In the interest of keeping our staff, their families and the larger community as virus free as possible, I have encouraged RCFN staff to work from home as much as possible. I have asked them to limit their public contact to only that which is absolutely necessary.

At this time Camp Alkulana registrations continue online. Food distributions and other most essential services administered through our three centers are being carried out in a “drive-through” fashion. Danette is making regular trips to the office to process contributions, pay bills and maintain RCFN financial order.

Know that during this difficult time you, your family, and your church are in our prayers from our “home offices” at RCFN. I don’t need to remind you that God does not have the heavenly host meeting in emergency session. He is fully aware of this global challenge and I am convinced that He will see us through this crisis as He has so many times before throughout human history. Even now He is giving wisdom and incredible strength to those who are working on the medical front and in government to deal with the health and economic stresses of this day that are impacting us all in ways unlike anything the world has experienced heretofore. Pray for them as they work.

As we respect one another’s safety; reach out to each other with encouragement, care, and hope especially for the aged and isolated; as we demonstrate Christ’s care for those who do not yet embrace faith or who may be skeptical; and as we prayerfully cooperate with the guidance given us by those on the front lines combatting the pandemic we will emerge better and stronger than when we entered this current opportunity for renewed faith and creative ministries.

The Richmond Race has been postponed, the date has not been decided yet.

Please do NOT bake or send cookies
Thank you so much!!!
On our local news channels it is becoming “normal” to see news anchors sitting or standing “six feet” apart and watching interviews take place from news contributors who are in their living room, home office, on their deck or by the pool. How crazy the world has become!

At this writing we are in day 21 of social distancing and have 24 more days to go to reach the April 30th benchmark when social distancing may come to an end or begin to be less critical. In New York city the coronavirus intubations, emergency room admissions, and numbers of deaths seem to have leveled and may be in slight decline, but no one is quite ready to declare even a modest victory!

And we are in the middle of Holy Week—a Holy Week unlike any you and I have experienced in our lifetimes. In previous years, as a pastor I would have ensured by now that the elements needed for the Passover Seder were in place and ready for the week’s Maundy Thursday observance. But this year Palm Sunday messages were often delivered from Pastors’ studies or empty sanctuaries and streamed on YouTube or Zoom. You may have tuned in to the worship services provided by other churches who were on television or on their website. How crazy the world has become!

As we remain at home, work from home, and seem “stuck” at home let’s not despair! I know! Easier said than done, but nonetheless, necessary; most of us have friends and family who need encouragement and hope and our prayers.

While at home during this unusual season, allow me to offer some bulleted “survival” suggestions:

- Establish a schedule and stick to it, especially if there are children in the house. Children are reassured by the predictability and calm that schedules provide.
- Create physical lists of things that you or the family need or want to do to offer guidance to your schedule. As you accomplish some of the objectives on your list each day, mark them off to reinforce a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment.
- If not at “home alone,” intentionally schedule some family time to work puzzles, play games, and have fun. Limit solo time with the “electronic babysitters” that further distance us from one another. Be sure to get outside if possible.
- If “home alone” (or not) set aside time to make phone calls, write notes or emails, text, or facetime neighbors, friends, relatives, fellow church members, others to check in and to express care and concern. Listen for additions to your prayer list and your “meet a need list.” How you reach out in His Name may be the thing most remembered by someone else after this season comes to a close and we move on with our lives.
- Limit news intake to between 30 and 60 minutes daily. Be informed to help you live well and pray well, but avoid the daylong emersion in the Coronavirus Pandemic that will only heighten stress and anxiety.
- Navigate feelings honestly. Many are suffering loss, sometimes through death, job loss, unusual isolation, economic challenges, or the disappearance of normalcy. Foster conversations about what we feel we have lost. Name the losses. Write them down. Name the things for which we are grateful. Someone in a conversation yesterday mentioned something that to them was a “silver lining” in the situation. So, there might be two lists, LOSS and GRATITUDE, or HIGHS and LOWS.
- Encourage parents with children. They may be working from home while juggling childcare. Without any formal training they have become teacher, principal, school administrator, resource teacher, and counselor while still being mom or dad. Many parents are feeling very overwhelmed. If you or someone you know has a background in education, partner long distance with these challenged parents who are swimming in unfamiliar waters.

Use some of the additional time for Bible reading and study. This might be the time to focus on a particular book of the Bible or a biblical theme you have long wanted to explore. Certainly, give attention to the events of Jesus’ last week, death, burial and resurrection. It IS still Holy Week!

