



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

## REGIONAL OFFICES

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2593

DALLAS R. T. McCartney, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996

WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

## BUREAU

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,  
Telephone (615) 254-1631

November 8, 1966

Arkansas Baptists Sever  
Ties With Medical Center

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--The Arkansas Baptist State Convention voted here to sever ties with the Arkansas Baptist Medical Center in order to allow the Little Rock hospital to accept federal grants.

By a vote of 488 to 327, the messengers to the 113th convention approved a recommendation from the convention's Executive Board which called for setting up a separate Baptist association or corporation to own the hospital.

The Medical Center will continue to be operated as the Arkansas Baptist Medical Center and will be governed by a 50-member association composed of members of the present and past board of trustees.

The association will meet annually and elect an 18-member board of trustees to deal with operational matters.

For more than two hours, the convention debated and discussed the proposal. Several substitute motions were offered from the floor, but all were defeated.

One motion called for allowing the hospital to accept federal funds without the convention severing ties with it. Another asked that the name "Baptist" be deleted from the hospital's name. A third called for selling the hospital. Still another would have tabled the vote for another year.

Instead the convention approved the recommendation of its Executive Board by a 150-vote margin, severing ties with the hospital and creating the association which will own and operate the institution.

Proponents of the recommendation argued that this will allow the medical center to continue to be a first-class institution and would permit the hospital to accept federal aid without violating the convention's views on separation of church and state.

The recommendation was presented to the convention by James Linder, a Little Rock attorney and a member of the hospital board.

By a vote of 601 to 435, the convention defeated a substitute motion by Little Rock Baptist Pastor Guy Wilson proposing that the convention-owned hospital be allowed to receive federal funds without severing official ties.

In a standing vote, the convention voted down another substitute motion which would have deleted the name "Baptist" from the institution and severed ties between the convention and the hospital.

A third proposal, to sell the medical center and give the proceeds to Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., was also defeated. Speaking against the proposal was the president of the University, Ralph Phelps.

Still another substitute motion defeated by the convention would have tabled the action for one year. Several members of the hospital's board of trustees spoke against tabling the motion, saying that this would increase problems rather than solve them and that it would make the hospital a second-rate institution.

Only 40 minutes had been set aside in the convention's business session for discussion and action on the proposal, but a total of two hours and ten minutes was spent in the debate.

An overflow crowd of more than 1,500 attended the convention's key business session at the Second Baptist Church in Little Rock. Every seat was taken by the standing-room only crowd

Baptists in Wales  
Mourn School Tragedy

ABERFAN, Wales (BP)-- The pews at the Zion Baptist Church here became both mourning benches and a welfare center following the coal slag tragedy that took the lives of about 140 Welsh school children.

Among the dead was the 9-year-old son of the church's pastor, Kenneth Hayes, plus 17 other children who were members of the church's Sunday School, the Baptist Times in London reported.

Because of illness, the pastor's six-year-old son and his wife, who teaches at the school, were spared. Mrs. Hayes stayed at home on the day of the tragedy to care for her sick son.

Despite the loss of his son, Hayes led a prayer service at the church the Sunday following the tragedy.

He told his church members that they must not be bitter against the coal company, but "we must approach it in the spirit of love."

After the prayer service, the church members turned the church into a welfare center to supply food and refreshments for the needy and the workers who searched the rubble for survivors and bodies.

Hayes was among the first on the scene when the avalanche hit the school. He helped dig out the first three dead children, and continued digging in hopes of finding his son.

For 36 hours he worked non-stop at either the school or comforting the bereaved. In addition, the pastor and his wife kept open house for many who came seeking news and comfort.

The general superintendent for Baptist work in South Wales, William Davies, praised Hayes and other Baptist ministers in the area for their "magnificent" work.

"They have stood shoulder to shoulder with the rescue teams, and have never rested," he said. "They also have gone from house to house comforting and helping the bereaved."

Baptist young people from nearby Merthyr, Wales, spent the Sunday afternoon and evening following the disaster helping the bereaved and serving refreshments to the rescue workers.

