

Baptists' conventions separating

United Press International
AMARILLO — Minnesota and Wisconsin Baptists have been associated with Texas Baptists for nearly 30 years, but the two-state Baptist fellowship from the North plans to create its own convention this week.

"We still want to call you family," said William Pinson, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. "The partnership in prayer, personnel and programming will continue to some extent." Pinson's remarks came last

week during the Texas Baptist Convention, which included 60 people from the Minnesota-Wisconsin area.

Those messengers traditionally have brought Minnesota apples and Wisconsin cheese to the Texas conventions. That tradi-

tion will continue, said Minnesota-Wisconsin executive director Ortha Wittingham of Rochester, Minn.

The name change from the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Fellowship to the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist

Constitution puts the two-state fellowship basically on its own. The Minnesota-Wisconsin convention is Friday in Southton, Minn.

But Minnesota-Wisconsin members last week promised to

keep in touch with their Texas counterparts. A few will return to future Texas Baptist conventions, Wittingham added.

"We gradually have moved toward self-direction," Wittingham said.

Burn remedy studied

United Press International
EL PASO — Eleven American doctors and a nursing specialist spend three weeks in China to learn how the Chinese treat burn patients, it was announced Tuesday.

Dr. Charles Baxter of Parkland Hospital in Dallas, who is leading the delegation, is one of doctors from Texas making the trip.

Baxter said the group will arrive in Seattle, Wash., for a brief Friday and will leave for China Saturday. The team will visit six major cities in China under sponsorship of the People's People program established by President Eisenhower in the 50s to exchange information in economics, medicine and cul-

Dr. Charles Lyon, head of the Towers Hospital Burn Unit in El Paso and a surgeon at the Western General Hospital, said the delegation is the first to go to China to learn about treatment of burns.

Lyon said the Chinese use artificial hibernation and acupuncture in the treatment of burns.

"In the United States, doctors use narcotics in treating burn victims," he said. "Because narcotics are used for a long period treating the patients for pain, doctors have to deal with drug dependence and addiction."

Lyon said he has no faith in acupuncture but "if it works, I'll try it."

The Chinese induce patients of burns to "artificial hibernation" by cooling the body and using a large amount of sedatives, he said. The Chinese doctors believe this method decreases the pain and chance of infection, he said.

The group will participate in the 8th International Symposium on Burn Treatment Methods in the United States, Lyon said. Then Americans will tour the burn facilities in China's larger cities.

Lyon said the Chinese also use other treatment methods, including intermingled transplantation of skin grafts. Skin from a cadaver is used to cover the burned area, he explained. Squares in the cadaver's skin are cut and the victim's own skin is grafted in the squares, he said.

"Up until 20 years ago, no one in the world knew how to take care of burns," Lyon said. "Although knowledge is increasing, we still need to find a substitute for a person's own skin. An artificial skin could prevent bacteria from entering the body."

In addition to Lyon and Baxter, the other Texas doctors in the delegation include Dr. John Hunt of Dallas, Dr. Charles Brenshaw of Fort Worth, Dr. Burke Evans and Dr. Dave Terndon, both of Galveston.

Tax rebates mailed early this year

United Press International
AUSTIN — The comptroller's office Wednesday mailed city sales tax rebates a week early this month because of a new state law that requires taxes to be paid into the state by the 20th of the month rather than the last day.

The law, effective in November, was enacted by the Texas Legislature earlier this year to generate an extra \$500 million in the current budget year without a tax increase.

"We're sending these checks because 134,000 Texas taxpayers paid before the deadline," said comptroller Bob Bullock. "This kind of cooperation among taxpayers is helping us avoid new and higher taxes."

"It's obvious this change will help local governments put these tax revenues to work faster in their cities," he added.

Houston received the largest check, \$19 million, compared to \$18.5 million for the same period last year. Dallas received \$12 million; San Antonio, \$6.1 million; Austin, \$4 million; Fort Worth, \$3.5 million, and El Paso, \$2 million.

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