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Lonnie Wilkey, editor
(615) 371-2046,
lwilkey@tnbaptist.org

Connie Davis, news editor
(615) 371-7928,
cdavis@tnbaptist.org

**Susie Edwards, circulation/
executive assistant/advertising**
(615) 371-2003,
sedwards@tnbaptist.org

**Mary Nimmo, church
pages/administrative
assistant**
(615) 371-7929,
mnimmo@tnbaptist.org

Betty Williams, bookkeeper
(615) 371-7930,
bwilliams@tnbaptist.org

Office – Baptist and Reflector,
5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN 37027

Mailing address – P.O. Box
728, Brentwood, TN 37024

FAX – (615) 371-2080

Web Site – www.tnbaptist.org

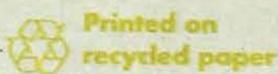
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**Tennesseans named
to serve on SBC
boards, committees**

Baptist Press

PHOENIX — Nominees to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, the four denominational boards, the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, LifeWay Christian Resources, and Annuity Board, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the six seminaries, and the Committee on Order of Business have been selected by the 2003 SBC Committee on Nominations.

Nominees will serve if elected by the messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 17-18 in Phoenix.

Tennessee Baptists nominated include Thomas James, pastor, Alpha Baptist Church, Morristown, Executive Committee, (second term); John D. Floyd, Collierville, International Mission Board, (second term); and Scott K. Thomas, pastor, Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Knoxville, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

SBC President Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, also announced the appointments on May 2 to the SBC Committee on Committees. SBC bylaws require the president to announce the appointments "at least 45 days in advance of the meeting."

The Committee on Committees has 70 members, two from each of the 35 state or regional conventions qualified for representation on SBC entities.

SBC Bylaw 19 says the Com-

mittee on Committees "shall nominate all special committees authorized during the sessions of the convention not otherwise provided for." The usual responsibility of the committee is to nominate members of the Committee on Nominations, which, in turn, nominates trustees to serve on the various national entities of the SBC.

Tennesseans selected for this committee are David E. Smith, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, and Jamison L. Work, pastor, Candies Creek Baptist Church, Charleston.

Graham also appointed a Tennessee Baptist pastor — Poly Rouse of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage, to serve on the SBC Credentials Committee. □

**N.C. association
removes church**

Baptist Press

CONCORD, N.C. — A North Carolina church accused of baptizing two unrepentant homosexuals was removed from the Cabarrus Baptist Association April 28 by a vote of 250-11.

The church, McGill Baptist here, now in its centennial year, was a founding member of the association. The church baptized the two men last June, and association officials met privately with church officials before taking action. The two men are living together.

After the meeting — which was closed to non-association members — Cabarrus Baptist Association's Jim Wadford released a statement summarizing the association's action.

"The Cabarrus Baptist Association respects and acknowledges the autonomy of McGill Baptist Church," the statement read. "However, the association must take a stand based on the Scriptures."

The statement said the association must "take a stand against any of our churches supporting or condoning this lifestyle. To allow individuals into the membership of a local church without evidence or testimony of true repentance (a turning away from the old way of living) is to condone the old lifestyle."

The statement referred to Romans 1:26-27, which reads, "This is why God delivered them over to degrading passions. For even their females exchanged natural sexual intercourse for what is unnatural. The males in the same way also left natural sexual intercourse with females and were inflamed in their lust for one another. Males committed shameless acts with males and received in their own persons the appropriate penalty for their perversion" (HCSB).

The Bible's stance on homosexuality is clear, the association stated.

The Cabarrus Baptist Association's actions violated the historic Baptist principles of "autonomy, soul competency, and priesthood of the believer," said McGill Baptist pastor Steven Ayers. "Autonomy is the main issue here," he added.

The two homosexual men visited the church for a few months before requesting membership, Ayers said.

"When they tell us that they have experienced the risen Lord and have made a profession of faith in Him, and [a profession]

to turn their life over to Him trust them," he said. "don't ask questions."

Regarding the issue whether homosexuality is Ayers said a tolerance for our interpretations should triumphed at the meeting, Apostle Paul was not inflexible to homosexuality but not pedophilia, he claimed.

"This is where the sovereignty and the priesthood the believer comes in," said. "Certainly these two do not feel it's a sin. I've examined my own beliefs and I'm convinced now it's certainly not what Paul was talking about. Even if it is a sin, between them and God."

But the association disagreed saying that the issue is with unrepentant people who should be baptized.

"McGill Baptist Church chosen to allow into its membership persons who continue in a homosexual lifestyle, is contrary to the teaching of Scripture," the motion to draw fellowship read. "The spirit of cooperation with the association has been broken out of a heart of sadness and regret we must withdraw fellowship at this time."

The association tried to find the biblical model for withdrawing of fellowship, the association's statement said. Association officials first met with the church to try and resolve the issue, Ayers "stated that this church issue and the decision would have to discuss the matter," according to the statement.

The church's deacons and associational leaders met but failed to produce any statement. □

Deadly tornados strike Tennessee once again ...

— Continued from page 1

Schock said after the storm passed, students helped clean up the debris. Dockery showed up on campus shortly after midnight to help and encourage students in the storm's aftermath.

"We are blessed in many ways," Dockery said. "But our city has been hit very, very hard. Downtown is devastated. We look forward to opportunity to assist those who assisted us last fall."

Larry Murphy, director of missions for Madison-Chester and Crockett Baptist associations, agreed with Dockery's assessment of downtown, but noted there was damage county-wide.

At press time late Monday afternoon, Murphy reported there were additional tornado warnings for the area and that bad weather was predicted to continue this week. County schools were closed through Wednesday, he added.

A Hardeman County Baptist Association Feeding Unit was activated and stationed at West Jackson Baptist Church.

In Dyer County

In other areas, Dyer County

is requesting chain saw crews where Joe Wright, Dyer Baptist Association director of missions, and M.B. Howard of Covington began May 5 doing assessments. Shelby County Baptist Association Feeding Team was placed on standby Monday to help with feeding at First Baptist Church of Dyersburg.