Remember to pray for and support your pastor, church staff and leadership, and fellow Christ followers. Many are scrambling to learn new ways to relate through social media as they deal with social distancing. They, too, are swimming in unfamiliar waters! They are dealing with broken schedules, lost opportunities to minister, and adjustments to doing ministry in ways heretofore unthought of. Who ever heard of a virtual funeral service? A virtual wedding shower? Virtual Sunday school classes? YouTube discipleship?

Continue to give generously to the ministries God is still doing through your church or missions organization. There are many fixed expenses that will still need to be met. Utilities, insurance, and maintenance bills will still come in the mail and need to be paid. Ministry expenses are still being incurred. Debt retirement goes on, regardless of the coronavirus. Your staff and their families are counting on your faithfulness for their livelihood.

Know that God is not in a panic over coronavirus. On the wall in the master bathroom at my house is little plaque daily reminding me from II Samuel 22:2, “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.” Verses 3 and 4 continue, “…My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; My Savior;.... I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,” He is at work caring, guiding decisions, giving wisdom, revealing resources, bringing comfort, providing healing to many, rendering solace in the face of loss. His compassion is new every morning and He will see us through this time.

You, your families, our churches, our nation and our world are in my prayers as we move forward. The end of this and a new beginning are on the way!

Confidently,

Mike
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)

Khakis, Jeans and Shorts (Especially sizes 32—36)

DESPERATE NEED FOR MEN’S SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHES
Please NO suits, dress shirts, ties or dress shoes! ONLY casual, comfortable, clean clothes for men on the street and in the heat.

- Khakis, Jeans and Shorts
- White Socks
- New men’s boxer underwear
- Short and long sleeve t-shirts “polo”
- Light weight jackets

Rev. Jennifer Turner of the Oregon Hill Baptist Center has found a new way of ministering to the homeless.

1 Thessalonians 5:18
Give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
This year Church Hill Christian Wellness Center is starting early for their Back to School Celebration. You can start now collecting and you choose which of these items will be your project.

**Back to School**

- **SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR**
- **BACKPACKS**
- **Toiletries**

**Have Fun Collecting**

“Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst.”

Rev. Glinda Ford knows how much the Friday Bible Study means to those she ministers to. Not everyone has a computer so she decided to make their Bible Study available via telephone. She will be teaching the word of the Lord via their prayer line. She has 40 people signed up. You can join the Bible study conversation by dialing 1-712-770-5505, enter access code 909842#, and mute your phone unless you want to make a comment.

In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

Jeremiah 29:12—13
Surgical Mask Instructions

Cut 2 pieces of fabric 7 1/2" X 8"
Cut 2 pieces of Bias tape or cut / fold fabric of your choice to be the ends
Cut 2 pieces of elastic band 6" long if you want to stitch it to the corners.
You can also cut ribbon or elastic longer than the 6" to be used as ties. This makes it adjustable. If you don't have ribbon, cut, fold and stitch fabric of your choice to be the ties.

Put the fabric pieces right sides together facing each other. Stitch the top, leave a section open to be able to insert a filter, if you want. (One example, I saw they used cut up vacuum cleaner bags as the filter. Make sure the vacuum cleaner bags do not use fiberglass.) PRESS and then top stitch across both sides of the slit to prevent fraying.

Fold Right sides together again and stitch the bottom. Turn Rights sides to the outside and PRESS.

Fold accordion style. Measure to make exact or eyeball 3 or 4 folds. PRESS flat.

Stitch the sides.

Use wide Bias Tape or make strips with fabric to cover the edges leaving enough space for elastic or ribbon. PRESS. Thread the elastic or ribbon through the casing. Both can be tied to be the correct size. Pull the knot into the casing.

Some examples stitch the elastic to the ends. Go online to find other types of masks.

HAPPY SEWING

We are the #AlkulanaFamily

Here's what we're working on

- Tangible Supports
  - We are connecting with our camper families to facilitate tangible supports, like grocery donations and delivery.

- Creating Connection
  - We are transitioning the Alkulana Peer Program into an online system of support for our 14-18 year old former campers.
  - Developing virtual programming to create resilience and growth for all of our campers. We will connect campers with counselors even while we can’t gather in person, have fun, and learn important life-skills.

Here's how you can help

- Stay in Touch
  - Stay connected with Alkulana via our social media and website. We'll post needs as they become apparent.

