

TRANSFORMED!

news of Richmond area churches...together...changing lives - December 2007

PRAY FOR
RBA CHURCHES SEEKING A PASTOR
~~~~~  
Boulevard  
Cambridge  
Fairmount Memorial  
First  
Second  
Shalom Fellowship  
Southampton  
Westhampton



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**RBA  
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**JANUARY 24, 2008**

(Note: This is a change from the regular date!)

**7:00 P.M.**

**RBA OFFICE**

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Richmond Baptist Association,  
3111 Moss Side Avenue,  
Richmond, VA 23222, 804-329-1701.

If you would like to submit an article by the 20th of each  
month, or be added or deleted from the mailing list, please  
contact Frances Jones via email or snail mail at the ad-  
dresses listed below.

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

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## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2-9

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS  
"LOTTIE MOON OFFERING"

\*\*\*\*\*

DECEMBER 3 @ 12:00 NOON  
PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS TEAM, RBA

\*\*\*\*\*

DECEMBER 3, 4 & 5—9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM  
DELIVER CHRISTMAS STORE GIFTS TO ST. PAUL'S SOUTH  
(FOR SOUTH RICHMOND & OREGON HILL CENTERS)  
QUESTIONS, CONTACT: MARGARET ALLEN 232-0174

\*\*\*\*\*

DECEMBER 5 @ 12:00 NOON  
MINISTER'S LUNCH AT PICCADILLY ON BROAD

\*\*\*\*\*

DECEMBER 5, 6 & 7—10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM  
DELIVER CHRISTMAS STORE GIFTS TO BETHLEHEM FAIRMOUNT  
(FOR CHURCH HILL CENTER)  
QUESTIONS, CONTACT GLINDA FORD 780-0053

\*\*\*\*\*

DECEMBER 6 & 7—9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM  
CHRISTMAS STORE @ ST. PAUL'S SOUTH  
FOR SOUTH RICHMOND & OREGON HILL CENTER

\*\*\*\*\*

DECEMBER 8—8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM  
CHRISTMAS STORE @ BETHLEHEM FAIRMOUNT  
FOR CHURCH HILL WELLNESS CENTER

\*\*\*\*\*

DECEMBER 12 @ 12:00 NOON  
EARLY DEADLINE FOR *TRANSFORMED* NEWSLETTER MATERIALS

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DECEMBER 24, 2007 — JANUARY 1, 2008  
RBA OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY  
AND NEW YEAR'S



The Staff of the  
Richmond Baptist  
Association  
Wishes you and yours  
a  
Very Merry Christmas  
and  
A New Year  
filled with  
God's Richest Blessings!

## FROM YOUR DOM, PETE DU PLESSIS

Greetings!

It is almost surprising to realize that 2007 is quickly coming to an end. As the saying goes, "My, how time flies when you are having fun." Yes, this has indeed been a wonderful year for the Richmond Baptist Association. Last year, I wrote in my article that 2006 had been a good year. Now I must say that 2007 has been a fantastic year! It is certainly appropriate that we give thanks for God's many blessings on us this year. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 we read: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, **in everything give thanks**; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Let me suggest a few things that we are grateful for as we reflect on 2007.

First, we are thankful for the work and vision of our churches in seeking to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Our purpose as "ambassadors for Christ" is to be actively involved in the ministry of reconciliation whereby we seek to bring a lost and dying world into a right relationship with a loving and forgiving God (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). If we don't have a purpose, then we won't have a passion. And without a passion, we won't be involved in the mission. Thank God we are privileged to have a real purpose for living in being His witnesses with our lives. We have purpose, we have passion, we have mission.

We are grateful for the diversity and ethnicity within the 72 churches and missions that make up the Richmond Baptist Association. The RBA is blessed to have 47 white churches, 18 African American churches, and 7 international churches and two or three new church starts on the horizon. Each church is unique in its style of worship, organization, building, and ministries, but we all are united under the banner of the Cross of Jesus Christ. And even with our differences within the Baptist family, we are one in the bond of love as Christ commanded us to be (John 13:35). Together we can do so much more for the Kingdom of God than any one of us could do alone.