"It's been a busy morning in Dyersburg," said Wright. "It's overwhelming, it looks like movie quality damage, and it's disconcerting to say that. It looks like a movie where the tornados hit."

"The primary focus of the damage to the city of Dyersburg shows three separate damage paths with damage to the south, central, and north part of the city.

"We have a tremendous need for chain saw and clean up teams. There are a lot of trees, homes, and roofs damaged. South end of city was hit hard with damage to a motel. Southside Baptist Church was not damaged, but a lot of church members had their homes damaged.

"Dyersburg State Community College in the central part of the

city had damage. A tree fell on the BCM property, but the BCM was not damaged. The BCM is owned by Dyer Association," Wright said.

Wright also reported that Cornerstone Church of God lost its roof and Dyersburg High School was damaged. All schools are closed. Other homes were damaged and telephone poles and many old, oak trees are down, he added.

"During times of disaster, Christians can be most obvious in showing their love and care-taking of others in need," Wright said. "When danger is most prevalent that's when the love of Christ shines the brightest. Just pray for us."

A Gibson Association chain saw and clean up crew left on May 5 to help in Dyer County, while a Robertson County Baptist Association chain saw and clean up crew was scheduled to go to Dyer County on May 6, according to Lloyd Blackwell, State Disaster Relief director.

Other areas

John Cole of Huntingdon began damage assessment Monday morning in the Lexington area, where chain saw units

have been requested in the mayor of Lexington, according to Blackwell.

In other developments, two chain saw crews from Shelby Baptist Association will also be in Lexington.

The American Red Cross set up shelters in Montgomery County and two in Madison County. Three families placed in hotels in Obion County by ARC where four homes and two homes were damaged.

A total of six Tennessee counties reported power outages, and several report numerous road closures, trees down and flash flooding.

In addition, Williamson County reported 50 homes damaged along with damaged homes in Rutherford, Warren and Stewart Counties.

"Due to the widespread damage across the state all chain saw teams are now on alert May 5," said Blackwell. "We are asked to report their ability and damage report to the Disaster Relief Operation Center at 1-800-558-2020." □

Concord Baptist Association

Chapman serves through multi-housing ministries

Connie Davis
Staff and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — Ellen Chapman, director of multi-housing ministries of Concord Baptist Association, coordinates at nine sites in this growth community located about 30 miles southeast of Nashville. Multi-housing ministries try to help residents of apartment complexes and trailer parks by providing regular activities to residents in various ways. Chapman has a busy sched-

ule, she admitted. She's certainly not in retirement mode although she has been leading multi-housing ministry here for 10 years. She is even trying to develop ministries at several other sites.

Chapman began this work after retiring as a purchasing agent for a Memphis museum. She thought God was calling her to volunteer service overseas. But while attending a missions conference, she felt called to missions work in the United States.

She was named a Mission Service Corps volunteer by the North American Mission Board and learned about the request of Concord association for an MSC volunteer for multi-housing work.

She met with association leaders and accepted the assignment. Chapman then "sold the only house I ever owned" and moved to Murfreesboro. The association provides her a housing stipend.

"I know that the Lord called me to do this. There wasn't any doubt in my mind that I was supposed to stay," said Chapman, who also moved away from her three children

and their families.

Her ministry

The ministry at Brynwood Trailer Park here is representative of the multi-housing ministries Chapman coordinates. It is a place "where the Lord is working," described Chapman.

Baptists provide activities out of a nearly new manufactured home which they have dubbed the Hope Christian Center. The building was provided by the trailer park owner, Charles Farrar, after Baptists rented a much smaller and older trailer from him for a couple of years. Now Baptists have a better facility and bigger ministry, thanks to Farrar, said Chapman. Of course, Farrar initially gave Baptists permission to provide a ministry in the development.

The Baptist volunteers who lead the ministry are from about five churches. They provide an after-school program on Mondays and Wednesdays which offers tutoring and activities for children. On Saturday mornings they offer Bible study for children and adults, which currently draws women

The students who participate are "latch-key kids," explained Chapman, who quickly become regulars at the Hope center. "They love to come up here," she said, explaining their parents are often at work. Children and teens even come from apartment complexes several blocks away.

An eight-year-old girl recently told Chapman one afternoon that she didn't want to go home. She liked spending time at the center.

Chapman has seen boys whose behavior has changed dramatically because of the attention of a male volunteer. They seem starved for a father figure, she said.

Residents who participate are "definitely looking for something better in life," said Chapman, adding many may not know what that something is.

Thankfully, in the five years of ministry at Brynwood park, about

35 residents have made professions of faith, reported Chapman. "We see changes in their lives," she noted. Some residents even "come back to see us."

Interestingly, Hope center participants refer to the center as the church, noted Chapman.

"We can just see a church in there," she added, now that the ministry has a good facility and the crowd is up to about 30 people a week.

As they get to know the participants of the center, they find many needs, often stemming from poverty, said Chapman.

In fact, Chapman and Karen Burns and Janice Bugg have been praying for about a year for a pastor/chaplain for Brynwood park. Burns and Bugg are mem-

bers of Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, who help lead the ministry and Bugg helps Chapman at several multi-housing ministries. A young man who has served as a volunteer is praying about accepting that assignment, Chapman reported matter-of-factly.

Challenges

Chapman is not surprised at the answer to prayer. The ministry has been the recipient of many answered prayers, said Chapman.

Many times she has thought she would have to close the ministry. For months, the ministry only drew several students. And support was lacking. But participants gradually increased. Then a church or person would learn about a need and provide workers or funds, she said.

Funding has come from the Tennessee Baptist Convention and churches of the association.

"They (residents) feel the love of the volunteers and that draws them," said Chapman of the ministry. □



ELLEN CHAPMAN gives a snack to a child attending the Hope Christian Center.



STEVE DAVIS, left, of Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, plays chess with David Warner at the center.



TINA SHORT, right, of Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, talks to two girls in a Bible study she helps lead at the Hope Christian Center in Murfreesboro.



SAM RANDOLPH, left, of Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, visits with a boy while playing catch with him.



