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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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DECEMBER 9, 1970

**Annuity Board Elects
Morgan To High Post**

DALLAS (BP)--Darold H. Morgan, 46, pastor of Cliff Temple Baptist Church here, has been elected senior vice president and assistant to the president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board here, effective March 1, 1971.

Morgan was the unanimous choice of the board's executive committee for the post which is expected to prepare him for a promotion to the agency's top executive position upon the retirement in March, 1972 of R. Alton Reed, president and chief executive officer.

In his new work, Morgan will understudy the activities of Reed, who has served in the top position since 1955. Reed's title was executive secretary until February when the board reorganized.

The president is responsible to the trustees and to the Southern Baptist Convention for the administration of the protection programs and for the investment of funds held in trust for thousands of Baptist ministers, church and denominational employees.

As of Oct. 1, 1970, the funds held in trust by the Annuity Board totalled almost \$244 million.

Reed praised the election of Morgan, saying: "The committee found the most qualified man in the denomination for this position."

Morgan has served on just about every committee at the Annuity Board since becoming a trustee in 1967. For the past two years, Morgan has served as chairman of the board.

In addition, he participated in a 19-month long-range study of the board's organization, which resulted recently in the re-organization of the agency.

The election of Morgan complied with the directive from the board of trustees who last February authorized the executive committee to elect a senior vice president prior to the 1971 meeting for the purpose of succeeding Reed upon his retirement.

A special committee made up of nine trustees recommended Morgan.

Donal Bowles, a Dallas insurance executive, served as chairman of the committee.

Morgan has served as pastor of Cliff Temple Baptist Church since April 1966, one of the larger churches in the denomination and a church which has provided top leadership to the Annuity Board for more than half a century. The late Wallace Bassett, Morgan's predecessor, served as a trustee for 48 years, most of that time as chairman.

Morgan is former pastor of Hunter Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., the First Baptists Churches in Sherman, Sulphur Springs, Bonham and Milford, all in Texas, and Highland Baptist Church, Dallas.

Among many denominational posts, he has served as first vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, a trustee at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Tex., and Judson College in Marion, Ala., a member of the SBC Christian Life Commission and a member of the Baptist Education Study Task force.

Morgan is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons and holds a master and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Prestige Elected Texas Music
Secretary; Three Others Named

DALLAS (BP)--Sam Prestige, associate in the music department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, has been elected church music secretary for the convention, and Billy D. Malesovas of Dallas has been named the convention's controller and assistant treasurer.

In other action at a meeting of the convention's Executive Board, Charles B. Baker, a missionary to Korea, was elected associate in the convention's Division of Student Work, and Bob G. Fuston, minister of education and administration at First Baptist Church, Arlington, Tex., was named associate in the state Sunday School department.

Prestige, an associate for 10 years in the music department, will succeed V. F. (Pete) Forderhase who is retiring after 17 years in the post.

Malesovas, controller at Dallas Baptist College, succeeds Jay Skaggs, who is replacing the retiring R. A. Springer as the convention's treasurer.

Baker was an associate in the student division here before his appointment as a missionary. He will work with international students and in campus evangelism. Fuston will be involved in work with Baptist associations.

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Coed Riders Almost Goof It;
For 40 Blocks, They Hoof It

12/9/70

NEW YORK (BP)--The coed riders of Hardin-Simmons University's six white horses literally "hoofed it" for 40 blocks down the streets of New York to appear with the Baptist school's Cowboy Band on coast-to-coast television during Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

The white horses, trick-rope and whip artist Terry Stubblefield, and the 44-member Cowboy Band from Abilene, Tex., appeared before an estimate 70 million television viewers during the parade.

The coeds almost missed the act.

Along with Stubblefield and their sponsor, Mrs. Gene Currie, the girls took part in a four-minute "warm-up show" before the parade. They were rushed from the pre-parade performance in a Macy's limousine to the approximate location where the Hardin-Simmons band was to begin its march.

The band, however, had moved out almost 10 minutes earlier. The six white horses, without their coed riders, had left with the band.

The girls literally hoofed it down the sidelines of the parade route for 40 blocks before catching up with their horses, shortly before the band went before the National Broadcasting Co., television audience in front of Macy's famed department store.

Mrs. Currie, whose regular job at Hardin-Simmons is teaching physical education, put into practice what she preaches in catching the horses.

"We ran off a few pounds," she laughed.

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New York Convention Names
Meek Director of Missions

12/9/70

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (BP)--Jon F. Meek Jr., pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Matawan, N.J., was elected as director of the Division of Missions for the Baptist Convention of New York by the new convention's Executive Board.

Meek will assume his new duties effective Jan. 1, at about the same time that Leobardo Estrada, former director of language missions for Baptist work in metropolitan New York, moves from New York City to Syracuse.

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Estrada, former preacher on the Spanish Baptist Hour (La Hora Bautista) and former vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was elected earlier this year as director of language missions for the Baptist Convention of New York.

Meek, the new Missions Division director, is a native of Jackson, Miss., a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and attended Mississippi State University, Starkville; New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans; Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.; and Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla.

He has been pastor of Baptist churches in Mississippi, Arkansas, California and Louisiana. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Olla, La., before moving to New Jersey.