We are thankful for the many ministries provided by our three Baptist Centers and Camp Alkulana. So many lives have been touched and transformed by the love of Christ shared by our community missionaries and their extensive volunteer staff members. The City of Richmond is our spiritual responsibility and we do not take that lightly. We endeavor to let our light shine in the darkness (Matthew 5:16). The fields around us are truly "white for harvest" (John 4:35). God is at work all around us and we want to join Him in making a difference in Richmond.

We are grateful to God for His financial provisions for our churches and through them to the Richmond Baptist Association. Once again, the RBA will end this financial year in the black. It is the hope of the Administrative Council that we will be able to make another good deposit into our Endowment Fund at the end of this year. And we praise God for the bountiful Week of Prayer/Camp Alkulana Offering. The offering goal was exceeded and thus established a good Emergency Reserve Fund to provide for those crises that come along in operating a mountain camp facility.

Of course, we all know that God is good all the time, but God was especially good to the RBA during the year of our Lord – 2007.

## "A Living Legacy"

The Richmond Baptist Association was so proud when the Weatherford Memorial Baptist Church gave itself away to The Saint Paul's Baptist Church in 2005. The wonderful story of Weatherford Memorial has been put into a recently published book – ***A Living Legacy, The Church Which Gave Itself Away***. The authors are Nancy R. Elliott and Alberta L. Lindsey. This wonderful story is available from the RBA office for \$8.00 per copy. It will stir your heart to read how God blessed this faithful congregation through the years.

The Richmond Baptist Association was also proud when The Saint Paul's Baptist Church had a special worship service at their South location (previously Weatherford Memorial) on October 27, 2007 marking what would have been the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Weatherford Memorial Baptist Church. The congregation placed a large brass plaque on the exterior of the building at the entrance to the sanctuary. It reads as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE SAINT PAUL'S BAPTIST CHURCH  
DEDICATED TO THE  
GLORY OF GOD  
September 25, 2005**

**In an unprecedented and historic act of generosity, the beloved members of Weatherford Memorial Baptist Church gave this land and these buildings to The Saint Paul's Baptist Church that this "light in South Richmond" might continue to be used to achieve a great victory for the Kingdom that results in the salvation of many souls and an incredible witness to the glory of God!**

**Dr. Ricky Hurst, Pastor  
Weatherford Memorial Baptist Church**

**Dr. Lance D. Watson, Pastor  
The Saint Paul's Baptist Church**

\*\*\*\*\*

The 5:00 p.m. Saturday worship service was truly a celebration of God's blessing on both congregations in this "passing of the baton" for Christian witness and outreach. Pastor Lance Watson spoke so graciously about the people of Weatherford Memorial and their vision of a continued Christian witness on that corner. The RBA commends both the congregations of Weatherford Memorial and Saint Paul's for keeping the legacy alive and well and keeping the light on in South Richmond.

### OCTOBER 2007 BUDGET REPORT

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Budget Amount:   | \$ 54,625.00 |
| Budget Receipts: | \$ 82,898.49 |
| Budget Expenses: | \$ 64,804.28 |

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| YTD Amount:   | \$546,250.00 |
| YTD Receipts: | \$627,213.87 |
| YTD Expenses: | \$547,519.38 |

## Advance Notice

**SPECIAL NEEDS RETREAT  
OCTOBER 17-19, 2008  
EAGLE EYRIE BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER**

**2008 THEME:  
OUTRIGGER ISLAND: LIVING GOD'S  
UNSHAKEABLE TRUTH (Lifeway)**

Psalm 86:11- *Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.*

This retreat is for youth and adults (ages 15 and up) with special needs who are trainable and educable from individual families, church classes or group homes. Retreat program involves music, small group classes (for students, parents, church leaders and chaperones), Talent shows, Square Dancing, Worship & much more. Faculty includes Special Education teachers, Church leaders, and persons with a passionate heart for individuals with special needs. A nurse is also provided, in the event of medical needs or emergencies.