- Financial Gifts
  - Continue to give financially so that we can keep doing the same work you’ve always believed in! Additional funds may be needed as we respond in new ways. Give online at www.alkulana.org.

Beth is having online meetings with some of her staff members.
Planning online camp activities for their campers.
MOTHER’S DAY is on its way. We could use 30 plus Mother’s Day cards. We will help our youth and children celebrate their mothers with a special note written in each card.

FATHER’S DAY is not that far behind. Please also send us 30 plus Father’s Day cards. What a better way to bridge the gap between fathers and child?

Like a MOTHER to me, Like a FATHER to me, or Mentor cards are also needed.

SRBC was able to share some Easter treats with your help!

Thank you so much!

Wesley

It’s the new normal for Rev. Wesley Garrett at the South Richmond Baptist Center. 6’ away except loading the car and outside in the fresh air.

Please pray for his and all the RCFN staff’s health safety as they continue to do ministry in this time of a Pandemic.

Romans 8: 28
And we know that in all things God works for those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

Thank you for your prayers and support!
**HEARTFELT SYMPATHY to Rev. Glinda Ford and her husband, Lee, on their daughter’s, Sharda M. Ford, transition from this earthly home into her eternal home on Sunday, April 12, 2020.**

Her viewing will be Monday, April 20, 2020 from 9:00am to 6:00pm. ONLY TEN ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING AT A TIME. Graveside service Tuesday, April 21, 2020, Maury Cemetery at 1:00pm.

This summer, the Leland School of Ministry will offer it’s History & Theology of the Church (TS230) in an online format. Go to www.richmondbaptist.org for more information.

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April 18—19, 2020
RR Raceway Weekend
NO RACE—NO COOKIES
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO THIS MINISTRY.
We will let you know when the race is rescheduled.

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**MC2: Missions Connection Celebration**

**CHECK THE DATES AND TIMES OF EVENTS YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO ATTENDING. MANY HAVE CHANGED OR BEEN CANCELLED.**

If you need help finding the information for a specific event call Danette at 804-329-1701 ext 101 and she will help you.

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**IF YOU CAN SEW, YOU CAN SAVE LIVES!**

Thank you so much for sending in fabric masks for the Envoy Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. We have not quite reached our goal. Please continue to send masks! Send them to WMUV, 2828 Emerywood Parkway, Henrico, VA 23294. We will deliver them to Envoy and then to other essential staff that have requested them. Thank you. (Laura Davis WMUV ldavis@wmuv.org)

Those wishing to contribute to the effort are asked to review instructions and guidelines for homemade masks, such as the proper patterns, specific fabrics that should be used and which facilities are accepting donations.

For more information, instructions and links to video tutorials, visit the StateFairVa.org.

The State Fair of Virginia administrative office (13111 Dawn Blvd. Doswell, VA) will serve as a mask drop-off location Monday – Friday 10am – 2pm. Danette lives close to this drop off location so bring your masks to the RCFN office and she will make sure they get to the State Fair of VA office. Call first to make sure Danette will be in. 804-329-1701 ext 101
Pray for the RCFN Church of the Week

**MAY 3**........................Friendship Memorial
**MAY 10**.................................Gayton
**MAY 17**.................................Ginter Park
**MAY 24**.................................Grace
**MAY 31**.................................Gravel Hill

**RCFN Board of Directors’ Meeting**
**MAY 19, 2020, 3:30 PM?**
3111 Moss Side Ave.    Richmond, VA 23222

This meeting may be held online or may be postponed until the COVID-19 “Stay-at-Home” order is lifted. We will let you know as the situation develops.

**2020 MARCH RCFN Budget Report**

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Camp Alkulana Offering $199,000.00

YTD Budget Amount: $49,749.99
YTD Receipts: $20,702.23
YTD Expenses: $30,654.43

**Pray for the RCFN Churches seeking a PASTOR**

Bethlehem, Penick
Derbyshire Cambodian
Ginter Park
Monument Heights

**Pray for the RCFN Church of the Week**

**MAY 3**..............................Friendship Memorial
**MAY 10**...............................Gayton
**MAY 17**...............................Ginter Park
**MAY 24**...............................Grace
**MAY 31**...............................Gravel Hill

**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.

**THANK YOU for your continued support of RCFN**

Do you have a bear in your window? Many people are putting teddy bears in their windows for children to find as they walk or are driven through neighborhoods. A little fun and a safe way to connect with neighbors.

**Hey, everybody, it’s Fozzie Bear!**