VOLUNTEER Steve Cantalupi of Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, helps a new friend make a basket.



HELPING LEAD the Hope Christian Center and several other multi-housing ministries of the association is Janice Bugg of Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro. She talks with a girl at the center.



THE HOPE CHRISTIAN CENTER holds its Wednesday after-school program. The center is located in the Brynwood Trailer Park in Murfreesboro. — Photos by Connie Davis

C-N students discover missions can be just up the road

By Stacy Murphree
For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — When a missions experience involves using a second language to communicate, it often occurs outside of the United States. However, for five Baptist Collegiate Ministry students from Carson-Newman College, this meant driving only about 30 minutes from their campus.

The team spent spring break, March 5-12, in Morristown using Spanish skills to assist various Hispanic ministries reaching out to the community.

The team's ministry covered numerous areas including translation, Hispanic women's ministry, furniture deliveries, Bible studies, clothing drives, and even makeovers. With a full schedule and diverse ministry types, the team notes it was important to remain flexible.

"Our plans often changed sometimes moments before we were to leave for a specific project," says Melissa Ziegler, psychology major and Spanish mi-

nor, who served on the team with Kara Smith, Kaleb Center, Lindsey Powers, and Robert Neira.

Both Smith and Powers are Spanish majors, and Neira is a native Spanish speaker.

They worked closely with Ginny Taff, Hispanic Ministry Coordinator at Appalachian Outreach, and Laura Lane with Cherokee Health Systems.

The team assisted in translation at Appalachian Outreach, Head Start program for children, and Rural Area Medical Expedition, which is a free health fair for those in the community who are uninsured.

"Each of these experiences was very rewarding, as they gave us the chance to minister to people whose primary language is different from our own," says Ziegler.

Assisting with Stepping Out Ministries enabled team members to reach out to Hispanic women by taking them out for lunch and taking them to get haircuts, makeovers, and new clothes for upcoming job interviews.

One experience that stands out in the minds of the team members is a young mother they met through Stepping Out Ministries who accepted Christ during the week.

"The realization that [God] can bring people from completely different walks as a family in Him became very strong," says Ziegler.

The team enjoyed taking part in several opportunities ministering to children. Besides assisting with the Head Start program, the team took several children living in the Samaritan House, affiliated with Appalachian Outreach, to a circus in Knoxville.

Delivering a bed to a family whose little girl had been sleeping in a sleeping bag on the



C-N STUDENT Robert Neira plays with a baby during a mission project in Morristown.

floor for months became a moving experience for the team. After the team set up the bed and completed it with colorful sheets and a new comforter, the little girl sat on it and said "Thank you, thank you. Now I don't have to sleep on the floor anymore."

The team was moved by the gratitude portrayed by the little girl and her mother and the thankfulness expressed by a

simple act. "The gratitude the mother's eyes and the sheer joy on the little face touched all of us," Ziegler.

"We were hit by how we take for granted. Most do not think twice about a bed. We have always had one and probably always will," Ziegler.

The team enjoyed the opportunity to take the Spanish they have learned in class into a mission field.

"We were all able to communicate to some degree, so as we ministered, we greatly appreciated the help and the love that was able to offer them," says Ziegler.

The team was able to meet the physical and spiritual needs of several in the Hispanic community. The team members share the feeling that they accomplished much more than they always could have.

"The Hispanic community here in our backyard is so much larger than so many people realize. They need our love and acceptance," says Ziegler.

Belmont under consideration to host 2004 presidential debate

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Belmont University is being considered as a site for the 2004 presidential debates.

Belmont will be one of 14 possible locations nationwide to host a debate. If selected, Belmont would host the debate in the university's new state-of-the-art Curb Event Center, scheduled to open in September.

"Because of the Curb Event Center's configuration, flexibility, acoustics, dedicated television production facilities,

parking, and security measures, the university believes it will make a perfect venue for one of the debates," said Belmont President Robert C. Fisher.

Belmont, along with Vanderbilt University, is one of two Nashville sites under consideration. "Now that it has come to light that both Vanderbilt and Belmont are contenders, this gives our city an even better chance of hosting the debate, and that's great for Nashville, Fisher said.

Debate sites are expected to be announced in November. □

Bivocational evangelism meet reset for May 30

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The 2003 Bivocational Evangelism Conference will be held May 30-31 at the Baptist Center here.

The conference originally was to be held Jan. 17-18, but was canceled due to one of the worse snowstorms in recent years in Middle Tennessee.

The theme of the two-day meeting is "Sharing the Light Before the Night Arrives."

The meeting begins at 2 p.m. on May 30. Friday messages will be delivered by Steve Looper, pastor of Friends Chapel Baptist Church,

Clarkrange; Edward Johnson, pastor, Fisher Creek Baptist Church, Surgoinsville; Ricky Cotton, pastor, Crossbridges Baptist Church, Columbia; and Ronnie Owens, preaching evangelist, Tazewell.

Saturday's schedule begins at 9 a.m. Speakers include Ray Gilder, bivocational ministry specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention and pastor of Gath Baptist Church, McMinnville, and Herbert Brisbane, multicultural evangelist with the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga.

Special music will be provided by Michelle Looper, mu-

sic evangelist, Friends Church, Clarkrange; Mulligan, minister of Gath Church, McMinnville, and the Anchored Quartet from Gath Church.

Several breakout sessions will be held dealing with a variety of church-related issues.

The Friday night and Saturday breakfasts are complementary, but reservations are required.

To make reservation request more information, contact Joy Clay-Corby at 1-800-2090, ext. 2018 or send an e-mail to jclaycorby@tnbaptist.org.

Pool uses 'novel' approach to share Christ ...

— Continued from page 1
for these two men and begins a 10-day vigil. God begins to work in both men's lives as their stories merge into one dramatic conclusion as God fills 'the breach,' according to a synopsis of the book which Pool wrote.

Some of the characters in the book are based on true-life people, Pool said.

"Gertie Baxter," the prayer warrior in the book is based on Edith Gallaher, a real life prayer warrior who now resides in a nursing home in Waynesboro, Pool said.