For further information, contact Rod Miller, Director, Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center 434-384-2211 or [rod.miller@vbmb.org](mailto:rod.miller@vbmb.org) or Mary Buckner, Retreat Coordinator 434-973-7473 or [mary@springhillbaptist.org](mailto:mary@springhillbaptist.org).

## ! ATTENTION ! SPANISH SPEAKING MINISTERS

**Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary** is launching a Bi-lingual Spanish Doctor of Ministry track - the first in the Seminary's history. This track is designed for Spanish-speaking ministers and provides men and women in all kinds of vocational ministry an opportunity to integrate theology, theories, skills, and personhood in the practice of ministry excellence. Regular D.Min faculty will be joined by leading Spanish-speaking practitioners in the seminars. The track will begin at the Southern California Campus in Brea, California in November of 2008 with an application deadline of March 15, 2008. If you are or know of a Spanish speaking minister with an M.Div or equivalent with at least three years of pastoral experience this course of study might be of interest.

For more information contact the seminary at [dmin@ggbts.edu](mailto:dmin@ggbts.edu) or call us toll free at 1-888-442-8703.

## A WORD FROM NITA MAY, CVBM .....

Greetings,

I cannot believe that it has been an entire year since I accepted the position as Regional Ministries Coordinator for Central Virginia Baptist Ministries. In this short time I have felt so blessed to work with so many of you. I have had the opportunity to visit a number of the 179 churches that make up CVBM and see God at work. There are many more that I plan to visit. I have sensed God's leadership as the three associations networked together in shared missions and ministries that have included the Pastor/Deacon Conference, Vacation Bible School, Raceway Ministries, the State Fair Ministry, the Leadership Development Conference, and local mission projects. I've had the opportunity to pray with you, study God's word with you, and serve with you on the mission field.

It's exciting to serve God! To get to know other believers and to have the awesome responsibility to reach others for Christ. To go out into the world to see where we can glimpse signs of a God like the one we read about in the scriptures. To use the gifts God has blessed us with as we serve together. I thank you sincerely for your encouragement and support. Serving together with you has helped me pay attention to special places where God has been present in my own life. To better see God's presence in the midst of the mundane. And that's what I think I love the most about serving as the Regional Ministries Coordinator for CVBM. It is realizing the promise God makes to us in Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

That scripture has become the tagline for CVBM. Three associations (Dover, Middle District, & Richmond) gathering together. As CVBM make plans for future missions and ministries, I ask for your continued prayer that God would make known where He is leading CVBM. And that we would all be faithful in following God's call in our lives.

My prayer for each of us this Christmas season is that we would have the joy of realizing the excitement of search and discovery that comes from trusting God with our lives. I count it a privilege to serve Christ with you.

Blessings....

**Rev. Nita May, Regional Ministries Coordinator,**  
Central Virginia Baptist Ministries  
7200 Cogbill Road, Chesterfield, VA 23832  
(H) 271-8299, (cell) 332-4670; (e) [nita.may@cvbm.org](mailto:nita.may@cvbm.org)

## 2007 FINANCIAL BOOKS

We will be closing the 2007 Financial Books on January 18, 2008. Any contributions that you desire to be included in 2007 need to be sent in and postmarked by December 31. Thanks!

## HELP/SITUATIONS WANTED

**DAYTIME CUSTODIAN** needed for 20 hours per week. For more information call the Gayton Baptist Church office at 360-2801. The church is located at 13501 N. Gayton Road, Richmond 23233.

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**PIANIST** needed at **Jahnke Road Baptist Church**, Richmond. Good Pay! Friendly Church! Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. If interested, please call: (804) 232-3551 or email: jahnkerbc@juno.com.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Southside Baptist Church** at 6000 Ironbridge Road is looking for a **VERY GOOD CHURCH PIANIST**. Play for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening worship and Wednesday choir practice. Compensation in line with experience. Contact denisT1000@hotmail.com or call church office at 271-9257 (M-F, 9-2).

