer curiosity, he decided to check out a group of “Jesus Freaks” on his college campus, hovering close enough to eavesdrop on what they were saying but not so close that others would think he was joining them, an act which at that time he regarded as social suicide!

Their apparent happiness in life triggered for him the question, “What if the Christians are right? What if God can be known in a personal way?” As Laurie eavesdropped he was struck by the speaker’s statement, “Jesus said, ‘You are either for Me or against Me!’” He looked around at the Christians and thought, “They are certainly for Him. And since I am not one of them, I wonder, Am I against Jesus Christ?”

And that was the day that he put his faith in Christ. Ten years later Greg Laurie reached out to the only real man in the long string of relationships his mother had entered and left, the man who had adopted him and whose last name he bore. He found him living in New Jersey. They visited, Greg told his story and subsequently led his father to commitment to Christ and a life of fifteen years of dedicated service in church and in the community as a fresh believer deeply dedicated to Christ. Greg simply told his story of Jesus.

As I prepared to preach yesterday from John 4, I was struck by the simplicity of the testimony of the Samaritan woman, who after meeting Jesus at Jacob’s well, went back into the town of Sychar to invite the men of the town to come and see Him. “From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, He told me all the things that I have done.” What a remarkably simple testimony and what an astonishing harvest that resulted! Ten words, and many believed!

What is your story, your testimony, about your encounters with Jesus throughout your life? People are more open than you might think to listen, not so much to what we have done, but to what He has done. They want to hear! The Great Commission is still our most urgent directive from the lips of the One Who offered His last earthly words as some of His most urgent.

Remember, our testimony about Jesus Christ is just as relevant in the 21st century as it was in the 20th! Mike McDaniel, author of The Resurgent Church reminds us that “The same needs of the human heart since the fall of man — meaning, purpose, hope, and reconciliation — still exist in the hearts of people today. And the church has the number one message of reconciliation. The goal is to be the expression of Jesus in your context.” He offers this advice:

1. **Reread the Bible with a missional hermeneutic.** Read it as a call from God to live out His mission to see His Kingdom come and His will to be done.
2. **Get out of the office (your house) and learn to be with and to love the lost people in your community.** They are there. Go find them and love them.
3. **Compile a community profile.** Research the ages, income, racial profile, work places, spending habits, and primary stressors of your community’s people.
4. **Reconsider your strategy.** Don’t be afraid to let go of old practices to do what will be more effective in your present context.
5. **Mobilize into the community.** Gathering will occur after you go out to love and engage your community, warts and all.

Get to know the people in your world. Love them. Serve them. Tell them your stories of what Jesus has done. Invite them to join you in following Him.

Happy New Year! May it be a fruit-filled one!

Expectantly and excitedly,

Mike
CORRECTION: I forgot to update the information after I copied and pasted last month. Please check below for the correct information. My apologies, Danette

COMMUNITY MISSIONARY - REV. JENNIFER TURNER
400 South Pine Street Richmond, VA 23220
(Located in Pine Street Baptist Church)
jennifer.turner@rbaonline.org (804-648-1353)

NEEDED FOR OUR HOMELESS MINISTRY:
WALMART, ALDI, & FOOD-LION GIFT CARDS: to be used toward purchasing Snack Bag Items for Homeless
GLOVES: Waterproof & Knit GLOVES (men & women)
HATS: Solid Color (black or Navy blue) winter HATS for MEN
SCARVES: Solid Color Scarves for MEN
SOCKS: Warm (men & women)
SWEAT SHIRTS (men & women) - especially hoodies
LONG JOHN PANTS & SHIRTS (men & women)
BLANKETS: (used, but clean are fine)
SLEEPING BAGS: (used, but clean are fine)
HAND & FOOT WARMERS: (Walmart, Target, Dicks, Bass Pro Shop, etc.)

NEEDED FOR OTHER MINISTRIES:
WALMART, ALDI, FOOD-LION Gift Cards - to supplement food for Food Pantry & other food/snack needs for OHBC programs.