He noted that he and his wife met Gallaher when he lived in Clifton and after they became missionaries she would write

them letters. She would date each letter with the time she wrote the letter, Pool recalled. Most of them were written after midnight, he added.

Pool's own brother, Jim Pool, who died in 1997 of Hodgkin's Disease, also was the role model for Billy Eldridge, the brother of Carey Eldridge, the missionary who was ambushed and accidentally killed the attacker with his vehicle.

And while he had no particular model for the pastor (Howard Pennington) who had trouble prioritizing family and ministry, he observed "there is a little bit of Howard in most ministers."

Pool also has lived in all the

settings mentioned in the book and researched other areas. The only fictional town is where the accident in Honduras took place, he said.

The Breach did not happen overnight, he said. It took him five years to complete the first of what he anticipates being a three-book trilogy. He already is well underway in writing the second book which will be titled *The Bridge*.

Pool has published *The Breach* on a "print on demand" basis. He found a publisher which would allow him to purchase 100 books at a time. After he sells those 100, he buys 100 more.

"I saw this as a way to get the

book into print now," he said, adding that he is open to the book being printed by a Christian publisher.

Selling a book, however, was not his reason for writing his first novel.

In addition to the book being used as an evangelistic tool, he hopes it will help inspire believers to be more involved in missions, either as volunteers or on a career basis.

Pool added that he would like the book to spur more people to be dedicated toward interfaith prayer and to look toward resolution of conflict in life.

For more information, contact Pool at thebreach@juno.com.

To purchase a copy, check for \$16 (which includes postage) to: Randy Pool, Poplar Corner Road, TN 38382. □

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Barney Fife was right — we need more preaching on sin



Bonnie Wilkey, editor

Classic Andy Griffith, a visiting preacher to town and delivers a sermon. They are greeting the pastor after the service, Barney Fife shakes his hand and says, "That's something you can't preach enough about — sin."

Everyone looked at Barney like he was a nut, but I think he knew what he was talking about.

In 2003 people are confused about sin. What's more, they appear to not even care if it's sin or not as "long as it doesn't hurt anybody."

What is even more troubling is that there are Christians and even some ministers who have this attitude in addition to non-Christians.

There is a church in North Carolina which baptized two homosexual men who were not "repentant" of their sin (see story

on page 2). I was dismayed by the pastor's response: "Certainly these two people do not feel it's a sin. I've re-examined my own beliefs about it. I'm convinced now it's certainly not what Paul was talking about (in Romans 1:26-27). Even if it is a sin, that is between them and God." If the minister is unsure whether it's a sin or not, how can you expect the two men to think otherwise.

And, no, I am not "picking" on homosexuals again. There is apathy about sin in general. And if you're not sure what constitutes sin, refer to the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20. That

covers most of the sins that were prevalent then and are prevalent today.

Do Christians have this apathetic view toward sin because there is not enough preaching about sin in our churches? In some cases preachers may be hesitant to speak against sin because they may step on some toes.

If the state of our society is any indication, then we need a lot of people with sore feet — and I am just referring to those of us who profess to be Christian.

We are more concerned about being "politically correct" than

we are in being biblically correct.

No, I don't believe we should "shove" our religion or beliefs down someone else's throats, but we need to stand up for morality. We need to live a life so people who are not Christian can look at us and see a difference in us that is not in their life — and that difference, of course, is Christ.

Instead, the outside world looks at many Christians and sees no difference whatsoever.

And then we have the audacity to ask, "Why is our world in such a mess?" I pray God will forgive us. □

Mother's Day provides opportunity to honor special ladies



Carolyn R. Tomlin

er's Day was scheduled for 1914.

Fortunately, the Christian community continues to honor mothers the way Anna Jarvis intended. Churches pray for mothers and thank God for special women.

As we pay tribute to all mothers, look at the following ways these women of God influence our lives.

Mothers are an example of faith. A child first learns from his parents. In 1 Timothy 1:5 Paul wrote, "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded,

now lives in you also."

Elizabeth Meredith, a dear friend from Smith's Grove, Ky. often said, "Don't let anyone rob you of winning your child to God." Be the person you want your child to become.

I recall one mother who after Sunday School was over each Sunday would ask her children, "Do you want to go home and play, or stay for church?" You can guess their reply!

Mothers teach children to love. A mother gives unconditional love, regardless of the behavior of the child. You may not approve of the conduct, but true love never wavers. This is how our Heavenly Father treats His

children.

A friend tells of when he was a small boy; he and his sister disagreed one day. To get even, he took a large safety pin and punched holes in his sister's bicycle tires. When his father tried to repair the tire, he found not one, but numerous holes. Needless to say, the boy was disciplined. Yet, the situation taught the boy that parents could discipline and still show love.

Mothers teach perseverance. My mother taught me that regardless of the situation, you don't give up. You keep working, you keep trying, you keep praying that you will suc-

ceed and your goals will be met.

On the Australian Outback fire often consumes large tracts of land. The following spring after a fire, beautiful flowers cover the scorched land. Scientists say the fire emits gases from the earth that cause the flowers to bloom — some of which have been dormant for years. We can learn a lesson from the plants that come to live after a fire: don't give up, keep on persevering.

As we honor mothers on their special day, don't forget to thank God for the love shown to you through a godly mother. □ — Tomlin of Jackson writes for numerous Christian publications.

letters to the editor

ably proud

Want to keep the Tennessee... informed on what is going on in East Tennessee with recovery efforts from last year's tornados.

Crews have built homes, porches, and miscellaneous buildings, cut trees, roofed homes, and done all the wonderful big and little things that are absolutely necessary.

I never knew first-hand what devastation could occur from a tornado. Eleven lives were lost that fateful Sunday night; numerous homes were leveled to varying degrees, trees were uprooted, and vehicles were tossed like toys.

Now, we are here — the Plateau Regional Long Term Recovery Committee — and when all the insurances, grants, and loans run out or fade away we will still be here. We request the prayers of all Tennessee Baptists everywhere.

es of Christ all sitting there working side by side with Red Cross, Salvation Army, and other relief groups, law enforcement, construction companies, and just interested citizens.