\*\*\*\*\*  
**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 [NewCovenaBC@aol.com](mailto:NewCovenaBC@aol.com) or you can mail a resume to: New Covenant Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 7250 Patterson Ave, Richmond VA 23229

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**TEAM MEMBERS** needed for the RBA's Strategy Work Team for LAMP (Latin American Missions Project) that is forming. If you have an interest in reaching out to Latinos in our community, please contact Pete du Plessis (329-1701 or [peted@rbaonline.org](mailto:peted@rbaonline.org)) and he will be glad to give you more details about this ministry.

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**RBA DISASTER RELIEF TEAM MEMBERS** needed. The Virginia Baptist Mission Board is endeavoring to establish a Disaster Relief Communications Network for the State. The Board would like each local association to form a team to better assist with communication and coordination of the Baptist relief efforts in Richmond. If you have an interest in serving on the RBA Team, please contact Pete du Plessis at 329-1701 or [peted@rbaonline.org](mailto:peted@rbaonline.org).

### HOST CHURCHES NEEDED FOR 2008 RBA:

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

**FEBRUARY 21**

**MAY 15**

**AUGUST 21**

**NOVEMBER 20**

#### RBA SPRING CELEBRATION

**APRIL 17 @ 7:00 P.M.**

If your church is interested in hosting one of these meetings or if you have questions, contact Frances Jones or Pete du Plessis at the RBA at 804-329-1701 as soon as possible.

## AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

### CHURCH NEWS

**BON AIR** recently sent a mission team to Lima, Peru in response to the latest earthquakes and tremors that have destroyed homes and displaced families. They will send volunteers to set up and be personal shopping assistants during store hours for the South Richmond Baptist Center Christmas Store. Rev. Jim Sanderson, pastor of sister church, Mimico Baptist Church (Toronto), and others will be present for the Week of Prayer for International Missions. **FIRST** will also send a group of volunteers to the South Richmond Center to help set up the store which also serves the Oregon Hill Center. **GAYTON** is sending volunteers to help build a Habitat for Humanity house. They also have a couple traveling to Malaysia to lead a retreat for missionary leaders in South Asia. **HATCHER MEMORIAL** is continuing their Wednesday night study, Effective Parenting in a Defective World. **HUGUENOT ROAD** is sending volunteers to work at the Christmas Store at the South Richmond Center. They have also collected Thanksgiving food for CCHASM (Chesterfield Colonial Heights Alliance for Social Ministry). **NEW COVENANT** is excited to have their Sanctuary Renovation progressing. **OAKWOOD MEMORIAL** will send volunteers to help with intake, set up, and "minding the store" for the Oregon Hill Center. **RIVER ROAD** is also sending volunteers to help with the RBA Christmas Stores. **WESTHAMPTON** is sending a team of volunteers to Charlotte, NC to work in the Operation Christmas Child distribution center. **WOODLAND HEIGHTS** will send volunteers to help at the Christmas Stores. **MANY, MANY RBA CHURCHES** are collecting clothes, toys and money for our three Baptist Centers. With help from our churches, last year we helped Oregon Hill serve 49 families and 108 children; South Richmond served 111 families and 225 children; and Church Hill served 87 families and 259 children. **THANK YOU!!!!**

### STAFF NEWS

**RIVER ROAD** welcomes Jeanne Wetherall as their Financial Secretary. **STAPLES MILL ROAD** has called and ordained Rev. Mike Bowles as their new Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Missions.