One Day Unlimited GRTC Bus Pass - ($3.50 each) Can be purchased at Kroger Customer Service Counters

2019 PARTY FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS VALENTINE SOCIAL
Friday, February 8 7:00 p.m. —9:00 p.m.
Monument Heights Baptist Church
5716 Monument Avenue, Richmond
RSVP on or by February 5 to: Linda Beasley:
beaslln49@yahoo.com
Entertainment: Billy Walker
Lively music and square dance caller

2019 Mileage Rates
The IRS mileage rates for 2019 for the use of a vehicle are:
• 58 cents per mile for business miles driven;
• 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes;
• 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

2019 Mileage Rates

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2019 Mileage Rates

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AAFFA Preaching Camp
February 8, 2019 - February 9, 2019 (All Day)
New Bethel Baptist Church
1739 9th Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

For more information, contact Dr. Jerome Lee.
Bible Study – Spiritual food, fellowship and prayer provided at our Body and Soul Bible study every Friday morning from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Lunch provided. If you, your mission group or church would like to provide lunch it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Glinda.

Clothes Closet – Shop for men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing. There is a separate career closet for those needing outfits for job interviews or work. Operating hours are Monday’s from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Food Pantry – Food bags are distributed on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, first-come-first-served for zip code 23223 only. SAVE your paper grocery bags that have handles. CHCWC’s clients have to carry their groceries down a flight of stairs and then many of them walk home. The handles make it much easier for them to carry.

One Day Unlimited GRTC Bus Pass - ($3.50 each) Can be purchased at Kroger Customer Service Counters.

Nontraditional Ministry Education Scholarships

Now Available

Through Cooperative Missions offerings, the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) provides scholarships and ministerial education funds for eligible Virginia Baptist students who need aid in financing their education.

Deadline: Applications must be submitted each semester. Scholarship applications are due into the BGAV Scholarship Office by the first day of the month in which the term you are taking begins.

https://bgav.org/financial-resources/scholarships/nontraditional/

Dear ACP Contact Persons and Pastors,

Please take the time to fill out the 2018 ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE (ACP) survey. I have attached a hyperlink for your convenience on the home page of our website. If you need a paper copy please let me know.

I appreciate you taking the time to fill this out. I need to get my records up to date.

Thank you so much. Blessings upon you,

Danette Moen
Exec. Director’s Assistant, Financial Coordinator
(804) 329-1701 (101)
office@rbaonline.org
www.richmondbaptist.org

Journey: A Retreat for High School

Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center
1 Eagle Eyrie Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24503

Journey is a retreat for high school students and is designed to give them the tools they need to be lifelong learners, leaders, and disciples of Christ.

Visit the Eagle Eyrie website (http://eagleeyrie.org/) for information on cost and lodging options for your group!

For program information, contact Scott Quirin (scott.quirin@bgav.org).
To help church staff and church lay leaders understand and comply with the tax laws, a series of FREE seminars sponsored by the Compensation Planning Ministry of the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) will be held across the state in February and March 2019. The seminars will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m. with refreshments provided.

The seminars are designed for church staff and lay leaders who handle taxes and compensation. Attendees will get help with compensation planning for church staff (including retirement and insurance), handling minister’s taxes, and federal reporting requirements for churches. Jeff Cranford, Compensation Planning Specialist, Congregational Field Staff, BGAV, will lead the seminars.

February 28, 2019 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Virginia Baptist Resource Center, Henrico

For more information about the seminars please contact:

Jeff Cranford
Field Strategist, Central Region; Compensation Planning Specialist
804.921.3945
jeff.cranford@bgav.org

For more information about using Camp Alkulana as a retreat location please go to www.alkulana.org or call Beth Wright at (804) 329-1701 ext. 114

Camp Alkulana depends on the hard work and dedicated hearts of our volunteers. Plan your mission experience now! There are many ways you can be involved at Alkulana:

Work Retreats
Plan a work retreat to bring your group to camp for a day or weekend of volunteering to clean, repair, sew, build...or whatever else needs to be done. We have facilities needs at all skill levels. We have regularly scheduled work days in the spring each year or we can work with your group to plan a separate weekend.

Collections
Plan a collection drive at your church. At various times we can use clothing, costumes (including old dresses and suits), crafts supplies, medical supplies, and gently used books. Call the RBA office to find out what our current needs are.