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Tom Mooty
Wartburg 37887

Is it a creed?

I read with sadness the article in the *Baptist and Reflector's* April 23rd issue about Jerry Rankin's final appeal about BF&M. The idea of enforcing a creed with the threat of forced termination is indeed an ominous one.

I am a Southern Baptist. I believe the Bible. I preach Jesus — His death, burial, and resurrec-

tion. I believe in the miracles of the Bible, and that they are literally true. I believe in winning people to Christ. However, even though I agree with the Baptist Faith and Message I would not sign the affirmation our missionaries are being required to sign. Being required to sign the affirmation makes the BF&M a creed, and Baptists are not a creedal denomination.

More to the point, I believe a missionary who has demonstrated a Christ-centered, biblical ministry should be judged by that ministry, not by the signing of an affirmation. This is more a political issue than a spiritual one. The newly revised BF&M, it appears, is being used to shield real motives in a larger political agenda. This is not right, and should be stopped.

We lament the loss of personal responsibility in our schools, courts, and business, yet now we are using the BF&M as a blanket "zero tolerance" policy toward those God has called to work on mission with Him. My concern is that instead of considering individuals, and disclosing real motives, the IMB is now side stepping their personal responsibility to investigate and act on perceived individual threats, and substituting a forced signing of an affirmation in it's place.

What will happen to the relationships these missionaries have built up over the years? What happens to the witness?

How will the removal of these missionaries impact the actual winning of the lost in their mission field? Will the people who have been reached be hurt because we demand the signing of a creed? If these missionaries are such a bad influence on their mission field, why were they appointed in the first place? Who dropped the ball in their appointment to start with?

If a missionary is teaching something indisputably contrary to the Bible, he or she should be dismissed. However, no one should be dismissed because they will not sign a creed. If this continues, that is exactly what the BF&M has become.

Thom Tapp, pastor
Oral Baptist Church
Lenoir City 37771

Make story clear

In regard to the story, "IBM missionary couple challenges forced termination" in the April 30 issue, I would like to start with this illustration. When I was a freshman at the University of Chattanooga my English teacher asked us a question, "What is good English?" After we talked about 15 minutes, he gave us the following definition. When people read what we write or hear what we say and then understand exactly what we mean, that is good English. How I wish at times that reporters followed this principal.

After reading the story about

the IBM and the Dills, I still don't understand what they mean. The statement the Dills made as to the point of contention, "that God can call whomever He chooses to serve wherever, whenever, and however He so chooses." I believe a judicial term that fits this is that it is overly broad and vague. I only have two questions to help me understand their position and I believe these should have been asked by the reporter to make their stand clear.

(1) Do you believe that God's word teaches that women can be called of God to fill the position of senior pastor? If so, Scriptures please.

(2) Do you believe God would call anyone to serve in a position that was contrary to His Word? If so, Scripture and examples please.

I have tried to follow the definition of good English in my own life. It is very important to me that people understand exactly what I say and where I stand than it is to have their agreement.

If the Dills have a problem with the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message they should state what it is and share their belief and the Scriptures they found that support their conclusion. If my denomination put forth something I couldn't do or accept next Sunday I would be someplace new. The choice would be mine.

Nick Kennedy
Ooltewah 37363

WMU volunteers minister in La.

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Nearly 150 volunteers from 11 states, including a team from **Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, Nashville**, gathered in New Orleans for a weeklong MissionsFEST as part of the Volunteer Connection of Woman's Missionary Union.

MissionsFEST experiences provide volunteers an opportunity to partner with local Christians in a concentrated effort to support ongoing missions projects and use their individual gifts to reach out, help others and share the love of Christ.

Volunteers for the April 6-12 outreach in New Orleans ranged in age from 22 to 82.

Teams of volunteers tutored elementary students, prayer-walked, ministered at homeless

shelters, cleaned and did repair work at local Baptist centers, helped with the construction of a new church and participated in various other activities. There were 18 ministry sites in New Orleans, including six elementary schools and four Baptist centers.

MissionsFEST volunteers also hosted a block party in the parking lot of Lake Forest Mall, where more than 400 area residents enjoyed midway games, clowns, puppets, live music, face painting, blood pressure screenings, jambalaya, soft drinks and more, all free of charge.

The WMU Volunteer Connection outreach "was a great success because it was customized to really meet the needs of local churches," said Loy Seal, director of church growth and development for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans. □

Fellowship to add new staffer

Compiled from news releases

MURFREESBORO — During the General Assembly of Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship April 25-26 at King's Cross Church in Tullahoma, members adopted a 2003-04 budget of \$304,995, a 28.2 percent increase over the current budget.

The budget will enable the group to seek a missions coordinator as an additional full-time staff member.

New officers include Joe

Livesay, Memphis, moderator; Ed Sunday-Winters, Knoxville, moderator-elect; and Virginia Brown, Tullahoma, recorder.

In other action during the General Assembly, TCBF awarded theological scholar-

ships to Drew Pritt, Knoxville and Rodney V. Chattanooga. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — OTHER

The Muscle Shoals Baptist Association, Moulton, Ala., is now accepting resumes for the position of director of missions. Please send resume to Mount Hope Baptist Church, Attn. Bryan Hall, 500 County Road 20, Mount Hope, AL 35651. Deadline: all resumes must be received by May 22, 2003.

Houseparent. Immediate need for full-time relief houseparents at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Chattanooga. Married couples only. Call Lynn Jordan or Bob Segrest at (423) 892-2722.

Youth/Adult mission trip opportunities and internships in New York City ministering to immigrants and Muslims. Call (347) 393-8037 or email larry@UrbanImpactNewYork.org. Web site www.UrbanImpactNewYork.org.