### THE RICHMOND AREA DIPLOMA COURSE OFFERINGS FOR

**JOHN LELAND CENTER FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

#### 2008 SPRING SEMESTER

##### MONDAY

STUDIES IN THE PROPHETS, TAUGHT BY JEFF CRANFORD

##### TUESDAY

BAPTIST BELIEF AND HISTORY (TBA)

##### THURSDAY

FORMATION FOR MINISTRY, TAUGHT BY KEITH SMITH

**CLASSES BEGIN ON JANUARY 28, 2008**

**ALL CLASSES HELD AT DERBYSHIRE BAPTIST CHURCH,**  
8800 Derbyshire Road., Richmond, VA 23229

#### QUESTIONS & REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Contact: Dr. Keith Smith @ Derbyshire  
[nksmith@derbyshirebaptist.org](mailto:nksmith@derbyshirebaptist.org) or 804-740-7238 x22

## PRAY FOR THE RBA CHURCH OF THE WEEK

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>DECEMBER 2</b>  | <b>SOUTHSIDE</b>         |
| <b>DECEMBER 9</b>  | <b>STAPLES MILL ROAD</b> |
| <b>DECEMBER 16</b> | <b>STOCKTON MEMORIAL</b> |
| <b>DECEMBER 23</b> | <b>STUKELEY HALL</b>     |
| <b>DECEMBER 30</b> | <b>SWIFT CREEK</b>       |
| <b>JANUARY 6</b>   | <b>TABERNACLE</b>        |



**Offering Goal: \$ 90,000.00**  
**Received 10/31/07: \$115,167.64**

### CONGRATULATIONS TO RECENT GRADUATES OF BON SECOURS RICHMOND HEALTH SYSTEM FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE BASIC PREPARATION COURSE (PARISH NURSES)

Betty Snedden, RN, consultant for the RBA Parish Nursing ministry, sends her congratulations to the most recent class of health providers who have just completed the course to certify them to be faith community health ministers (parish nurses). At the service of dedication on November 4 in Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital Chapel, there were 14 graduating students, seven of whom will serve in Richmond Baptist Association churches. Some of these churches already have one or more parish nurses, but for two churches (River Road and Saint Paul's) it will be a new ministry. Since the beginning of this ministry in Virginia in 1997, the number of Richmond churches with a parish nurse has increased from two to ten. We give thanks to these dedicated ladies for their love and care for their brothers and sisters in Christ, as they aim to keep the fellowship well and fit for His service. The seven new RBA Parish Nurses are:

Jana L. Bell, Saint Paul's  
Kimberly Ketter, Saint Paul's  
Justine Lee, Bethlehem (Penick)  
Bonnie K. Livick, River Road  
Cheryl Omana, Bon Air  
Shaun Miller Rivers, Saint Paul's  
Catherine L. Sale, Sandston

Because parish nurses are well founded in the faith, their visitation of the sick and their sharing of community resource information, they can minister to the soul as well as the body. We praise God for His hand in giving them the talents and desire to serve Him and pray the very best of His blessings for these new devotees to the health care of the church community.

If you would like more information on the Parish Nursing program for your church, you can contact Betty Snedden, RBA WMU consultant and Parish Nurse for Bon Air at 233-7876.

## RBA Church Featured in

### RELIGIOUS HERALD

November 15, 2007, page 18

## Richmond church sends team to assist in Peru

BY SUE SMITH

*LUCHA Ministries*

RICHMOND—"Everything began suddenly when a group of persons from Bon Air Baptist Church in Richmond proposed a volunteer missions trip to Peru to help persons affected by the earthquake that hit the provinces of Pisco and Chincha, south of Lima," says Marcos Huarhua.

Marcos attends the Hispanic congregation that meets at Bon Air. The church invited him to be a part of the team, and this allowed the Peruvian native to return home to check on his parents, whose home had been seriously damaged by the earthquake.

The Bon Air group was the second of two Virginia Baptist teams to offer disaster relief ministries in areas around the city of Chincha Alta, Peru. The teams distributed blankets and tents purchased by Virginia Baptist Disaster Relief funds to persons who had not yet received assistance with shelter. Virginia Baptists also provided funding for the continued operation of feeding kitchens in the communities of Sunampe, Fatima and Paso Gomez. The teams also helped families clear rubble from their properties, helped build water filtration systems, and produced soymilk for distribution.

"The persons we helped were from very humble circumstances; they had built their homes from adobe, a rustic mud block material that they had made themselves, and which did not offer security at the time of the earthquake," said Marcos. Roofs caved in and walls collapsed on livestock, persons, and belongings. Many homes that were still standing were so severely damaged that they were declared unsafe, including the home of Marcos' parents. They are not yet ready to clear their lot, as there is a real threat from looters.