Hospitality
The ministry of hospitality can go a long way! We can always use home baked goods to treat our campers and staff during events during the year or throughout the summer.

The Insert Pages, (white sheets) are designed with sections that can be cut and used as bulletin inserts, bulletin board notices or Prayer Guides for Sunday School classes, Small groups, Mission groups, etc.

If you would like something put in the next TRANSFORMED! or a future TRANSFORMED! Please send it to office@rbaoine.org. Please put newsletter or TRANSFORMED in the Subject line so I will be able to see it when checking emails.

Most links for the ads in the TRANSFORMED! can be found on the RCFN website: www.richmondbaptist.org/news-events/

Please mark your calendar for the SPRING Clean Up and Work Days. Plan to come to camp May 18th and June 1st to help us ready the facilities for our summer season. Painting, cleaning, yard work and light construction are all tasks on these volunteer days.
FEBRUARY is the month SRBC asks the children to bring in their REPORT CARDS and PROGRESS REPORTS to the center in order to receive school supplies or a new backpack.

By February most if not all the supplies that were given out at the beginning of school are used up. If you have school supplies left over from past projects or if you would like to buy new supplies for the children I know it would be greatly appreciated.

By seeing the REPORT CARDS and PROGRESS REPORTS it gives those helping at the SRBC a chance to congratulate or encourage the children in their pursuit of success. (Or maybe a little extra, needed encouragement to hang on.)

Please accept our thanks in advance.

Thank you so much!
LEIGH STREET: Sunday, January 6, 2019, 11:00 AM, Leigh Street held a celebration honoring the Rev. Dr. James R. Colvin for his 35 years of dedicated service to the church and its members. Dr. Colvin served with the International Mission Board for 12 years. He and his wife Martha have three children: two sons, Dr. Christopher Colvin of Cape Town, South Africa and Charlottesville, VA, and Jonathan Colvin of Richmond; and a daughter, Elizabeth Colvin O’Rourke of Dothan, Alabama. 

Feb. 15-16 – 2019 Vacation Bible School Curriculum Fair at The Resource Center (Thurs. preview 1-4pm, Fri. 1-5pm, Sat. 10am-2pm), partnering with Cokesbury for special discounts

For current resource needs, contact staff: Phone: 804-358-8306
Email: info@resourcingchurches.com
Search collection on the website – www.resourcingchurches.com

Visit: Tuesday-Friday, noon – 6pm
4TH Floor of Kingsley Hall (just beyond Wilder Library)
The Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University
1500 N. Lombardy Street
Richmond, VA 23220

To pray for missions means to communicate with God on behalf of missions work, people involved in missions work, and people that need to know and accept God’s redeeming love. WMUV encourages people of all ages to emphasize prayer in following Jesus’ command to love God and love others.
Transformed! is published monthly by the River City Faith Network of the Richmond Baptist Association

Contact: Danette Moen via phone (804) 329-1701 ext.101, email or USPS at the addresses listed above:
- To submit an article: it must be received by the 4th of each month.
- To be added to or deleted from the mailing list, or
- To submit a change of address: in a timely manner so that the Network will not incur postage due costs for undeliverable newsletters.

Thank you for your continued support of RCFN

Deaf Mission, First, Richmond
Derbyshire Cambodian Friendship Memorial
Hatcher Memorial
Mount Carmel
Woodland Heights

Pray for the RCFN Church of the Week

FEB 3.........................Camp Alkulana
FEB. 10......................Church Hill Center
FEB. 17.......................Oregon Hill Center
FEB. 24 ...............South Richmond Center

She extends her hand to the poor, and she stretches out her hands to the needy. (Proverbs 31:20) NASB

Making a Delivery to the RCFN/RBA Office?
Please call before you plan to arrive to make sure that someone will be at the office. There are times during the day when everyone may be away, so it will save time and gas to call ahead. The RCFN Office is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Thursday.

2018 December RCFN Budget Report

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Writers’ Block is a new periodic feature in the “Transformed!”.
It is designed to give exposure to Christian authors related to the RCFN whose work sometimes goes virtually unknown. Inclusion in this column is in no way an endorsement of the viewpoints or opinions expressed by the author. Authors are encouraged to submit their information.
(See the RCFN website: www.richmondbaptist.org)