MINISTRIES — POSITIONS

Holly Grove Church is accepting resumes for two part-time staff positions: minister of music and minister of youth. Combination of the two is OK. HGBC is located 45 minutes from Memphis and 25 miles from Jackson, Tenn. Resume with picture and references should be sent to Holly Grove Baptist Church, 8488 Poplar Corner Rd., Bells, TN 38006 or by email to fvc99@juno.com.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — MUS

Adaton Baptist Church in ville, Miss., is receiving resumes from individuals interested in applying for a full-time minister of music position. Resumes should be sent to Adaton Baptist Church, 1975 Highway 10, Starkville, MS 39759. For additional information about the church and the position, call Scott Cappleman (662) 323-3735 or Russell Ston (music search chair) (662) 263-5017.

MINISTRIES — STUD

Director of youth: bivocational experience preferred. Send resume to Mt. Hermon Baptist Church, 2433 Mt. Hermon Murfreesboro, TN 37127 (615) 893-4885.

MINISTRIES — PAS

Greater Hope Baptist Church, 402 North Miles Union City, Tenn., is in search of a full-time/bivocational pastor. Interested pastors please send resume to the church at the attention of Willie Bell. Have any questions, please contact Willie Bell at (731) 811-1111 after 5 p.m.

Unity Baptist Church, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Please contact Angie Smith, 2312 Fedd Rd., Ramer, TN 38367.

Senior pastor for purpose of Southern Baptist church. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Friendship Church, P.O. Box 1008 field, IL 60544. Visit our website at www.umatter2God.org/

Seeking full-time pastor. Baptist Church, Guthrie, Todd County. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Bert Covington Jr., P.O. 447, Guthrie, KY 42234 (270) 483-2262.

MINISTRIES — COMBIN

Reidland Baptist Church is receiving resumes for full-time position of minister of youth activities. RBC has an average attendance of 325-350 in evening worship and average School attendance of 200. We are looking for a dynamic leader for approximately 80 7-11 students. Our facilities include gym and youth activity room. Salary package based on experience and education. Seminary/Baptist College graduate preferred. Send resume to Reidland Baptist Church, Committee, 5559 Bent Paducah, KY 42003.

Exciting Southside Church looking for a full-time minister of children and youth. Contact (731) 587-8111 southside@excitingsouthside.com.

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Middle Tennessee Pastors' Conference May 27

College Heights Baptist Church
(Host Pastor, Larry Gilmore)
Gallatin, Tennessee
10:00 a.m.-Noon (Lunch to follow)
"Still Preaching with Fire"
Jeremiah 20:9

Preachers: Scott Smith, Evangelist, Sweetwater, TN
Dennis Deece, Pastor, Hunter First Baptist, Elizabethton, TN
Music: College Heights Men's Quartet
Recording Artists: Ken Poskey and Jim Murray

For more information call Glenn Denton, President, Middle Tennessee Pastors' Conference, (615) 444-5923; bro-glenn@hillcrestbaptist.org.

Glenn Denton

Directions: From Nashville, take I-65 North to Vietnam Veterans' Blvd. (Rte. 386). Take Vietnam Veterans' Blvd. to the end and it will put you on Nashville Pike. Go about 2-3 miles and the church will be on the left side of the highway.

minister's corner

Finley

Earning to Pray Jesus' Way (Part 2)

Jesus had taken the negative approach in w 6 by teaching His followers not to pray as hypocrites nor as the heathen, He moved to the approach by encouraging His followers to be humble. He gave them the well-known prayer often referred to as "The Lord's

Jesus gave the model prayer in this passage did not give words to vainly repeat. He warned against that very type of praying. This prayer to illustrate the humble man-praying that is pleasing to the Father. The that is pleasing to the Father honors His kingdom over man and man's kingdom on The goal of the prayer is to bring the earthly, temporal things under submission to heavenly kingdom. While not denying the Father the source of man's earthly, social, and needs, the prayer brings all three under her's sovereign authority to accomplish His

is a drought of humble praying in the today! Are your prayers focused on selfish, gain with little regard for God's kingdom your prayers long for freedom from suffering sorrow with little regard for God's purpose lives of those who encounter pain? Do prayers seek personal success with little humility that pleases the Father?

conclude this examination on Jesus' early things on prayer, would you be challenged late your own praying? Do you pray more in than you do in private as the hypocrite? Do size prayer as a magical method to get what as the heathen? Or do you pray as the with a sincere desire to see God's purposes in His kingdom? The Church today is erate need of believers who pray as the ! — Finley is interim pastor of Merton Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis.

just for today

Fred Wood, retired pastor, Memphis

with a Smile: Father to son: "How did on your driver's license exam?" Son: "I have ws and bad news." Father: "What's the good Son: "I got 18 out of 20." Father: "What's news?" Son: "They were pedestrians."

the this Truth: "Always aim at complete har- of thought and work and deed. Always aim fying your thoughts and everything will be - Ghandi

orize this Scripture: If anything is excel- praiseworthy — think about such things" oians 4:8, NIV).

y this Prayer: Lord, help me keep my men- lties properly arranged and functioning. □

Making peace in my family

By Ernest Standerfer

Focal passage: Genesis 13:1-2, 5-18

God made us so unique that the best of us will not always see things the same way. God didn't make us to be alike, but to relate to one another in love and respect. Abraham stands as a lasting example of one who knew how to bring peace to a family. We must learn from him.

When Abraham received God's dramatic call, he gathered his family and possessions and journeyed in faith. Wherever Abraham went he lived with an awareness of God. (See 12:7-8, 13:4,18.) The last verse in this study (v. 18) speaks of two symbols that reflected Abraham's faith and journey — his tent and his altar. He was ready to respond to God and to worship God.

Because Abraham focused on his relationship to God, he couldn't ignore the problem with Lot. He knew that living in unresolved tension would only get worse. Abraham had always been a godly influence on Lot. His graciousness flowed from his faith in God and led him to take the initiative in solving their problem. He was generous in giving Lot the choice and in accepting Lot's decision.

Lot looked only to "feather his nest." How it affected Abraham didn't matter. How true are the words of Scripture. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction (I Timothy 6:9).

The world rewards selfish decisions that seek to gain personal advantage — study Lot's life.