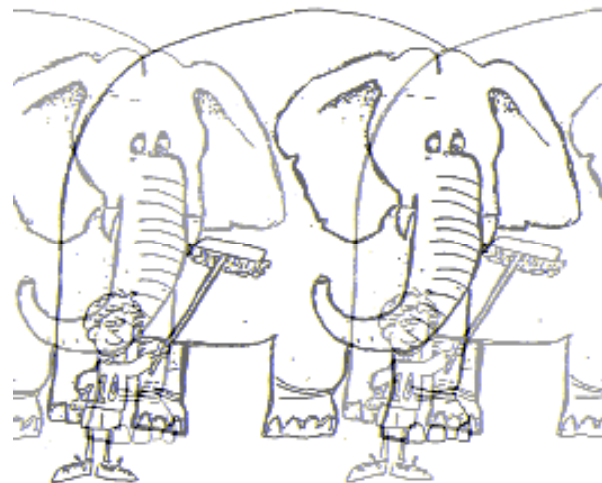
Pastor Cesar Crisostomo served as the host Peruvian pastor and local coordinator. He says that his church has been challenged to continue the work that Virginia Baptists began. "We are taking the message of the word of God to [these communities] in order to complement the material work, so that the people may see that not only by bread does man live, but above all, by the word of God."

### NEEDED: COMPLETED 2007 ACPs!

ACP Contacts of RBA churches should have received the 2007 Annual Church Profile (ACP) survey forms in the mail at the end of August. The survey provides much needed information that is vital to the ministry of the RBA.

Please take time to complete the survey forms and return them to the RBA ASAP! **The deadline was October 15, 2007. If you have any questions, call Amy Sowder at the RBA office, 329-1701 ext. 208.**

We thank you for your attention to this matter!



# Want to do Something BIG?

## Annual Fix-up and Clean-up Days at Camp Alkulana

May 17\* and May 31\*, 2008

\*Please note that these dates are in May and not June as usual.\*

Help us get ready for the summer season! Plenty to do:

Yard work ♦ Spring cleaning ♦ Light carpentry ♦ General repair

**Great bonding opportunity for church groups\***

Leave Richmond early, eat breakfast on the way. Arrive at camp by 10:00 and work until 4:00 with a lunch break. Stop in Staunton on the way home for dinner.

\*Okay for youth to come with your adult group; however, youth should understand that "normal" camp activities will not be available, as the goal is to fix up camp.

For more information and to let us know that we can count on you, call or email Gracie Kirkpatrick, Camp Director: 329-1701, ext. 206 or [alkulana@juno.com](mailto:alkulana@juno.com)

### RBA AND CAMP ALKULANA WELCOMES MISSY & JIMMY LANDRUM

Missy Landrum joined the Staff of Camp Alkulana on September 1, 2007, as the part-time Site Manager. Missy's responsibilities will include assisting with year-round weekend retreats and overall camp up-keep. Missy's husband Jimmy, who is a retired fireman, is her un-paid right hand man and will assist with maintenance needs around Camp. Missy and Jimmy are not new comers to Camp. Missy's 20 year history with Camp Alkulana began in 1988 as a BSU Summer Missionary and has continued over the summers since then. Jimmy's 13 year history with Camp started in 1994 and has continued over the years as a climbing, repelling, and first aid instructor. Missy and Jimmy were married in the outdoor sanctuary at Camp Alkulana.



Jimmy & Missy Landrum  
& Princess

The RBA joins with Gracie Kirkpatrick in welcoming Missy and Jimmy to the year-round staff of Camp Alkulana!



I have recently been re-reading What's So Amazing About Grace by Philip Yancey. He recounts the following incident:

"During a British conference on comparative religions, experts from around the world debated what, if any, belief was unique to the Christian faith. They began eliminating possibilities. Incarnation? Resurrection? No—other religions had accounts of these. The debate went on for some time until C.S. Lewis wandered into the room. 'What's the rumpus about?' he asked, and heard in reply that his colleagues were discussing Christianity's unique contribution among world religions. Louis responded, 'Oh, that's easy. It's grace.'"