Estrada, a native of Mexico, has done language missions work in New York for the past eight years. Previously, he was pastor of Spanish-speaking churches in Los Angeles, Dallas, El Paso, San Antonio, and Apline, Tex. He also taught at Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary, El Paso, Tex., where he graduated. He is a graduate of Southern Methodist University, Dallas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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Christian Life Commission Urged To Play Prophetic Role In SBC

12/9/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--The executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission told the elected commission members here that their agency has been ordained and called to be prophetic ministers "brought to the kingdom for such a time as this."

Foy D. Valentine, head of the agency for the past ten years, brought the major address for the commission's annual meeting. It was the first time in ten years he had been the featured speaker for the commission, which normally invites some outside expert to address the group.

Acknowledging that the commission is not perfect, but rather "we are sinners," Valentine said however that he viewed the commission's role in the denomination as providing prophetic leadership that seeks to help Southern Baptists to effect social change for God's glory and man's good.

"Our ordainment, we fully understand, is not to polarize," he added. "God it seems to me, always attends to that. The Bible knows a lot about polarization: sheep and goats, wheat and chaff, wise and foolish, saved and damned, good and evil, heaven and hell, life and death. Polarization is at the heart of reality."

Adding that many Southern Baptists are angry at the Christian Life Commission for agitating for social change, Valentine observed that such individuals "believe there is no place in the church for social concern. They want the Bible preached in the truncated form to which they have become accustomed in the culture religion of our established church. They would abolish the commission and obliterate its emphasis from the convention's life.

"Our task," he continued, "is to convince our alienated bretheren who seek to turn the church away from the great issues of our time that if, indeed, we did turn away, the world would be impoverished and the church's whole life and work would be invalidated, for if God's people cannot confront the issues that affect the lives of mankind with the reconciling gospel of Christ in such a way as to convince unbelievers, then evangelism is empty and missions is a mockery.

"...Our task is to help Southern Baptists to understand that sin is both personal and social, and that we cannot be true to God and wink at the great social sins of ecological rape, militarism, white racism, poverty in the midst of plenty, crime, consumer exploitation by business, inflation, unemployment and the like."

Stating that the commission's agenda is engagement to bring about change, Valentine cited three theological presuppositions for effecting social change: things need changing, Christians are obligated to change them, and God's people can do it.

He listed six goals of social change as righteousness, justice, freedom, peace and the good life, and suggested three methods to accomplish such goals: (1) regeneration-transformation (salvation), (2) penetration-permeation (involvement) and (3) organization

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(corporate action).

"Without repentance, a stuttering, stumbling, stalling church would remain forever powerless to cast out the devils of racism, war, poverty, exploitation, injustice, pollution, overpopulation and all the other evils that dog the feet of mankind," he said.

The early Christians used the method of penetrating society and permeating it with a spirit of self-giving love, demonstrating to the world a better moral life, Valentine said.

On organizing for corporate action, Valentine observed: "Just as it is the Christian thing to do to bind up the wounds and pay the hospital bills for a man who has fallen among thieves on the Jericho Road, so it is the Christian thing to do to organize and act to effect social change" so that such crimes can be prevented.

"By virtue of our current Christian strength in numbers, money, power and influence, Baptists have responsibilities to the community which are proportionately much greater than those incumbent on the early Christians," he added. "God has given much to us; and of us shall much be required.

"In this emphasis on Christian social concern, I am not calling for a newly militant Baptist movement to place itself at the disposition of every new humanitarian venture, seeking social change for the sake of change," he continued. "I am rather calling for Baptists, newly infused with commitment to Christ's ministry of reconciliation, to bring his specifically Christian, specifically redemptive, specifically reconciling good news to all men, to all communities, and to all the world.

"I am calling," he concluded, "for changed men to change the world."

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Dave Cheavens, Baptist Journalism
Leader, Dies at Journalism Meeting

12/9/70

BRYAN, Tex. (BP)--Dave Cheavens, chairman of the department of journalism at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and a noted newsman, died here Dec. 6 while attending a meeting of the Southwest Journalism Conference.

Immediate cause of death for the 63-year-old Cheavens was listed as heart arr st.

Cheavens, a Baptist laymen, joined the Baylor University faculty in 1961 after 20 years as chief of the Associated Press Capitol Bureau in Austin, Tex.

The son of Southern Baptist missionaries to Mexico who later worked in the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Tex., Cheavens got his start in Christian journalism at the El Paso publishing house which his father, John S. Cheavens, directed at one time.

His long, distinguished career includes periods as a foreign correspondent in Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro, and newspaper jobs in the New York Morning Telegraph and several daily newspapers in Texas. He also worked for a brief period for the Baptist Standard, weekly Texas Baptist newspaper, while completing a degree from Baylor University.

During his tenure at Baylor, Cheavens was instrumental in setting up a sequence of courses in religious journalism, and developing a broad-based degree program in journalism.

He helped organize the Texas Baptist public relations advisory committee, on which he served, and he received the committee's award for "outstanding contributions to Christianity through journalism" in 1965 after he rotated off the committee.

He has also served on the board of directors of the Baptist Standard, as a lecturer in journalism at Baptist assemblies in Glorieta, N.M., and Ridgecrest, N.C., and a frequent contributor to religious and secular publications.

His widow, the former Alice Dawson, is the daughter of J. M. Dawson, a founder of Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the first executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Funeral services were to be at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 10, at First Baptist Church, Waco, Tex.

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