People reveal their true selves by the choices they make. Many people try a lifestyle that disregards God because it seems fashionable or trendy. Lot had a great opportunity to become a man of God as he walked with Abraham, but we don't read of Lot calling on the Lord. Lot looked toward Sodom (v. 10); then he moved toward Sodom (vv. 11-12). Even though he surely knew that the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD (v. 13), he moved into Sodom (14:12).

God rewards the sincere decisions that seek to honor Him — study Abraham's life.

Abraham believed God would care for him whatever area of land he had, and He did. God will honor our faith and take care of us whatever degree of prosperity we experience.

Are you confronting some choices that have the potential for conflict in your family? What can you do to make your family life more peaceful and productive for all members?

Examine your attitude.

Remember some of the words from Dorothy Law Nolte's work, "Children Learn What They Live." If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn. If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight. If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence. If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.

Be generous to family mem-

Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
May 11

bers, as God has been generous to you.

God hasn't responded to us as we deserve, but because He loves us. One has said, "A generous man forgets what he gives and remembers what he receives."

Pray consistently for family members.

Pray for them not only when there is some difficult issue to resolve, but when things are going well. Give special thanks, if appropriate, for your mother on her special day this Sunday.

Take the initiative to make things right.

If there are unresolved issues in your family, take the first step to make it right.

Remember the Bible says, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another" (Romans 12:10).

Leonardo DeVinci supposedly defined an arch as two weaknesses that, when they lean on each other, create strength. We each have weaknesses, but when we lean on each other with a foundation in the Lord, strength stronger than either individual will result. □ — Standerfer is interim pastor of Edgefield Baptist Church, Nashville.



STANDERFER

Trust God against overwhelming opposition

By Joe Brooks

Lesson Passage: I Kings 18:20-26, 36-39

His name is David and he's surprised I haven't returned his call. David is an unknown telemarketer for the Mumbo Jumbo Debt Consolidation Service. He dialogs with my answering machine several times a week.

He can bring us out of credit card perdition, he can. He can give us a low-low-low fixed annual rate, he can. He can pull debt-crazed people back into sanity, he can. If we wanna get outta debt, all we gotta do is make that call. Mumbo Jumbo will take care of the rest.

Mama didn't raise no fool. I'm not smart, but when smart people talk, I listen. My wife says smart people use credit cards like a check and pay them off every month. Smart is as smart does, so that's what we do.

Why do temptations "seize" us, (I Corinthians 10:13), often unaware? Why don't temptations come just after we've had the most wonderful experience with the Lord? Why are temptations so tempting?

That's what Elijah must have been asking.

Elijah faced one of the worst temptations possible. He believed, "I am the only one of the LORD'S prophets left" (v. 22). One is always a lonely number. One lonely prophet can either proclaim or pout when he's alone. That's much like the choices one lonely Christian has when he's faced with overwhelming opposition.

Pointed Challenge (vv. 20-21)

Mt. Carmel must have been lovely that time of year. A carpeted Jezreel Valley nuzzles against wooded hills. Elijah saw people wavering between two opinions. The Baal worshipers danced on one foot, then, on the other — call it "The Waver Dance." Like their worship practices, Baal worshipers wavered between loving God and Baal. All bad things must come to an end, so Elijah made the waver dancers leave.

Elijah wrestled with "principalities and powers and rulers of the darkness of this world" (Ephesians 6:12). His prayer meetings pitted

the gods of Baal with the God who answered by fire. Elijah saw that one God plus one believing prophet is greater than 450 Baal prophets. The God who answers by fire answered his prayer.

Personal Courage (vv. 22-26)

Elijah's challenge pitted God against the Baal worshipers' god. They danced (v. 26), they shouted (v. 26), and they cut themselves (v. 28). They believed their god could defeat any other god. Elijah believed that there was only one God, Jehovah God.

The New International Version records the name of the LORD (capital letters) 6,455 times. Elijah called on God's creative, powerful, and redemptive nature. Elijah's courage



BROOKS

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
May 11

was based on God's wonderful track record. What God had done in the past, He could do again.

Tomatoes are filled with vitamins, and courageous Christians are filled with the knowledge of God's nature and name. Paul constantly prayed for his churches. His prayer for Colossee was that they would be "strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience" (Colossians 1:11).

When we are strengthened with God's power, we can face strong opposition from those around us much more patiently.

Prayerful Commitment (vv. 36-39)

Elijah's prayers were as multi-dimensional as his faith. He prayed that God would manifest Himself physically by burning the wood. He prayed for a mental answer when they turned their hearts back to God (v. 37). People cried out "The LORD — He is God!" (v. 39), thus revealing the spiritual answer.

"Do not be deceived," Paul warned in Galatians 6:7-8. "God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." Plants result in fruit, belief results in behavior, and worship reflects our lifestyle. Committed Christians can, even today, face opposition in response to their faith. □ — Brooks is pastor of Big Spring Baptist Church, Cleveland.



Churches

◆ **White Hall Baptist Church, Trenton**, dedicated its new facilities April 13.

◆ **Rock of Hope Baptist Church, Brighton**, has changed its name to **Hope Community Church, Brighton**.

◆ **New Salem Baptist Church, Mason Hall**, will host the Florida Boys Quartet May 22 at 7 p.m. For more information, call Mickey Hanks, pastor, at (731) 673-4171.

◆ **Shelby Forest Baptist Church, Millington**, will hold revival May 11-14. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

◆ **Bluegrass Baptist Church, Hendersonville**, will serve June 8-13 in Smyrna, renovating homes and doing other missions work.

Belmont to host ASC basketball tournament

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Belmont University will host the Atlantic Sun Conference men's basketball tournament in 2004. The tournament will be held at the school's new Curb Event Center. The winner of the championship will receive a bid to the NCAA Tournament. The 2004 event will be the first time an Atlantic Sun Championship will be played in Tennessee.

"Given all the great schools in the Atlantic Sun Conference and the cities that they represent, it is an honor for Belmont University in Nashville to be chosen to host the A-Sun men's basketball championship," said Robert C. Fisher, president. "It will be a special treat for us to do so in the inaugural season of our new Curb Event Center. It will be a great showcase for both Belmont University and the Atlantic Sun Conference."