After some discussion, the conferees had to agree. The notion of God's love coming to us free of charge, no strings attached, seems to go against every instinct of humanity. The Buddhist eight-fold path, the Hindu doctrine of karma, the Jewish covenant, and the Muslim code of law—each of these offer a way to earn approval. Only Christianity dares to make God's love unconditional."

Far too many of the children who come to Camp Alkulana live in a "graceless" world with little or no opportunity to know that gift of God's exquisite, unmitigated, unconditional love. This summer, like all 92 summers before, Alkulana has dispensed grace to the children of Richmond through the lives of a committed team of staff who give up their summers to make it happen!

During this season of Thanksgiving, I am reminded of the many ways in which our Richmond Baptist Association Churches contribute to this effort: for the many volunteers who give time and energy to keep the facility in good repair; for ladies who make "warm fuzzies," ditty bags and award kerchiefs; for toothpaste, soap, magic markers, etc. as WMU groups faithfully fulfill their Mission Involvement projects; for those who saved and cut out Campbell soup labels and cashed them in for a new computer for camp; for the many money and labor gifts that enabled the expansion of our dining hall this past year; for the grand response to the Camp Alkulana Offering (formerly known as the Week of Prayer for Association Missions Offering) and certainly not least of all, for the prayers of those who seek God's support and blessing for this ministry. Thanks be to God!

Camp Alkulana is still in the middle of a property settlement problem. The "Reader's Digest" version: about four years ago, Camp Alkulana had a survey done. At that time we learned that we have a building on someone else's

property. We told her about this and asked if she would gift the property to us or sell it to us at a reasonable price. Both requests were rejected. She is now trying to sell the 158 acres adjacent to Camp Alkulana. She would like to have unconditional access to her property by way of our road so that she can log timber and sell the property for development. She has tried to use the little bit of land that our cabin sits on as a pawn. We are confident that the property in dispute meets the qualifications for "reverse possession" since the cabin has been there, undisputed for about 50 years. However, she is taking us to court about this, and about the road, hoping that the judge will grant her the right to use our road by virtue of necessity—which our lawyer tells us could happen since the terrain is very rough, and this is by far the best way in. The court date is December 27, 2007.

Needless to say, we do not want trucks going back and forth down this driveway. This would compromise the safety of our campers and the ambience of the camp setting.

She has threatened to hire a paper company to clear-cut the entire mountain (which she owns) if we do not give her the right of way to at least do logging. She claims that a big company can get to all the timber they want, but they would have to clear cut to make up for the money they would have to put out to build a road over the mountain. Naturally, we would hate to see the woods behind Alkulana clear-cut, but we are not going to give her the right to the road.

Last Spring, I issued a plea for someone to purchase the entire 158 acres for camp. Her original asking price was one-half million for the entire tract. Now the ad in the Bath County newspaper reads, "make an offer." We have most recently made an offer of \$20,000 to her to obtain 10 acres as a barrier (which would include the disputed property and the area just off the road she wishes to use). A condition of this sale would be to drop the lawsuit.

It is doubtful that this offer will be acceptable to her, but is the best we can do at this time. If you know of someone or a group of people who would like to make a contribution toward these 10 acres, should she counter with a higher price, please let me know: 329-1701x206. If you know of someone who would want to make her an offer for the entire 158 acres, please talk to them about this and ask them to call me. We would hope that such buyer would either give the property to Alkulana or put a conservation easement on it (tax incentives for both).

Lastly, if you would like to join me at the Bath County Courthouse in Warm Springs, VA on December 27 to lend support, I would welcome your presence. If you cannot help in these ways (or if you can!), please lift this situation up to God. We want our Lord to be honored in whatever happens so that we can continue to make a difference in the lives of children.

Thank you so much for support and prayers!

**Gracie Kirkpatrick, Director, Camp Alkulana**  
3111 Moss Side Avenue, Richmond, VA 23222  
804-329-1701 ext. 206, [alkulana@juno.com](mailto:alkulana@juno.com)  
[www.alkulana.org](http://www.alkulana.org)