Several children from a Baptist church in Smyrna, Wales, were killed in the tragedy, and the school's headmistress, Miss Ann Jennings, came from a notable Baptist family. Some of the other teachers killed came from Baptist churches in nearby Merthyr.

-30-

Indiana Baptists Endorse  
Change In Name of SBC

11/8/66

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana voted here to encourage the Southern Baptist Convention to change its name.

The brief motion stated succinctly: "We graciously encourage the Southern Baptist Convention to continue to pursue the possibility of a name change."

Adopted following wide discussion, only six negative votes were recorded on the motion.

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention is currently studying the possibility of changing the name of the SBC, but no final action has been taken.

In other action, the convention adopted a record budget and approved resolutions requesting prayer for Cuban Baptist pastors and Missionaries Herbert Caudill and David Fite who are imprisoned in Cuba; and endorsing the work of the Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission and Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

The record budget included a \$288,000 Cooperative Program goal for 1967, and allocated 27 per cent of the budget to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

New president of the convention is Lyndon W. Collings, pastor of Halteman Village Baptist Church, Muncie, Ind.

An early season blizzard which dropped from two to 12 inches of snow on the state the night before the convention hindered attendance. Total registration was 361.

The convention voted to hold its 1968 meeting at First Southern Baptist Church, Hammond, Ind. Previously, the 1967 convention had been scheduled at Graceland Baptist Church, New Albany, Ind., on Nov. 2-4, 1967.

-30-

Skiles Takes Helm  
Of Hardin-Simmons

By Bert Tucker

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Veteran Baptist Pastor Elwin L. Skiles formally accepted the presidency of Hardin-Simmons University here with "hope, humility, prayer and faith in God."

Some 700 Baptist leaders and ranking educators from Texas and the nation joined in inaugurating Skiles as the 11th chief executive of the growing Baptist-related school during its diamond jubilee year.

Skiles responded with optimism throughout the day's program of congratulatory speeches.

In an interview, he expressed concern and disappointment with Texas Baptists' recent decision to forbid their institutions from borrowing federal money with long term notes for building.

Main speakers for the gala inaugural ceremonies were two prominent educators, one from Texas, the other from Kentucky.

Harry H. Ransom, chancellor of the huge University of Texas system, said "Dr. Skiles assumes this presidency in perhaps the most critical period of the distinctive university's history.

"This and all institutions of higher education must keep the dual perspective of responsibility for loyalty to truth and obligation to society.

"Yet the individual identity of the faculty member and the students is the only basis on which education can proceed with any certainty."

Robert Lee Mills, president for the past seven years of Georgetown College (Baptist) in Georgetown, Ky., said the presidents of all Baptist institutions can welcome Skiles with pleasure to their ranks.

"He has the scholarship and the background to acknowledge and respect the past, division and the faith to plan for the future and the courage and integrity to meet the problems and challenges of the present," Mills declared.

Skiles, 54, took the university post after 12½ years as pastor of Abilene's 4,500-member First Baptist Church. He succeeds James H. Landers who resigned after three years as chief executive to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

The new leader of West Texas' oldest institution of higher learning devoted three decades of his life to pastoral service.

A native of Scranton in West Texas, he attended Hardin-Simmons and took degrees from Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been pastor of churches in Louisville and Russellville, Ky., Richmond, Va., and Texas.

-30-

URGENT  
C O R R E C T I O N

On Baptist Press story mailed 11/3/66, headlined "Former Russian Baptist Leader Dies In Moscow," please kill the third and fourth paragraphs of the story. This is in error. The Zhidkov referred to in these paragraphs is the son of Jakov Zhidkov. The story will stand if you drop graphs 3 and 4, and change the first line of paragraph 1 to read: "Jakov I. Zhidkov, 81, retired top leader of Russian's 600,000 Baptists..." (killing words 'once controversial'). We regret this inaccuracy and ask you to correct the story before it gets into type.

--Baptist Press