The eight-team event will take place over three days in March 2004, with a total of seven games played — four quarterfinals on March 4, two semifinals on March 5, and the championship game on March 6.

Belmont is currently competing in its second season in the ASC. The Bruins earned a bid to the men's basketball championship in each of its first two seasons of league play, and finished 17-12 last season and 12-4 in ASC play.

The new Curb Event Center will seat 5,000 people. □

◆ **Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield**, will serve in Des Moines, Iowa, this summer to support the Tennessee/Iowa Baptist Partnership.

◆ **Shelby Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville**, will hold its Community Give-Away May 17 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The church, which usually holds the event twice a year, gives away clothing and household items. For more information, call the church at (615) 227-2961.

◆ **Delano Baptist Church, Etowah**, will hold revival May 18-21. Morris Anderson, evangelist of Maryville, will speak.

◆ **Audubon Park Baptist Church, Memphis**, has recently opened a room equipped with exercise equipment.

◆ **West Hills Baptist Church, Knoxville**, will do missions work through Appalachian Outreach, Jefferson City, June 15-19. Appalachian Outreach is a ministry of Carson-Newman College.

◆ The youth of North **Etowah Baptist Church, Etowah**, will serve in Mobile, Ala., this summer doing missions work.

◆ **Central Baptist Church, Johnson City**, will do construction and other missions work in Jacksonville, Ill., June 7-14 to help a church there.

◆ **Union Grove Baptist Church, Beech Bluff**, will serve in Creston, Iowa, where members will work on a church facility. The project is being done to support the Tennessee/Iowa Baptist Partnership.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Knoxville**, will serve in Robertson County Baptist Association, based in Springfield, this summer doing missions work.

◆ **Rocky Valley Baptist Church, Lebanon**, will hold revival May 10-13. Morris Anderson, evangelist of Maryville, will speak.

Schools

◆ The School of Religion of **Belmont University, Nashville**, led by Steven H. Simpler, dean recently honored students at the school's annual awards ceremony. The students from Tennessee who were honored follow — **Anna Cleveland** of Murfreesboro, Landis and John D. Freeman Christian Leadership Award; **Jared Vaughn** of Franklin, Tabor Ministerial Award; **Jacob Fentress** of Greenbrier, Outstanding Greek Scholar Award; **Eva Bennett** of Nashville, Helen C. Tullock Scholarship Award; **Rebecca Hollis** of Mt. Juliet, Roy A.



MEMBERS OF CEDAR FORD Baptist Church, Luttrell, pray during the recent installation of to announce the 170th-anniversary of the church. The congregation, which was the first Baptist congregation organized in Union County, is celebrating during the entire year with the main of on Aug. 28. For more information, contact the church at (865) 992-0216.

Helton Outstanding Student Award; **Laura Rosser** of Knoxville, Charles F. Treadway Award; and **Rebecca Hollis** of Mt. Juliet, Biblical Languages Minor Recognition.

◆ The Admissions Office of **Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City**, will hold its inaugural Transfer Student Reception May 15 in the college's Maddox Student Activities Center from 6-8 p.m. The reception will be for students who have completed two-year degrees or are considering relocation to C-N from another school. Deadline for reservations is May 13. Those interested in attending should contact Amy Humphrey at (865) 471-3223, 1-800-678-9061, or aumphrey@cn.edu.

Leaders

◆ **First Baptist Church, Pulaski**, called **David Neal** as minister of music/senior adults, effective April 21. Neal previously was a minister of First Baptist Church, Hillsboro, and New Vision Fellowship, Manchester.

◆ **Lance and Brandon Barnard** were ordained as deacons by New Salem Baptist Church, Tazewell, recently. **Steve Barnard** is pastor. **George Walker**, grandfather of Lance and Brandon, preached the sermon at the ordination service. And their mother presented ordination certificates to them.

◆ **Frances C. Petry**, a member of Colonial Baptist Church, Memphis, has funded an endowed scholarship at Baptist-affiliated Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas. Petry, a graduate of the school, gave the gift to benefit students at the school's Logsdon School of Theology who are preparing for a ministry in missions. She is a 1957 summa cum laude graduate of HSU. Petry established the Arthur

and Naomi Cunningham Endowed scholarship in honor of her parents who were residents of Texas from 1947 until their deaths.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Saltville**, has called **Doyle Neal** of Lexington as pastor. Neal is retired director of missions, Beech River Baptist Association, based in Lexington.

◆ **Phil Beck** has been called as associate minister of worship, Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Old Hickory.

◆ **Elim Baptist Church, Ripley**, has called **J. V. Reeves** as pastor. He formerly was interim pastor of the church. Reeves is retired pastor, Smyrna Baptist Church, Covington.

◆ **Smyrna Baptist Church, Covington**, has called **James "Hutch" Hutcheson** as music director.

◆ **Nickey McMinn** has been called as pastor of Laneview Baptist Church, Trenton.

◆ **Roy Pendergrass** has been called as pastor of Muddy Creek Baptist Church, Hill. He formerly was pastor of West Hills Baptist Church, Jonesborough.



MEMBERS OF the Scott Terry Royal Ambassador of Glenwood Baptist Church, Nashville, visit the police station Nashville Police Department. The RAs helped an officer his birthday by bringing him a cake and brought food for others. Participating are, from left, Loren Judkins; Stephen Katie Hiller; David Hiller, leader; and Samantha Scott.

◆ **Fellowship Church, Sharon**, has called **Billy Hicks** as pastor.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Iron City**, commissioned **Ray and Katie Franley** as missionaries. They are going to Africa where they will be missionaries.

◆ **Brian Wilson** has been called as minister of youth, Ninth Street Baptist Church, Erwin.

◆ **Courtney Jones** has been called as associate minister, West Hills Baptist Church, Knoxville, effective June 1. Jones will graduate from Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N.J., in June.

◆ **Irby Stanley** has been called as pastor of administration, First Baptist Church, Clarksville. He was on the staff of First Baptist Church, Hartsville, Miss. He is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, and Western Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth. He has served church administration, adult and senior adult ministries as chaplain for the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg.